

Jan 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 164th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 10 to Jan. 14. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at Annie Moore's, and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's).

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker on Thursday evening was Martin Edwards, the award-winning mystery author and commentator on mysteries, and then The Baker Street Babes' "Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" featured the unveiling of a "Cake Boss" cake in the shape of a bust of Sherlock Holmes (to be featured on an upcoming episode of the TV series).

Friday's William Gillette Luncheon included a performance by the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street, plus Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan WHIMSEY Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year, to M.E. Rich. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Roy Pilot proposed the traditional preprandial first toast to Patricia Izban as *The Woman*. The annual-dinner agenda included toasts, rituals, and papers, and Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented this year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Shannon Carlisle ("Beacons of the Future!"), Dean Clark ("Watson's Journal"), Denny Dobry ("A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room"), Jeffrey Hatcher ("The Five Orange Pips"), Maria Fleischhack ("Rache"), Anastasia Klimchynskaya ("The Old Russian Woman"), Rebecca Romney ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Candace Lewis ("A Little Art Jargon"), Nick Martorelli ("Seventeen Steps"), and Al Shaw ("Sir Hugo Baskerville"). Mike also made a Two-Shilling Award to John Linsenmeyer.

An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Social Bar & Grill, and some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a performance of "The Bayswater Boarding House" (adapted by dramatized by Bill Hyder from a parody written by Headon Hill).

The BSI's afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining, and Susan Bailey was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check and an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2017. And the John H. Watson Fund's raffle prize was (jewelry from "Charles Augustus Milverton") created by Maggie Schpak), and the auction attracted enthusiastic bidders.

Jan 18 #2 The main Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street) and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Long Room.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 11, 2019.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; you'll find more detailed reports on the goings-on in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), or by credit card or PayPal at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

"Far from Baker Street, Ardent Holmes Fans Celebrate His Birthday" was the headline on Corey Kilgannon's story about the birthday festivities in the N.Y. Times on Jan. 15; the story ran on-line a day earlier as "It's Elementary: Sherlockians Take Manhattan" <www.tinyurl.com/yamqwwa3>. Kilgannon, with John McDonough and Malachy McCourt, host "Talk Back--New York, We and Thee Edition" (a two-hour weekly series broadcast by WBAI-FM), and on Jan. 17 they discussed the celebration and interviewed Lyndsay Faye; the program is available on-line at <www.wbai.org/program.php?program=186>, and the 23-minute segment begins at 01:00.

There also is Scott Monty's well-illustrated account of some of the events at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/y9nlqo9n>; remarkable for having been posted, as Scott notes, by someone who missed his first BSI annual dinner since 1995.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) his 2017 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 have received Irregular Shillings).

TRENCHES: THE WAR SERVICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, the latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series (2017; 274 pp., \$39.95), is edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, offers a facsimile of the fourteen surviving pages of the manuscript of "His Last Bow", an annotated transcript, interesting commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which Sherlock Holmes lived when he was involved in the case. More information about the book, including the table of contents and one of the essays, can be found at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Also from the BSI is MOBILE HOLMES: TRANSPORTATION IN THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON (2017; 270 pp., \$21.95), edited by Walter Jaffee; it's a delightful anthology of essays, from traveling on foot (Catherine Cooke's "What Do You Say to a Ramble Through London?") to traveling aloft (Chuck Winge's "Sherlock Holmes and Aeroplanes").

Jan 18 #3 Jim French died on Dec. 21. He had a long career in radio, as a DJ and an on-air personality, going on to write and produce nearly 500 original shows (including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") for his Imagination Theater. Details on his broadcasts are available at www.old-time.com/otrlogs2; see "Jim French Shows", "The Classic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", and "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes").

"221b in 360" (an impressive photographic slide-show tour of the full-scale recreation of the sitting-room Chuck Kovacic has created in his home in Los Angeles) www.221bbakerstreetla.com, was reported last month, and Alexander Orlov has now noted a truly spectacular 3D interactive tour that's also engineered for those who use virtual reality www.tinyurl.com/y8hrzt7t.

The sixth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Phillip G. Bergem's discussion of "221B: What and Where?", Peter Calamai's "Conan Doyle's Neologisms: A Debate", and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).



Paramount has collaborated with Variety: The Children's Charity to create a new pin featuring Sherlock Gnomes for its current Gold Heart Campaign; the pins will be available at movie theaters in return for a \$3.00 donation, and there's a list of participating theaters at www.usvariety.org/gold-hearts.

Randall Stock has kindly forwarded a report from The Bookseller (Jan. 4) on plans by John Murray to celebrate the publisher's 250th anniversary with a new book DEAR MR. MURRAY: LETTERS TO A GENTLEMEN PUBLISHER, due in October. One of the letters, from Adrian Conan Doyle, discusses challenging Harold Nicolson to a duel for insulting Adrian's father; it is likely that Adrian was angry about Nicolson's review of John Dickson Carr's biography THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE in the Daily Telegraph and Morning Post (Feb. 4, 1949). "It is an irksome task," Nicolson wrote, "to write the biography of a man whose children are loyal and alive. It is not easy to depict with sincerity the career of someone whose fame was wholly out of proportion to his intrinsic merits." Nicolson's review has much more to say about Conan Doyle, and Adrian would not have been pleased by any of it.

The next "Sherlocked USA" convention will be held in Los Angeles on May 25-27; it is organized in association with Hartswood Films (the company that produces the BBC series "Sherlock") www.sherlockedusa.com, and many series stars attend the Sherlocked conventions. Tickets cost from \$145 (standard) to \$2995 (VIP Package).

The Baker Street Journal's Christmas Annual for 2017 was written by Sonia Fetherston and Julie McKuras, who tell grand stories about "Helene Yuhasova: The Poetess Laureate of the Baker Street Irregulars"; the Christmas Annuals are available only as part of subscriptions to the BSJ, but they can be found at eBay. You can also hear an excellent podcast about "Helene Yuhasova: Woman of Mystery" at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog www.tinyurl.com/ya5frbbo, where they share some of those stories.

Jan 18 #4 "Mystery as Pub Named after Sherlock Holmes writer Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is magically rebranded the 'JK Rowling'" read the headline in the Daily Mail on Jan. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/y77g56cz>. Nicholson Pubs (the owner of the establishment in Edinburgh) declined comment on the change, but the Daily Mail suggested that the renaming was an elaborate stunt for Hogmanay (that's the Scottish celebration of the New Year). The Edinburgh Evening News <www.tinyurl.com/y8xndd77> had more information: the change is merely temporary, and is tied to Message from the Skies, a visual art installation that was designed to showcase streets and buildings that have inspired some of the city's finest authors, and included an app that allowed residents and visitors to explore the city while they read a story written by Val McDermid. The event ended on Jan. 25.

The Unemployed Philosophers Guild <www.philosophersguild.com> continues to offer imaginative Sherlockiana, including an attractive Sherlock Holmes Mug that comes with instructions <www.tinyurl.com/ycmrqspr>.

One of the more imaginative celebrations of the holiday season is "The Bloo Sparkly" (The Blue Carbuncle, as Told by Animated GIF), created by someone nommed "whorl" and posted at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog in 2011 <www.tinyurl.com/ydd2oks3> and again in 2017.

Samantha Wolov notes Elvis Costello's "Dr. Watson, I Presume" (released in 2010 on his album "National Ransom"), which may or may not be Sherlockian; you can sample the song (and read the lyrics) at <www.tinyurl.com/y8h9vuy7> and decide for yourselves.



"I hear of Sherlock everywhere," including on the label of Whodunnit? Popcorn (Specially Blended for Mystery Lovers), available from Acorn <www.acornonline.com/XB3412.html> (\$14.95 for 30 oz.). "The sound of crunchy popcorn adds to the suspense!" they explain. Acorn also offers a Star Wars Popcorn Maker and Rogue One Darth Vader Lightsaber Handheld Immersion Blenders for fans of that other series.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have issued a CD that contains a complete run of The Serpentine Muse from April 1975 through winter 2015; it's indexed and text-searchable, and costs \$15.00 postpaid <www.ash-nyc.com>.

Roger Heyworth has designed SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CARD GAME for Gibson and Sons Ltd.; there was a first edition in 1991, a second edition in 2014, and (apparently) a third edition (in a black box) in 2017, available at Amazon in the U.K. and the U.S.

Paul Annett died on Dec. 11. He was writer, producer, and director in film and television; his directing credits include work on series that include "Poldark" (1975-1976) and "EastEnders" (1998-2009), and three of the early stories in Granada's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Solitary Cyclist" (1984), and "The Copper Beeches" (1985).

When in Dallas: Daniel J. Darrouzet will appear in an "author talk" about his STORIES FROM THE TIN BOX: UNTOLD ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2015) at 6:30 pm on Feb. 8 at the Preston Royal Branch Library in Dallas; directions at <www.tinyurl.com/y88cf6j3>.

Jan 18 #5 More and more Sherlockian societies are taking advantage of digitization to create on-line archives of their newsletters and other publications. The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark is the latest to do this, and all issues of their "Sherlockiana" from 1956 through 2016 are available at their web-site <www.sherlockholmesklubben.dk>; there's a link at the top of their opening page.

The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a nice homage to Sherlockians by John Morgan Wilson, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.



"Pop star Rita Ora was channeling detective Sherlock Holmes when she wore a bizarre Burberry shorts combo to the BBC Radio 1 Teen Awards in October. The only mystery to solve is why anyone let her leave the house like this." She provided one of the "worst fashion frights" in 2017, according to the Daily Mail (Dec. 29. You can see all of their picks at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t6ep8c>.

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> to have a meeting or conference listed. The calendar also is available on Twitter as @SianCalendar.

Terence Marsh died on Jan. 9. He began his film career as a draughtsman at Pinewood Studios, and went on to become a highly-regarded art director and production designer who won Oscars as art director on "Dr. Zhivago" (1968) and "Oliver!" (1968); his many credits included his work as production designer on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

Congratulations to Jessie Amaolo on her promotion to curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library; her formal title is services specialist for the collection, and she succeeds Peggy Perdue, who has been promoted to senior department head of the special collections department.

Leslie S. Klinger's BAKER STREET REVERIES: SHERLOCKIAN WRITINGS 2006-2016 (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2018; 228 pp., \$23.95), a sequel to his BAKER STREET RAMBLES (2008), reprints his more recent essays, including his checklist, unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately) not illustrated) of Sherlockian pornography. Gasogene is at <www.wessexpress.com>.

Gasogene has also published 70 YEARS BY GAS LAMP, edited by Mary Ann Bradley, Louise Haskett, and Melanie Hoffman (2018; 245 pp., \$21.95); it's the latest (sixth) casebook from The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, offering a wide variety of writings by its members and guest speakers. And Dan Andriacco's imaginative and well-written pastiche HOUSE OF THE DOOMED (2018; 117 pp., \$19.95).

Jan 18 #6 The Long Beach Shakespeare Company continued their annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday last month offering an Old Time Radio adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes and the Scandal in Bohemia" dramatized by Ken Knight and featuring Joe LoCicero as Holmes; you'll be able to listen to a podcast of the show at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php> in late February.

CBS has announced that the sixth season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) will premiere on Apr. 30; there will be 21 episodes in the season, which thus will run through the summer (some of us remember the long-ago age when series ran from fall through spring, and summer when one watched re-runs). If you want to know what Sherlock Holmes has on his book shelves (in "Elementary"), Gabby Barone has reported a list posted at Goodreads <www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur>.

Some important news from the birthday festivities: a print of the 1929 German silent film "Der Hund von Baskerville" (directed by Richard Oswald and with Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes), discovered in Poland and now restored by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, will have its world premiere at the Festival on June 2 <www.tinyurl.com/y6w6cy4a>. The Festival's blog also is interesting: one of the items there is Kyle Westphal's "The Un-Lost World: A Conversation with Serge Bromberg of Lobster Films" about the latest restoration of "The Lost World" (1925) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7h5kvb>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards, and they include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK: THE STORY OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO CREATED AN ICON, and Michael Sims' ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF HOLMES (best critical/biographical), and Brad Ricca's MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION (best fact crime) [not really Sherlockian]; the winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 26.

Canterbury Classics offers a long series of "Word Cloud Classics" reprints in attractive "flexibound" bindings, one of the titles being THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2012; \$14.99), available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Ken Ludwig, the author of the Sherlockian plays "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" and "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" has a new (and non-Sherlockian) play: a dramatization of "Murder on the Orient Express". "It's glamorous, it's romantic, and just the title itself is magic," he has explained, adding that "It is a bigger play than I usually write for the stage, but I've been able to cut the number of suspects down." The play had its premiere at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, N.J., last year, and is due at the Hartford Stage in Hartford, Conn., in February; the play has a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/y9dz2kw9>, and one can be sure it will be produced elsewhere.

Nick Utechin still is pursuing his search for the plates that were used to produce Helan Halbach's 1974 edition of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (Sep 13 #5) (and in the 2016 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal) and would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who has not already been in contact with him <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

Jan 18 #7 DEATH AT THE DIOGENES CLUB, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 355 pp., \$13.98), the sixth title in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, has Lucy (Sherlock Holmes' daughter) and Holmes in pursuit of a vicious killer in a novel that offers both thrills and romance, together with some interesting characters. The series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.

Material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop is at lewidurbi0.

THE HISTORY OF THE LIMITED EDITIONS CLUB, by Carol Porter Grossman (Newcastle: Oak Knoll Press, 2017; 268 pp., \$125.00), is a splendid book, printed and bound in the high-quality tradition of the Club, offering the story of George Macy, and the many delightful books the Club produced for its subscribers; there are three pages about the Club's spectacular edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES and how much work was involved earning George Macy a well-deserved Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars. There's more information about the book, with colorful images, at <www.oakknoll.com>.

BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: A SCANDAL IN CASSEROLE is the latest in the series of amusing comic books created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; it is available (along with their BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY comic strips) at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.

Peter Wyngarde died on Jan. 15. He began his acting career with the Nottingham Repertory Company, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television; he played Baron Gruner with Peter Cushing in "The Illustrious Client" (1965), and Langdale Pike with Jeremy Brett in Granada's "The Three Gables" (1984). According to the obituary in the Guardian (Jan. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yctcmdfw>, he had enough clout in 1965 that the producers of "The Illustrious Client" acceded to his agent's stipulation that on foreign prints he was credited alongside the leads in the opening titles, and was paid considerably more than Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock.

David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and he now offers "The Blue Carbuncle" and six other stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to or download the readings, which are nicely done.

HAMPSHIRE THROUGH WRITERS' EYES (London: Eland, 2017; 373 pp., £12.99) is edited by Alastair Langlands and offers an interesting anthology of commentary about the county by writers who range from Austen to Wodehouse; Conan Doyle is included, of course: he lived in Southsea when he created Sherlock Holmes, and wrote about the county in the Canon, and in THE WHITE COMPANY and MICAHA CLARKE. Eland has been described as offering "guidebooks for the enquiring mind," and their web-site <www.travelbooks.co.uk> shows how wide their coverage of the world is.

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 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>.

Jan 18 #8 Fraser McAlpine has noted at Anglophenia some Sherlockian allusions in the "Doctor Who" episode "The Angels Take Manhattan" (broadcast on BBC One on Sept. 29, 2012): the first chapter in Melody Malone's pulp novel is titled "The Dying Detective", and the TARDIS lands in China in the year 221 BC; it is not a surprise that the script was written by Steven Moffat.

"Sherlock Holmes is retired and in a foul mood. It's 1922, and Dr. Watson's granddaughter, Dot, has been trying to edit the old detective's long-awaited memoirs." That's the premise of the latest play by Craig Sodaro, just published by the Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> (\$7.00). Pioneer specializes in plays for schools and other organizations.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is heading back to the United States, and will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019; their web-site's at <www.lsc.org>, and while there's nothing about the exhibition up yet, stay tuned.

Will Thomas' ANATOMY OF EVIL (New York: Minotaur, 2015; 336 pp., \$25.99) is the seventh in his series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn, who in this novel have been enlisted to aid Scotland Yard in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, and are (eventually) successful at the end of a story that's told well and with imagination.

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is running at the Barnstable Comedy Club in Barnstable, Mass., through Feb. 4 <www.barnstablecomedyclub.org>.

Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" is on at the Providence Playhouse in Scranton, Pa., through Feb. 4; web-site at <www.actorscircle.com>.

Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Brumder Mansion in Milwaukee, Wis., through Feb. 10 <www.milwaukeeemansion.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is on at the Great American Melodrama & Vaudeville in Oceano, Calif., through Mar. 4; web-site at <www.greatamericanmelodrama.com>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" is due at the Whidby Island Center for the Arts in Langley, Wash., Feb. 9-24; their web-site's at <www.wicaonline.org>.

Max Gee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" is due at the Genesian Theatre in Sydney, N.S.W., Apr. 7-May 12 <www.genesiantheatre.com.au>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" has been scheduled at the Silver Spring Stage in Silver Spring, Md., on Apr. 13-May 5 <www.sstage.org>.

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

Feb 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, which include Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (best nonfiction). The winners will be announced at Malice in Bethesda on Apr. 29.

Sorry about that: in the last issue (Jan 18 #7) I noted that material from the Daniel Posnansky Collection already is turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, among them Lewis Durbin, whose shop actually is at lewidurbi0.

"Worzel Gummidge" was a well-received British children's television series broadcast by ITV (1979-1981) that was continued in New Zealand as "Worzel Gummidge Down Under" (1987-1989). The series starred Jon Pertwee, and Howard Ostrom has discovered "Elementary My Dear Worthy" from the second series at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ybrkb378>. It's interesting to see Jon Pertwee as someone other than Doctor Who; Una Stubbs starred in the series as Aunt Sally, but doesn't appear in the Sherlockian episode.

Chris Redmond created <www.sherlockian.net> in 1994, and it's now managed by Michigan State University's WIDE Research Center; the web-site has been revised, and it's well worth visiting and exploring as a valuable resource for the ever-growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians.

J. M. W. Turner's iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, can be viewed on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>. If you like to know more about Turner and his work, Christie's has two excellent articles (one with an instructive video) on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ydgxenh4> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7syojua>.

Mike Vagnetti has reported a new stamp issued by the Solomon Islands, in a set of four stamps that honor the 300th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of England (founded in 1717, it was the first Masonic Grand Lodge); the stamp shows both Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the others stamps show Ernest Shackleton, Winston Churchill, and Rudyard Kipling. Mike also reports that the American Topical Association has a checklist of Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes stamps, available only to members, with 63 entries. You can see the Solomon Island stamps in full color at Steve Trussel's excellent web-site "The Philatelic Sherlock Holmes" <www.trussel.com/detfic/sholmes.htm>. And Mike <mjvagnetti@gmail.com> would be happy to hear from anyone who has Sherlockian items (stamps and poster stamps) to offer.

BENEDICT CUMBERBATCH READS SHERLOCK HOLMES' REDISCOVERED RAILWAY MYSTERIES is a two-CD set from BBC Worldwide (2015, £11.78), offering four pastiches written by John Taylor.

"Yuukoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] is a Japanese manga written by Ryounosuke Takeuchi and drawn by Hikaru Mihoshi, reimagining the Canon "with Moriarty as the protagonist and exploring his motivation in becoming the greatest criminal Britain has ever seen." It has not been published as a book in English, but 16 episodes are available in English on-line at the Manga Rock web-site <www.mangarock.com/manga/mrs/serie-100056011>.

Feb 18 #2 The Bookseller has reported that "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (read by Stephen Fry) was Audible's best selling title in 2017; the set spent four month at the top of the Audible chart and was in the top 20 for 11 months since it was released in February 2016. If you don't have it yet, it is available at <www.audible.com> for \$85.26 (or free as a join-now premium).

In the last issue of this newsletter (Jan 18 #4) I wrote about someone who was nommed "whorl" (based on a belief that aliases used on the Internet are "noms" as in "noms de plume"). A query from a reader (actually, my sharp-eyed proof-reader) led to some on-line research that revealed that my belief was unfounded, and then to a query to people who are far more Internet-savvy. Thanks to Lyndsay Faye, I can now report that an Internet alias is called a "pseud" (as in "pseudonym").

Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers two interesting items: one of them "Holmes & Watson 1916-2016" (an imaginative montage of film and television clips set to the song 'Something Good (Will Come from That)') <www.tinyurl.com/y8uyqgmg> and the other an interview with Ross Davies about "Boxes from Royalty" <www.tinyurl.com/y9y52p94>.

I've reported before (Aug 16 #2) on APOPO <www.apopo.org>, a company that trains giant African pouched rats to detect unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off the mines, which can then be disarmed); the rats can also be trained to detect tuberculosis in mucous samples, and now they are in pursuit of smugglers who are shipping endangered pangolins from Africa to Asia, as noted in a recent report in the Washington Post <www.tinyurl.com/y724dwol>. Needless to say, APOPO welcomes donations from people who want to adopt giant rats.

Has anyone seen the new play "The Play That Goes Wrong" (2012) in London or New York or elsewhere? The Tampa Bay Observer, reporting that the play is due there in October, describes it as "a carefully chaotic comedy that has tickled audiences with farcical disaster visited upon the erstwhile production of a Sherlock Holmes-style mystery."

Mort Walker died on Jan. 27. A legendary comic strip writer, he was best known for creating "Beetle Bailey" in 1950 and "Hi and Lois" in 1954, and drew "Beetle Bailey" for 68 years, making him the longest-running artist in comic-strip history. His colorful web-site is at <www.mortwalker.com>, and this strip was published on Jan. 7, 2008:



Feb 18 #3 The Strand Magazine (the modern version edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to publish quarterly <www.strandmag.com>, and its on-line blog includes interesting posts such as Daniel E. Lambert's "Sherlock Holmes in Verse" and Bonnie MacBird's "The Risk of 'The Reveal': Tampering with or Augmenting the Legend of Sherlock Holmes".

Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "Each Picture Told a Story: Photography in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download it (and his other articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.



The Holmes Financial Solutions web-site features a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes in the logo, and the company was in the news recently when it was fined £300,000 by the British government for making 8.8 million nuisance robo-calls in 2015 and 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y8c4o35v>. The company's solicitors are at work on an appeal. If you're bothered by robo-calls in the U.S., there is a solution: <www.nomorobo.com>. The company won a challenge set by the Federal Trade Commission, and its service is available without charge for landlines (if your service provider's compatible) and for a modest monthly fee for cell phones. The N.Y. Times ran an interesting article last year <www.tinyurl.com/m4v8mkv> on how you can reduce the number of robo-calls you receive.

Les Klinger has an interesting web-site, which offers a helpful list of errata in all three volumes of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with a link at the end that allows you to download a PDF that shows which errata have been corrected in various editions <www.tinyurl.com/ycztyf48>.

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, and anyone who wants to run a word-search on two large files with all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates the compilation and makes it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.

John Mahoney died on Feb. 4. He had a long acting career on stage, screen, and television, and was best known as Frasier Crane's father Martin Crane on the NBC-TV sitcom "Frasier"; he wore Sherlockian costume in the "Halloween" episode broadcast in 1993.

There have been occasional reviews of the new animated film "Batman: Gotham by Gaslight" that have mentioned its Sherlockian echoes. According to Den of Geek! <www.tinyurl.com/ydeuvdms>, there is good reason: Jim Krieg, who adapted the film, said in an interview that he grew up as a Holmes fan and "didn't want to leave any Sherlockian stone unturned," citing "A Study in Terror" (1965) as a favorite Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper film, and executive producer Bruce Timm said that he watched "Gilligan's Island" all the time as a kid, and recalled the episode that had the Professor as Sherlock Holmes and the Skipper as Dr. Watson. If you've not seen that episode of "Gilligan's Island" series it's "Up at Bat" (1966), and there's a Sherlockian clip at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8lp7qkc>, from the dream sequence that features Inspector Sherlock and Colonel Watney).

Feb 18 #4 Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, presides over a blog ("Something Is Going to Happen") that offers interesting contributions about "suspense, short stories, and the mystery-fiction scene," such as an interesting post last year on "The Last of the Kingdom of Romance: 90 Years Since the Publication of The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes" by R. T. Raichev <www.tinyurl.com/y9qoe374> and a "Report from Baker Street" by Steve Steinbock <www.tinyurl.com/y9bppzeh> about the 2016 annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars.

John Morris died on Jan. 25. He began his musical career as a concert pianist ("I didn't like practicing," he once admitted) and went on to composing and arranging for Broadway shows, and then for films, and his credits included the orchestration for "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).

"Rugger, Romance, and Sherlock Holmes!" is the title of an illustrated talk delivered by Roger Johnson this month during the Portsmouth Bookfest last month; if you're wondering how those three topics were combined in the same talk, it was subtitled "You Should Go to Blackheath First" and Roger suggests that "the importance of Blackheath in the life of Arthur Conan Doyle and in the career of Sherlock Holmes should not be overlooked."

Lakin & Marley Rare Books in Mill Valley, Calif., are offering the original Universal Studios script archives for the Rathbone/Bruce series, most heavily annotated; go to <www.tinyurl.com/y86rhapq> for detailed descriptions and commentary.

Further to the item (Dec 17 #3) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: the tartan will have an official launch party at the Physicians Hall in Edinburgh on Mar. 22; details at <www.tinyurl.com/yawvtmxr>. Karen Ellery notes that you can inspect the official registration for the tartan at <www.tinyurl.com/y7twgdsq>. Lee Crow reports that there is an older Holmes tartan (from 1830); you can search the Register's web-site to find tartans for Watson and Moriarty and (likely) other Canonical characters.

For anyone who misses "Sherlock": "The Sherlock You Didn't See: Scenes--and Entire Episodes--That Never Aired" was the headline on a story at Digital Spy <www.tinyurl.com/yd99rmmh>.

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) celebrates the 150th anniversary of Canada as a nation, and offers Donny Zaldin's article "Arthur Conan Doyle and Canada: 1914 and One Hundred Years Hence" along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.

"The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" was a delightful Japanese animated television series broadcast in 1984-1985, with 26 episodes (the first six directed by Hayao Miyazaki). Holmes is a red fox, Watson a Scottish terrier, and Moriarty a gray wolf, and it's nice indeed that all 26 episodes now are available at YouTube; search for [sherlock hound].

Feb 17 #5 George MacDonald Fraser noted in his introduction to a new edition of THE WHITE COMPANY and SIR NIGEL (Feb 00 #7) that John Ford was said to have had THE WHITE COMPANY in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind. According to Wikipedia, the two novels were among Wayne's favorite books.

A GIFT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: CHRISTMAS 1914: EDITION: THE VALLEY OF FEAR is a reproduction of what Ross E. Davies suggests might have been the true first book edition of the story (as he explained at this year's annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars). His book offers the text that was published in the Associated Sunday Magazines in newspapers in the U.S., which differs from the text that appeared in The Strand Magazine and then in books in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. in 1915. Ross has supplied a perceptive introduction, and he has kindly made an electronic edition of his book available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y83d3gvd>.

It should be noted that the book is only one of the many items available at <www.rossdavies.org>; click on "Maps and misc." and "Sherlockian toasts" to find links to interesting Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) material. You can also click on "Green Bag" and then on "Almanac & Reader" to be able to read the 2012 edition (which honored Rex Stout and Nero Wolfe); the 2015, 2016, and 2017 editions were thoroughly Sherlockian and Doylean.

DOUBLE TROUBLE IN BUGLAND, by William Kotzwinkle (Boston: David R. Govine, 2016; 244 pp., \$14.95) is a colorful sequel to his TROUBLE IN BUGLAND (Jun 83 #2), again illustrated by Joe Servello, and offering further adventures of Inspector Mantis and his companion Dr. Hopper.

Holmes and Watson appear to be taking over the MCU . . . that's the Marvel Cinematic Universe, which was launched with "Iron Man" in 2008 with Robert Downey Jr. as Tony Stark, and included "Doctor Strange" in 2016 with Benedict Cumberbatch as Stephen Strange, and now there's "Black Panther" with Martin Freeman as Everett K. Ross (kindly reported by Samantha Wolov).

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y76whnjf> has much to offer, including a new web-only column "Stranger Than Fiction" by Dean Jobb; his February column ("We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere") calls attention to four recent Sherlockian and Doylean titles.

Congratulations to Maggie Schpak, who received the 2018 Distinguished Service Award from the Costume Designers Guild. Maggie handcrafts the colorful raffle prizes for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund at each year's birthday festivities in New York, and at her Metal Arts Studio in Los Angeles makes items for major films and television series <www.tinyurl.com/y8m7zwze>; you can see her in the photo gallery at the web-site.

Reported by Howard Ostrom: Ernie Kovacs and Hans Conried in deerstalkers in "Private Eye, Private Eye" (an episode of "The U.S. Steel Hour" broadcast by CBS-TV on Mar. 8, 1961); the spoof of detective stories is included as a bonus disk with the first 1,000 copies of "Ernie Kovacs: Take a Good Look: The Definitive Collection" (available from Shout! Factory for \$64.97). One hopes that the episode will be available eventually at YouTube; but in the meantime you can see them with Edie Adams at <www.youtube.com/y842v4cq>.

Feb 18 #6 IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE: CLASSIC CRIME FICTION BY FORGOTTEN FEMALE WRITERS: 1850-1917, edited by Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 356 pp., \$26.95) was reviewed in Publishers Weekly as a "stellar" anthology and a "must-have volume for classic crime fans," and includes Carolyn Wells' "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line" (a 1915 burlesque that features Sherlock Holmes as the president of the Society of Infallible Detectives) and Baroness Orczy's "The Regent's Park Murder" (about the baffling murder of a man who had won at cards, published in 1901, two years before "The Empty House").

Paul D. Herbert ("Mr. Leverton, of Pinkerton's") died on Feb. 16. He was excellent high-school history teacher, an energetic and wide-ranging collector, the founder of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati and its only official secretary, and a delightful Sherlockian who was awarded his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1977 and their Two-Shilling Award in 2004; he also for twenty years was the BSI's Dr. Watson, presiding over the Dr. John H. Watson Fund, which offers financial assistance to Sherlockians who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in New York.

THE SECRET OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES, by F. R. Maher (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2017; 96 pp., \$20.53), offers a speculative explanation for the famous hoax. The author also presides over the annual Legendary Llangollen Faery Festival in Wales <www.northwalesfaeryfestival.com>.

Further to the report (Oct 17 #4) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for artwork for THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, there were 450 entries and 24 finalists. Samples of the finalists' imaginative submissions were published in full color at the web-site of the Guardian on Feb. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/ydgobmfz>, and the winners were chosen by a panel of six judges that included Helen Dorey as their Sherlockian expert. The \$5,000 commission to illustrate the book and design the binding was won by Max Löffler <www.tinyurl.com/y7r8d93k>.

Bill Crider died on Feb. 18. He was an author, a critic, a columnist, and a reviewer, all in the mystery field; Janet Hutchings, the editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, described him as a superfan and a perfect fit for the magazine's Blog Bytes department. His stories included three Sherlockian pastiches, and his web-site <www.billcrider.com> nicely shows how wide his interests were.

"Blossom Detective Holmes" (an animated mini-series that's seeking funding at Kickstarter) features two teen-age girls: Skylar Holmes and Jamie Watson; details (and video) at <www.tinyurl.com/ya46os5a>.

IMAGINATION THEATRE'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 388 pp., \$34.95), is a collection of 15 scripts from "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running radio series produced by the late Jim French from 1998 to 2017). The scripts for the pastiches were written by Jim French and other authors, and provide a welcome opportunity for those who enjoy radio drama to see what goes into creating entertaining programs. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Feb 18 #7 Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Warehouse Living Arts Center in Corsicana, Texas, through Mar. 3 <www.warehouselivingartscenter.com>. And it's due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Kinetic Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., through Mar. 4 <www.kinetictheatre.org>. It's also scheduled at the Norris Center in Naples, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 20, 2019; web-site at <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., through Mar. 11; web-site at <www.vastage.org>.

Simon Williams' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at The Mill in Sonning Theatre in Sonning Eye, Oxon., until Mar. 17 <www.millatsonning.com>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" is being performed at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 24; web-site at <www.theatresuburbia.org>.

The East Lynne Theater Company's will be touring Craig Wichman's radio-theater production of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" will tour in New Jersey in March <www.tinyurl.com/ya6busq8>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Town Theatre in Columbia, S.C., Mar. 2-18 <www.towntheatre.com>.

C. P. Stancich's new play "Oscar Dove: Letters to Sherlock" will premiere at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Mar. 2-24; their web-site's at <www.tclstage.org>.

Vince Staddon's "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Mar. 2-31 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

Peter Birch's new "The Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Garrick Theatre in Altrincham, Manchester, Mar. 5-10 <www.altrinchamgarrick.co.uk>.

Broadway RDF will perform "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) in their "Old Time Radio Hour" at the Swedish Crown Restaurant in Lindsborg, Kans., Mar. 8 and 10 <www.broadwayrfd.org>.

John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the East Cleveland Theater in East Cleveland, Ohio, Mar. 23-Apr. 8 <www.eastclevelandtheater.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., on Aug. 1-Oct. 27 <www.shawfest.com>.

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

Mar 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"If we could have ordered nature to construct a spot for us, it could not have hit upon anything more perfect," Conan Doyle wrote after visiting the site of Undershaw, and the Stepping Stones School has invited everyone to a celebration of his life and times on May 25-27; you can sit in the study in which he brought Sherlock Holmes back to life, and enjoy a variety of activities. Details are available at www.tinyurl.com/ya2h67zb.

Greg Darak has reported a nice discovery in Abel Green's THE SPICE OF VARIETY (published by Henry Holt in 1952); it's an anthology of articles that appeared in Variety, and one of them is drama critic Ashton Steven's "Night Letter Biographies"; he had asked actors to write autobiographies "confined to dimensions of a Western Union night letter, which at that time ran to 50 words before the extras began to count up." The first (with slightly more than 50 words) was written by William Gillette: AT AGE OF 18 COULD READ AND WRITE. AND HAD GRADUATED FROM EVERY CIRCUS THAT CAME TO TOWN. DID NOT RUN AWAY AND GO ON THE STAGE BECAUSE THERE WAS NOTHING TO RUN AWAY FROM. EVERYBODY HELPED ME TO LEAVE - AND THAT HAS BEEN GOING ON EVER SINCE. IT IS NOW 1930 AND I DO NOT FEEL VERY WELL - WILLIAM GILLETTE.

You can see Benedict Cumberbatch perform "I'm a Little Teapot" at the Nerd Reactor web-site www.tinyurl.com/y7tw34ok. You can also see his audition for Smaug in "The Hobbit" at www.tinyurl.com/mftxbvq, and then how he was filmed as Smaug at www.tinyurl.com/ydhmyvr8.

Jim Webb kindly reported on Nick Allen's article in the Daily Telegraph on Mar. 15 www.tinyurl.com/y98uwjpu on comments by Vasily Nebenzya, Russia's permanent representative to the United Nations, on the nerve gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England; Nebenzya compared the intelligence of Sherlock Holmes with that of Inspector Lestrade, and suggested that "we could all benefit from having a Sherlock Holmes with us today," adding that "the collective Inspector Lestrades today are high-level members of the UK government who are coming up with egregious, superficial, and unsupported accusations." This may be the first official mention of Sherlock Holmes at the United Nations, and you can watch Nebenzya's speech (with English subtitles) at www.youtube.com/watch?v=94l54nQnaCl at [14:38 minutes].

Bakerstreet Coffee, a Sherlock Holmes-themed cafe that will offer a fireplace, bookcases, and cozy furniture, is scheduled to open in mid-April in Livingstone, Mont. "I love Sherlock Holmes," co-owner Cassandra Weisgerber told the Livingston Enterprise, "and I obviously love themes."

Roger Johnson launched The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, on Dec. 1, 1982, reporting the latest Sherlockian and Doylean news from the U.K. and elsewhere; Jean Upton is the editor now, and the newsletter is now at 373 issues, all available at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e. There's always much of interest, including (in the February issue) news from Paul Carley of his "Sherlock Holmes in Phonetic Transcription" (phonetic may or may not count as a language that Don Hobbs will add to his bibliography of translations "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"); the project has begun with "A Scandal in Bohemia" www.phoneticsherlock.blogspot.co.uk.

Mar 18 #2 Rachel McMillan's THE BACHELOR GIRL'S GUIDE TO MURDER (Eugene: Harvest House, 2016; 222 pp., \$9.99) is set in Toronto in 1910 and features Merinda Herringford and Jem Watts, two young women who would like to become detectives in the tradition of Holmes and Watson; the series includes two more novels, A LESSON IN LOVE AND MURDER (2016) and THE WHITE FEATHER MURDERS (2017), and there are two e-book novellas and a (free) e-story available at Amazon.

The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" will be up for bids on Apr. 18 at Heritage Auctions in Dallas <www.tinyurl.com/ycreu8gc> (877-437-4824), with an opening bid of \$250,000. Randall Stock has an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm>.

"Sherlock Holmes contre Conan Doyle" is the title of a French documentary broadcast by France 5 on Feb. 18; the program included interviews with Roger Johnson, Anthony Horowitz, Vincent Delay, Pierre Bayard, and others, and it's available in English ("Sherlock Holmes Against Conan Doyle") at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gnqkf>.

Peter Miles died on Feb. 26. He began his acting career on stage and went on to perform with the Royal Shakespeare Company, and then moved on to supporting roles in television, including three appearances in "Doctor Who"; he also played Sam Brewer in "Shoscombe Old Place" and Williamson in "The Solitary Cyclist" in Peter Cushing's BBC-1 television series (1968) and Sir William Gull in Brian Clemens' play "Holmes and the Ripper" (1988).



Evy Herzog spotted a Sumikko Gurashi Inspector Takage at a Barnes & Noble store (\$19.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y8avqfdg>; it's a 6-inch-high plush toy, and available at other web-sites as a Sumikko Gurashi Detective Dinosaur. It seems that Sumikko Gurashi Tokage is the son of the Loch Ness Monster, and an addition to the series of toys launched by the Japanese company San-X in 2012.

There have been past discussions of actors who have played both Holmes and Watson, and Moriarty, and Conan Doyle, and it turns out that there actors who have played both Holmes and Lestrade; Howard Ostrom has discovered that Peter Bromilow toured the streets of Toronto dressed as Sherlock Holmes to publicize the try-out there of the musical "Baker Street" in 1965 (he also played Lestrade in Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" in Los Angeles in 1984).

Roger Johnson reports that Roger Llewellyn also has played Holmes and Lestrade, and Howard notes that John Colicos has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Moriarty, and that Tim Pigott-Smith has played Holmes, Lestrade, and Watson. Any others to add to the list?

Jeff Falkingham's MURDER IN MINNESOTA! (Murrieta: AuthorCentrix, 2018; 259 pp., \$10.99) offers reprints of his earlier SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CAPER (2007) and SHERLOCK HOLMES IN SEARCH OF THE SOURCE (2009); Holmes is in Browns Valley in 1886 to solve a series of murders, and in St. Paul in 1896 to solve another mystery (both stories involve a lot of local history); the author's web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.

Mar 18 #3 John Nicholson, who collaborated with Steve Canny to dramatize "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a three-man comedy for Peepolykus in 2007, went on to parody "Dracula: The Bloody Truth" as a four-man comedy for Le Navet Bete last year; it's not Sherlockian, but there are some interesting (and amusing) trailers available at YouTube. There is a web-site for the play at <www.lenavetbete.com/shows/dracula>.

Lewis Neisner died on Mar. 1. He worked in retail as an officer of the national chain Neisner Bros., and then as a professor retailing and marketing at universities in New York and Maryland, and was the founder of the Sherlockian society Rochester Row in Rochester, N.Y.

The Redbeard Brewing Co. makes "small batches of big beers" and has a craft brewery and taproom in Staunton, Va., where you can imbibe their 221B Baker Brown Ale <www.tinyurl.com/y9xxlym2>.

Further to items about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" (Sep 11 #4 and Oct 17 #7), she will be featured in this season of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (as reported by Brian Truitt in USA Today on Mar. 7).

They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. Lou Lewis <llewis@lewisgreer.com> is the contact, if you want to enroll on their mailing list.

Alexander Orlov has noted a Dr. Watson Restaurant in Moscow; the web-site's at <www.drwatson-restaurant.ru> (where they advertise "traditional English cuisine" and "British-loved beers").

Chris Redmond will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 21 at the Toronto Reference Library, speaking on "Sherlock Holmes and the Holy Grail" <www.acdfriends.org>; admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend.

Alexa, according to Wikipedia, is an "intelligent personal assistant" developed by Amazon for use in its Amazon Echo. If you have Alexa, you can play "Baker Street Experience" (an interactive audio Sherlock Holmes adventure developed by Schell Games); their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycoagvm4> includes a link to a review that allows everyone to sample the game.

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State will hold this year's Christopher Morley Birthday Lunch in Hoboken, N.J., on Apr. 29; more information is available from Terry Hunt <l8goldini95@gmail.com>.

The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh, home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists, has interesting events scheduled in August: Ann Treherne will talk about "Arthur Conan Doyle: Spiritualist", Bob Stek about "The Strange Friendship of Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini", and Peter Barratt about his great-grandmother "Alice Hawkins: Suffragette"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/y7owl3dj>. The Centre's an interesting venue for Peter Barratt's lecture, considering Conan Doyle's negative comments about suffragettes..

Mar 18 #4 SYFY Wire reported on Mar. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ekeyj> that Stephen King and Bev Vincent have edited FLIGHT OR FRIGHT (due in September from Cemetery Dance Books); the book's an anthology of flight-based horror stories (including Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights"), and it will be published in three formats: a standard hardcover (\$29.95), a slip-cased numbered edition (\$85.00), and a leather-bound limited edition signed by King (\$1500.00) that's already sold out.

Further to the item (Aug 17 #6) about plans to film Stephen King's pastiche "The Doctor's Case" in western Canada, the completed film premiered at the College of New Caledonia's "Cinema CNC Film Festival" on Mar. 9. There is an excellent trailer for the film at <www.thedoctorsmovie.com>.

Karen Kruse Anderson ("Emilia Lucca") died on Mar. 18. Karen was a teenager in Washington, D.C., in 1949, when she found three fellow-enthusiasts and founded The Red Circle in 1950. After moving to California she met and married Poul Anderson and went on to write delightful science-fiction and fantasy, both with her husband and on her own. She was noted as the first person to use the term "filk music" in print (1955), and was the author of the first published "scifaiku" (1962). Karen also wrote a draft version of "Hatty, or St. Simon's Bride (A Filbert and Sullivan Chamber Operetta)" for performance in 1994; the work was completed as "A Filk Opera" and presented by the "Doyle a la Carte Opera Company" in 1995 (with Karen performing as Sherlock Holmes). She received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000.

The Christopher Morley Knothole Association reports in the February issue of their newsletter on a workshop reading last year of a new musical comedy "I'll Take It" based on Morley's book PARNASSUS ON WHEELS; book and lyrics by Eli Pasic, music by Henry Krieger, and there was a story about the event in Broadway World Off-Broadway <www.tinyurl.com/ya6v3gwl>.

"Holmes in the Heartland" is the title of the conference planned for Aug. 10-11 by The Parallel Case of St. Louis; details on the gathering will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5elmpj>.

Sherlock Holmes' parents' home is on the market for £950,000. The six bedroom house, called Trewalter Fawr, is located in the Vale of Glamorgan and was featured in the episode "His Last Vow" in the BBC's "Sherlock" series; details (with images) at <www.tinyurl.com/y9pyk7k5>.

"People love the monster but do not always honor the book," Scott Van Wynsberghe wrote in the National Post on Mar. 9, in a long article about FRANK-ENSTEIN <www.tinyurl.com/yabl4pb5>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb; one might believe that the quote might apply also to Sherlock Holmes.

A collection of 21 letters from Dorothy L. Sayers to various correspondents is up for bids at RR Auction on Apr. 11; in 1937 she wrote to Walter Klinefelter: "I am afraid I am not really very learned in the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, but the man who can, I am sure, give you the information...would be Mr. H. W. Bell...who wrote 'Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson,' and who is engaged on an elaborate and careful research into Conan Doyle's sources." <www.tinyurl.com/y99aj72v>.

Mar 18 #5 There may someday be an annotated edition of Conan Doyle's 1896 novel RODNEY STONE about the early days of bare-knuckle boxing, but in the meantime you can read about the real boxer John Jackson, who appears in the novel, at Wikipedia; he is buried at Brompton Cemetery in London, as reported by Alexander Orlov, and the Wikipedia entry has an image of Jackson's elaborate funerary monument.

Brooks Arthur Wachtel's LADY SHERLOCK: CIRCLE OF THE SMILING DEAD (Colorado Springs: WordFire, 2016; 232 pp., \$15.99) is set in 1906 and features Lady Natasha Dorrington ("an emancipated and brilliant detective") in a battle with a pagan cult that wants to launch a world-wide war; Mycroft Holmes is involved on behalf of the government, with Sherlock Holmes making a brief appearance.

"You don't know Sherlock Holmes yet: the story begins in Portsmouth" is the title of an exhibition that will open at the Portsmouth City Museum on May 22, offering an exploration of the time Conan Doyle spent in the city and how it shaped Sherlock Holmes.

Further to the item (Feb 18 #4) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: according to a story in the Daily Telegraph (Mar. 25), Richard Pooley, director of the Conan Doyle Estate, has said that the Estate is working on getting stars of the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" to wear the tartan on the red carpet when the film opens in November. Pooley has more to say about the tartan at the Estate's web-site <www.conandoyleestate.com> (see "Weaving Family and Holmes Together").

"Family Guy: V Is for Mystery" (broadcast on Fox on Mar. 25) had Stewie and Brian as Holmes and Watson in London in 1896; it's available (for a while) at <www.tinyurl.com/y96md2nc> and <www.tinyurl.com/y7vmc375>.

Henry Mance suggested in the Financial Times on Mar. 23 that the decision by Cynthia Nixon (Miranda in "Sex and the City" to run for governor of New York might inspire other actors: "Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional detective is all-knowing, able to infer people's characters from tiny details about their appearances and social habits. But when actor Benedict Cumberbatch sees that Facebook can do exactly the same thing, he realizes the error of his ways and becomes a pro-privacy Liberal Democrat candidate."

"Sherlock Gnomes" (the animated sequel to "Gnomeo and Juliet") will delight people who look for Easter eggs in films, and it will be interesting to see if someone puts up a web-site devoted to them. They're not only Sherlockian (watch for a tip of the hat to Ray Harryhausen), but there are plenty that will please the faithful: to start you off, the shop called Curly Fu's is a substitute for the Lucky Cat shop in the BBC's "Sherlock" series, and Curly Fu is the Chinese nickname for Benedict Cumberbatch's Sherlock Holmes.

An art group calling itself the PhiloSoraptors has released a video showing the face of Russian president Vladimir Putin being projected onto the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Mar. 18 (the day he was re-elected after a landslide victory) with the words "Miss Me?" in an apparent reference to the BBC's "Sherlock" series <www.tinyurl.com/y7h4e5hn>. A Foreign Office spokeswoman denied that the event happened.

Mar 18 #6 Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at Scripps Ranch Theatre in San Diego, Calif., through Apr. 9 <www.scrippsranctheatre.org>. The play also is scheduled at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, Ore., June 22 to Sept. 2 <www.coastertheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is running at the Maverick Theatre in Fullerton, Calif., through Apr. 22 <www.mavericktheatre.com>.

Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled by the English Speaking Society of the Université Bretagne Sud at the Paquebot in Lorient, France on Apr. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/y9q8xsjt>.

Callum Hale's parody "The Adventure of Isaac Saddlesore and the Witches of Drenn" will be performed at the Hen & Chicks Theatre in London on Apr. 8-9 <www.tinyurl.com/yaodd82b>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord, N.C., Apr. 13-14; web-site at <www.riseandshineplayers.com>.

"No Sh*t Sherlock!" (a program of four one-act plays that will include Tim Kelly's "The Last of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Northminster Community Hall in San Diego, Calif., Apr. 13-21 <www.clairmontactone.org>.

Tommy Kelley's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century" is scheduled at the Central School Project in Bisbee, Ariz., Apr. 20-29; their Facebook page is at <www.tinyurl.com/yavnkag9>.

"A Scandal in Nova Alba" (a new one-act play by Orlando Pearson) is scheduled at the cornerHOUSE Community Arts Centre in Surbiton, London, Apr. 24-28 <www.thech.org>; "a mix of Bard and Baker Street".

"Sherlock Holmes: The Final Curtain" (a new play by Simon Reade) will debut at the Theatre Royal in Bath, Apr. 25-May 5, and then go on tour in Britain; the tour schedule is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y9gkkaj9>.

The Baker Street Players will present Beth Barnard's new play "A Study in Sherlock: The Bitter Nemesis" at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Apr. 28 and May 5 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; her "A Study in Sherlock: "You Sea But You Do Not Observe" is scheduled for Sept. 8 and 15.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., on May 4-20; web-site at <renolittletheater.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stepping Stones School at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 25-26 <www.tinyurl.com/y7e5fpyk>.

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

Apr 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The manuscript of "The Dancing Men" offered at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on Apr. 18 (Mar 18 #2) sold for \$312,500 (the opening bid of \$250,000 plus the buyer's premium); Randall Stock has provided an excellent illustrated discussion of the manuscript, including its history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/dancing-men-2018.htm>. There's also an interesting post about the manuscript, and the Baker Street Irregulars' manuscript-series volume DANCING TO DEATH (Jan 17 #2), at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yahwcxj9>. DANCING TO DEATH is still available for purchase at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>. And it is a pleasure to report that the manuscript now is part of the collection of Glen A. Miranker.

Further to the item about the pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" and the tetrapod "Irritator challengeri" (described by David M. Martill and his co-authors from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil (Feb 96 #1), both fossils are included in a database at <www.dinosaurpictures.org>; billed as the world's largest dinosaur database, it also offers a link to an interactive globe of ancient earth that allows you to see how the Earth's surface has changed from the Edicarian Period (600 million years ago) to the present.

"Moffat and Gatiss Confirm New Sherlock Series" was the headline on James C. O'Leary's post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9xctukv> earlier this month; the new series is scheduled to air on CBS-TV in the network's next season.

Further to the item (Mar 18 #1) on Vasily Nebenzya's speech at the United Nations, the Daily Telegraph has (alas) a pay-wall for archived articles, and YouTube presents moving targets: try <www.tinyurl.com/yaoumnu>; the Sherlockian segment starts at 14:05 minutes.

It should be noted that in a later speech Nebenzya read from "Alice in Wonderland" ("sentence first and verdict afterwards") in discussing the nerve-gas poisoning of Sergei and Yulia Skirpal in England. Alexander Orlov has noted that Nebenzya's father was deputy chairman of the USSR Committee for Publishing, and chairman of the Council for Children's Literature.

And the saga continues: Karen Peirce, the U.K. ambassador to the U.N., responded to a request from Russia that its scientists be allowed to investigate the poisoning by saying that permitting them to join "an investigation when they are the most likely perpetrators of the crime ... would be like Scotland Yard inviting in Professor Moriarty."

When you're in India: Sherlock's Pub is now open in Chennai [formerly known as Madras, with a video spotted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/y97jgwem>.

Jean Upton reports in the latest issue of the District Messenger (the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) that the National Portrait Gallery's portrait of Conan Doyle, by Henry Gates, is on display again (in room 31) and appears to have been cleaned and restored. Current and past issues of the newsletter are archived at <www.tinyurl.com/yd5et39e>.

Apr 18 #2 Laurie R. King's ISLAND OF THE MAD (New York: Bantam, 2018; 306 pp., \$28.00) has Mary Russell (and her husband Sherlock Holmes) first in England and then in Venice, in 1925, when Americans (including Elsa Maxwell and Cole Porter) are enjoying themselves, and Mussolini's Black Shirts are on the rise; the mystery's imaginative, the politics compelling, and Venice, as always, is intriguing.

The Public Safety Center in Edmond, Okla., displays a bronze sculpture of Sherlock Holmes, created by artist Jane DeDecker and dedicated on Oct. 29, 2015. Images of the sculpture can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/y8dx4lvm>.

"Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Aug. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.

How many of Sherlock Holmes' books have you read? Not the Sherlock Holmes in the Canon, but rather the Sherlock Holmes played by Jonny Lee Miller in "Elementary". Listopia (a feature of Goodreads) has a list of 27 books in Holmes' brownstone, and if you can identify more you're welcome to add to the list <www.tinyurl.com/ycfb8xur>.

Here a Baskerville, there a Baskerville, everywhere a Baskerville: further to the item (Oct 95 #1) on Crowsley Park House in Henley-on-Thames, owned by the Baskerville family, one of whose members, Sir Henry Baskerville, was High Sheriff of Oxfordshire in 1847: it's one of the many houses alleged to have inspired the Sherlock Holmes story, and it has stone gatepost statues of "hell hounds" with spears through their mouths; you can see one of the hounds in a story in the Henley Standard <www.tinyurl.com/y9muagr5>, with mention of the Baskerville Arms, a pub in nearby Lower Shiplake (not to be confused with The Baskerville Arms in Hay-on-Wye, near Clyro in Wales).

Further to the item (Mar 18 #4) on the Dorothy L. Sayers letter to Walter Klinefelter in which she recommended he contact H. W. Bell for information about the higher criticism of Sherlock Holmes, it was one of 21 letters in the lot at RR Auction that had an opening bid of \$300 and sold for \$4,500 (plus 22.5% buyer's premium).

A reminder of the days when there were smoking and non-smoking sections in restaurant: a (briefly) Sherlockian commercial in favor of proposition 10 in California, on "The David Letterman Show" on Oct. 24, 1980, spotted by Greg Ruby <www.tinyurl.com/ya9crje8> (at 28:24 minutes).

Andrew Ive has noted an interesting possibility for the origin of Sherlock Holmes' names: Conan Doyle married Louise Hawkins in 1885 in Lonsdale, near St. Mary's Church in Ingleton, where the Rev. Thomas Dod Sherlock had been vicar, and where a nearby area was called the Holmes. The church in Ingleton has launched a campaign to raise money for repairs, and there are plans to have a statue of Sherlock Holmes placed in the grounds once the building work has been completed, and contributions will be most welcome; there is more information at <www.ingleton.co.uk/sherlock_holmes.asp>, and you can reach Andrew Ive at <andyive69@gmail.com>.

Apr 18 #3 The Brigadier Gerard is now shut and empty. That's the pub in York, which was originally a private house, then the Gasworks Social Club, and in 1984 expanded as The Brigadier Gerard; it was named not in honor of the hero of Conan Doyle's stories, but rather for a famous race horse. York Mix reported on Mar. 28, that the pub suddenly closed, with no explanation from the brewery that managed it. racing fans are aware that the horse was named for Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero, and it is worth noting that there is another pub called The Brigadier Gerard, in Eastleigh.

Pokémon's new Nintendo game "Detective Pikachu" has been released, and the company has kindly made a comic book "Detective Pikachu: Episode 0--Eevee's Case" available as a free Kindle download at <www.amazon.com>.



Adolph Treidler's atmospherically-Sherlockian ink-and-brush painting of a hansom cab and its driver is available from Taraba Illustration Art for \$350 (plus \$50 domestic shipping); the image size is 8 x 10 in.). Treidler (1886-1961) was well-known for his magazine covers, posters, and illustrations for advertising; first come, first served, and you can contact Fred Taraba by e-mail <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com> to purchase the artwork. Fred advertises a wide variety of attractive original artwork at his web-site, including an illustration by Robert Fawcett for a non-Sherlockian story by Noel Langley (Fawcett also illustrated Sherlockian pastiches written by Arthur Whitaker, and by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr.

"Secret Agent Selection: WW2" is the title of a five-episode weekly television series launched by BBC Two on Apr. 9, about the beginning of the Special Operations Executive, whose members were known as the Baker Street Irregulars (because their original offices in 1940 were in Baker Street); the series may (or may not) air in other countries, eventually.

Further to the report (Dec 17 #8) that his long-running "Detective Conan" manga series would be on hiatus while he recovered from illness, Goshō Aoyama announced that the comic would return to stores in April. The manga features a genius teenage detective who shrank into a young boy after being forced to ingest an experimental toxin and takes on the alias Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Conan Doyle) and continues to solve mysteries. The series has been translated into more than two dozen languages (the English version is titled "Case Closed") and has been adapted into an animated series, feature films, video games, and live-action specials.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE VANISHING MAN is a new comic-book series due from Dynamite Entertainment in May, written by Leah Moore and John Reppion, with cover artist John Cassaday and interior artist Julius Ohta. Dan Wickline had a preview at Bleeding Cool on Mar. 29 <www.tinyurl.com/ycmbczxo>.

"We Are The Mighty" describes itself as a "military media brand run by veterans, military family members, and civilians to bring relevant, engaging entertainment to the military community," and they recently posted a video of a taste test of a British field ration from the Second Boer War, something Arthur Conan Doyle might have eaten in South Africa almost 120 years ago <www.tinyurl.com/y745s83c>.

Apr 18 #4 Carol Nelson Douglas reports that Midnight Louie, P.I., who's featured in a 28-book alphabetical mystery series, will return in October in ABSINTHE WITHOUT LEAVE; the book will also have a cameo appearance by Irene Adler (the heroine of an eight-book series about the only woman who outwitted Sherlock Holmes). There is more information about Carol, and her books, at her web-site <www.carolnelsondouglas.com>.

Further to the item (Jul 15 #2) on "Sherlock Holmes' Fictional Baker Street Home in London Subject to Ownership Mystery" about just who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National, where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary: it's still a mystery, although it seems to be tied to Kazakh oligarch Nurali Aliyev, according to a report at Microsoft's MSN web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y82jxwoe>, kindly noted by Oscar Ross.

BBC Radio 4 has a Friday-night comedy podcast that includes "The News Quiz" (a satiric look at the week's news) and uses a nicely Sherlockian image at its web-site; there have been no reports (so far) of anything Sherlockian on the podcast, but you can listen on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ya9hqmkcr>.



The on-line A.V. Club (which bills itself as "pop culture obsessives writing for the pop culture") has some interesting "Watch This" reviews of older Sherlockian films <www.avclub.com>; search for [sherlock holmes].

Alexander Orlov has reported an interesting web-site: the Cover Art Archive <www.tinyurl.com/yd86mzyj>; it's a joint project between the Internet Archive and MusicBrainz, and has images of (at the moment) more than 800,000 album covers, and an excellent search engine that works for titles and artists and types of music.

Sherlock Holmes "looked in at Mecca" during the Great Hiatus, he told Watson (in "The Empty House"). Undoubtedly Mecca looked much the same then as it did in 1885, when it was photographed by Al-Sayyid Abd Al-Ghaffar; fifteen of his photographs will be offered at Sotheby's in London on May 15, and you can see an article about them at <www.tinyurl.com/y9w2cb4t>.

"The Real Sherlock of Baker Street" was the headline on a Londonist report <www.tinyurl.com/y8oh42yb> on a City of Westminster plaque on York Terrace East, a five minute walk from Baker Street; it honors Dame Sheila Sherlock, a professor of medicine and a world authority on the liver and its diseases (she published hundreds of papers in scientific journals, and in 1951 was made the youngest female Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians). She was appointed a Dame in 1978, and then a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Julian D. Corrington wrote about "Baker Street Weather" in The Saint Detective Magazine (Nov. 1957), but he was best known for his pioneering work in amateur microscopy and for founding the American Society of Amateur Microscopists in 1939. He also wrote about Sherlock Holmes and his use of the microscope in Nature Magazine (Oct. 1953) and in books published by Bausch & Lomb (1934) and McGraw-Hill (1957); Burt Wolder has discovered an interesting article by John Gustav Delly in Modern Microscopy (Aug. 14, 2013) on Corrington, his career, and his microscopes <www.tinyurl.com/ybdgwyho>.

Apr 18 #5 Roger Llewellyn died on Apr. 17. He had a long theatrical career that included appearances as Inspector Lestrade (with Ron Moody as Sherlock Holmes) in Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988) and Sherlock Holmes in Christopher Martin's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1997). Roger also played Holmes (and many others parts) in David Stuart Davies' one-man shows "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" (1999) and "Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life" (2008) in world-wide tours. Excerpts from "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" are available at YouTube, and audio recordings of both one-man shows from Big Finish <www.bigfinish.com>.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through Sept. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/ya7r7rlw>, and then on display at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., Nov. 3 through May 27, 2019 <www.lsc.org>; it's a splendid exhibition, well worth a visit.

Reported: MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, is due from Titan Books in October; a sequel to their MYCROFT HOLMES (Jun 15 #2), it's set in 1872, when the brothers unintentionally investigating the same mystery as they pursue the reason behind the growing opium trade. There's a third book in the series scheduled for 2019.

Mystery Scene, edited by Kate Stine <www.mysteryscenemag.com>, frequently offers Sherlockian content: issue 153 (winter 2018) has Michael Mallory's report on "The Remarkable Lives of Anthony Boucher" (he was an avid Sherlockian and an early member of The Baker Street Irregulars), Cathy Pickens' article about "Writers Turned Sleuths" (Arthur Conan Doyle and Erle Stanley Gardner), and reviews of Sherlockian books.

"Sherlock Gnomes" had an opening weekend gross of \$10.6 million, according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, far behind the \$25.4-million opening weekend gross of "Gnomeo and Juliet" in 2011. As of Apr. 26, the film's total worldwide gross was \$58.6 million; the web-site estimates the film's production budget at \$59 million (the industry rule of thumb is that the studio gets half of the gross receipts). It should be noted that it isn't the only gnomish film you can see this year: there also is "Gnome Alone" (which premiered in Europe in 2017 but hasn't yet been released in the U.S.), with an official trailer available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ycycpnvf>

Vicki Delany's THE CAT OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the third in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (the proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (the proprietor of the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room), this time investigating the death of an actor scheduled to perform as Holmes in a local presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and there are twists and turns, and a bit of romance, in the story). And there's a fourth book in the series coming up: "A Scandal in Scarlet".

And there's late-breaking news: Mattias Boström won the Agatha Award (for best nonfiction) for his FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK (Apr 17 #4); the award was announced at the Malice Domestic awards dinner in Bethesda on Apr. 28, and Mattias was there to accept the traditional appropriately-decorated ceramic teapot and deliver an artful and gracious acceptance speech. You can see him with his award at his Facebook page <www.tinyurl.com/ya6y945x>.

Apr 18 #6 Benedict Cumberbatch and Jonny Lee Miller alternated as Frankenstein and the Creature in the National Theatre's production of "Frankenstein" in 2011, and the show was recorded and will be screened again in theaters in October. It was the first time they played the same character (they went on to perform as Sherlock Holmes on television), and it's well worth seeing the play twice, so that you can decide which actor is better in which role.

Michael Kuhn's "Sherlock Holmes und die Schnecken von Eastwick" [Schnecken are snails] is being performed at the Boulevardtheater in Dresden through May 12 <www.boulevardtheater.de>.

"The Sherlock Project" (a new "immersive theatrical experience") is being presented by the PaperHouse Theatre at the FROCK Shop in Charlotte, N.C., through May 12 <www.paperhousetheatre.com>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being done at the Waldon Arts Center in Fayetteville, Ark., through May 27 <www.theatre2.org>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Stagehouse Theatre in El Cajon, Calif., May 10-19 <www.tinyurl.com/yab57n4b>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford, May 15-19 <www.staffordplayers.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at Chevalier College in Burradoo, N.S.W., May 23-26 <www.tinyurl.com/yao2azs7>.

Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed at the Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis, Minn., June 1-24 <www.theatreintheround.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes" (a new "comedy musical") will be performed at the Sörby Rundloge in Mjölby, Sweden, June 2-17 <www.soffteater.se>.

Tal Aviezer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Musgrave Ritual" will be performed at the Barton-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 2-10 <www.bartowpellmuseummansion.org>.

The Chapterhouse Theatre Company will continue touring its "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on tour in England this summer, June 14 through Aug. 30 <www.chapterhouse.org>.

The East Haddam Stage Company, based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, has held auditions for this year's season, which will include an adaptation of "The Professor" (William Gillette's first comedy) July 7-Aug. 12, an original one-man presentation of "Yukitaka Osaki, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet" in September, and Ara Barlieb's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose" for the holidays.

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

May 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Dark Deeds in the Canon" is the title of the next Reichenbach Irregulars' conference in Switzerland, scheduled for May 31-June 4, 2019; their focus will be on Professor James Moriarty and Baron Adelbert Gruner. Details are available at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.

"Elementary" has been renewed for a seventh season. Its ratings continue to decline (it's the least-watched of all of the CBS-TV dramas, according to a story in the Wall Street Journal), but it's profitable nevertheless, thanks to revenue from overseas, syndication, and a deal with Hulu.

Sorry about that: the correct version of last month's newsletter report is: "Dark Places, Wicked Companions, and Strange Experiences" is the title of The Norwegian Explorers' next conference in Minneapolis, scheduled for Aug. 9-11, 2019, at the Graduate Hotel (the new name of the Commons Hotel), and there will be an evening reception on Aug. 8; you can enroll on their mailing list by contacting Julie McKuras <mike9750@aol.com>.

Watson's Tin Box is hosting this year's "Scintillation of Scions" on June 8-9, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It is an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, and registration is now open <www.scintillation.org>.

"Sherlock Gnomes" was released in Great Britain and Ireland on May 11, and Odeon Cinemas promoted the opening with an offer to give every child "the chance to grow their very own mini garden with our flowering seed paper!" <www.tinyurl.com/yd4rjl69>. The children, of course, will need to provide their own garden gnomes.

And there's more promotion in Great Britain: Hovis has launched a "221b Bakery Street" campaign <www.tinyurl.com/y6uxacnz> <www.tinyurl.com/y8atl66j> that promotes their "Best of Both" bread loaves; prizes range from a family adventure in London to Sherlock Gnomes toast stamps.

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars will gather on June 24 in New Orleans, during the annual meeting of the American Library Association; Monica Schmidt will be their guest speaker (on "You Have Been on eBay, I Perceive: The Pathology of Sherlockian Collecting"), and more information is available from Marsha Pollak <mlpollak@icloud.com>.

Etchings by James Ensor, a member of the XX Group, the "modern Belgian masters" whose pictures "entirely absorbed" Sherlock Holmes (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were at auction this month at Christie's, and there's an interesting article about him at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yd6mlr28>.

Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who has received the Denver Silent Film Festival's David Shepard Career Achievement Award. Russell is a member of the board of the San Francisco Silent Film Festival, an adjunct professor in the Department of Film & Media at the University of California Berkeley, and a leader in the restoration of two important silent films: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and Carlyle Blackwell's "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).

May 18 #2 MYSTERY MOST GEOGRAPHICAL (Cabin John: Wildside Press, 2018; 349 pp., \$35.00) is the 13th Malice Domestic anthology, offering nice assortment of short stories and a foreword by Nancy Pickard (who received the Lifetime Achievement award at this year's Malice); one of the stories is Michael Robertson's "The Barrister's Clerk" an imaginative addition to his "Baker Street Letters" series about the London barristers who have their offices at Sherlock Holmes' address and are tasked with answering his mail. Wildside's web-site is at <www.wildsidepress.com>.

Also from Wildside: Christopher Redmond's ABOUT BEING A SHERLOCKIAN (2017; 250 pp., \$14.99) is a sequel of sorts to his ABOUT SIXTY (Dec 16 #5): Chris has edited an anthology of sixty essays "celebrating the Sherlockian community" and in his introduction he explains just how easy (or difficult) it can be to define just what a Sherlockian is; the essays are by a delightful mix of authors, old hands and newcomers, who describe with great enthusiasm the many paths they followed in becoming Sherlockians.



"He made the country down in Illinois," Lucy Ferrier said (in "A Study in Scarlet"); our postal service has issued a stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of statehood for Illinois.

Karen Murdock has noted Matthew Walther's "The Man Who Knew Everything" in The Week (Apr. 25) <www.theweek.com/articles/763465>; it is a review of Rebecca Tope's new SABINE BARING-GOULD: THE MAN WHO TOLD A THOUSAND STORIES. The many things he wrote about included the folktales of Dartmoor, and he's a very important character in Laurie R. King's THE MOOR (1998), in which he's visited by Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes. Baring-Gould's grandson (William S. Baring-Gould), when he wrote his biography of Sherlock Holmes, used details from his grandfather's life in describing Holmes' early years. Sabine Baring-Gould lived at Lewtrenchard, near Dartmoor; his house now is a luxury hotel <www.lewtrenchard.co.uk> and you can visit his grave at the nearby Lewtrenchard Cemetery.

Alexander Orlov has reported a new adaptation of a Canonical story in which Holmes and Watson do not appear; an 18-minute video ("Violet") is available at Vimeo <www.vimeo.com/22871372>. There's also a Russian video "Seldon" <www.tinyurl.com/n4narya>, and the Indian film "Bees Saal Bad" inspired by "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/y894fae7>.

They're off and running: The Baker Street Irregulars' triennial running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is set for Aug. 11. More information about the two-day excursion is available online at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/silverblaze2018.html>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LOST RADIO SCRIPTS (Little Falls: Purview Press, 2017; 396 pp., \$25.98), edited by Ian Dickerson, offers twelve scripts written by Denis Green and Leslie Charteris [as Bruce Taylor] from the Rathbone/Bruce 1944 radio series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (all of them from programs for which audio recordings are not known to exist); Dickerson discovered the scripts in Charteris' papers, and it's nice to have a chance to revisit the radio series. You can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Dickerson at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" archive <www.tinyurl.com/y82pbko9>.

May 18 #3 Martin Edwards' *THE STORY OF CLASSIC CRIME IN 100 BOOKS* (London: British Library, 2017; 353 pp., £25.00) (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, \$26.95) is a delightful companion to the "British Library Crime Classics" series that offers reprints of excellent novels and short stories; some of the anthologies include stories by Conan Doyle, and this book explores the history of crime fiction in novels published in the first half of the twentieth century (one of them, of course, is "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The book also is available in a trade-paperback edition to match the crime-classics series. And Edwards, recently asked what he would have added as the 101st title, confessed that there already are 102 novels in his book.



Cub Scouting, part of the Scouting Program of the Boy Scouts of America, offers Cubs belt loops (instead of merit badges), and Kate Karlson has reported an interesting Code of the Wolf elective adventure loop. They're available for \$1.49 at your neighborhood Scout Shop, and on-line at <www.scoutshop.org>; search for [619939]. And yes, in February the Boy Scouts of America announced their new name: Scouts BSA, recognizing the decision to admit young women as full-fledged Scouts. The Cub Scouts program already admits girls; now older girls will be able to join Scouts BSA and have an opportunity to advance to become Eagle Scouts. One hopes that eventually the Scouts BSA will offer a Sherlockian merit badge.

Mattias Boström, who last month won the Agatha Award (best nonfiction) for *FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK* at Malice Domestic, has been nominated for an Anthony Award (best critical/non-fiction book) at Bouchercon; winners will be announced at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sept. 8. Mattias also has received Der blaue Karfunkel from the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft at SherloCON in Saarbrücken, and the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED AND ENHANCED BY N. R. REEKIE (2017) offers an imaginative approach to the Canon: there are more than 300 illustrations, including his own Rapidograph technical-pen artwork, and the 352-page book is available at eBay for £24.99 <www.tinyurl.com/y79ollmr>.

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes, now at the Houston Museum of Natural Science <www.hmns.org>, has some added material. According to the Houston Chronicle <www.tinyurl.com/y7k2vs47>, the exhibits now include the curved pipe Robert Downey Jr. smoked and the pocket watch worn by Jude Law, the pink suitcase from Benedict Cumberbatch's "A Study in Pink", and a costume worn by Lucy Liu.

Conan Doyle wrote about the bare-knuckle boxer John Jackson, who appears in *RODNEY STONE* (Mar 18 #5), and there are other boxers in Conan Doyle's writings; one of them is William Abednego Thompson, known as Bendigo, who was honored in Conan Doyle's poem "Bendy's Sermon". According to the Nottingham Post <www.tinyurl.com/y8e6yydo>, a fund-raising campaign is underway to pay for a statue of Bendigo, who is buried in Nottingham. Alan Dance and David Field's novel *BENDIGO: THE RIGHT FIST OF GOD* (2016) is based on the life of "the most famous son of Nottingham since Robin Hood first ventured from the leafy glades of Sherwood Forest to taunt the Sheriff."

May 18 #4 Maria Konnikova, author of *MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2013), and then *THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME* (2016), began playing poker in late 2016 while working on a new book *THE BIGGEST BLUFF*, but she's earning so much in poker tournaments that the book likely won't be published until next year, according to a report in the N.Y. Post on May 3 <www.tinyurl.com/ya9m9wqn>; Maria's website is at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.



"A Strange Change Toy Featuring The Lost World" was made and sold by Mattel in the late 1960s, likely inspired by the film that starred Claude Rains as Professor Challenger (1960). There's a Wikipedia entry for the "Strange Change Machine" that describes the toy in detail: it offered pressed "shape memory" plastic figures of prehistoric animals, an "Expansion Chamber" with a heating element, and a "Compressor" (Wikipedia provides links to web-sites that have images and more information); it cost only \$1.50 in those good old days and seems to have been discontinued quickly because the toy was so dangerous to children who played with it. You can find it at eBay (for a lot more than \$1.50) and play with it now (carefully, of course).

The seventh running of the No Frills Silver Blaze will take place on Aug. 18 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J., and it's truly no frills: entrance fee \$5.00 (or \$3.00 for seniors), and bring your own food and drinks. The event is arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street, and more information is available from Peter McIntyre <pslpete@optonline.net>.

The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (Dec 17 #6) began its run on Apr. 27, and the series has a website at <www.hboasia.com/HBO/en-ph/shows/miss-sherlock>. You can watch the series (with English subtitles) at <www.dailymotion.com>.

Raymond C. Murray died on Apr. 8. He was a leader in the field of forensic geology (the use of soil and mineral evidence in law enforcement) and wrote two of the field's standard textbooks, *FORENSIC GEOLOGY* (1975 and 1992) and *EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION* (2004 and 2011), with due credit to Sherlock Holmes for his geological expertise; you can learn more about Ray's work at <www.forensicgeology.net>.

C. J. Carter-Stephenson's "Back of the Bookshelf" is a monthly podcast offering his narration of classic short fiction, and it was launched with Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" available in both video and audio <www.carter-stephenson.co.uk/botb.html>.

Congratulations to Andrew Jay Peck, who began his legal career in 1978 and was appointed U.S. magistrate judge for the Southern District of New York in 1995; he retired from the bench in February and has joined the law firm DLA Piper as a senior counsel, and you can read about his career in an American Bar Association article at <www.tinyurl.com/yck3l98q> (there's also a podcast interview). Andy was the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in *The Baker Street Journal* in 1972, joined the Baker Street Irregulars in 1973 (as "Inspector Baynes, Surrey Constabulary"), and plans to continue his pursuit of Sherlock Holmes (and the N.Y. Yankees).

May 18 #5 Ashley Polasek has edited A PLUM ASSIGNMENT: DISCOURSE ON P. G. WODEHOUSE AND HIS WORLD (Winch and Clutterbuck, 2018), the discourse being by Curtis Armstrong and Elliott Milstein; the book isn't Sherlockian but you can listen to the three of them talk about Wodehouse, and his enthusiasm for Conan Doyle and Holmes, with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder in a podcast at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/yau22ldl>.

There's a race horse named Sherlock Holmes, and the [Melbourne] Herald Sun had a picture of him <www.tinyurl.com/y7gn68v8> winning a race at Flemington; the chestnut gelding, born in Ireland, is doing well in Australia, and you can see video of him winning the race at <www.tinyurl.com/y82nl5og>.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Carnegie's, in the Peery Hotel, in Salt Lake City on May 23, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, welcomed by members of The PsiKeys of Sherlock and The Avenging Angels. Our next meetings will be on Nov. 7 in Indianapolis, and on May 22, 2019, in San Antonio.

There is a definitely-firm and reliable rumor that there's a third Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film in the works. According to the Hollywood Reporter (May 7), Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow Pictures have announced that "Sherlock Holmes 3" will open in theaters Christmas Day in 2020. All that's needed now is a script and a director and a start of production.

Further to the item about Grace Humiston, a lawyer-turned-investigator in 1917 who was known as "Mrs. Sherlock Holmes" and was featured in a recent episode of the NBC-TV series "Timeless" (Mar 18 #3), Rachel Kaufman wrote about the episode at the Smithsonian blog <www.tinyurl.com/y9pys2oa>.

Sundance TV plans an eight-episode international drama series based on Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE, starring John Turturro as the Franciscan monk William of Baskerville, Damian Hardung as Adso of Melk, and Rupert Everett as inquisitor Bernard Gui; the book, set in Italy in 1327, nevertheless was nicely Sherlockian.

It's a bit late for this year, but in plenty of time for next year: Sherlock Holmes Day is celebrated on May 22. It's an event established in 2013 by the forum and games site Gaia Online, and there's much more information available on-line at <www.daysoftheyear.com/days/sherlock-holmes-day>.

Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss and Benedict Cumberbatch celebrated Sherlock Holmes Day on-line with video and audio teasers for their "Sherlock" series at the BBC America web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y92csyc3>.

Margalit Fox's CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (New York: Random House, 2018; 352 pp., \$27.00) has the subtitle "the true story of a sensational British murder, a quest for justice, and the world's most famous detective writer," and it's a carefully-researched and well-written account of the Oscar Slater case; the author has discovered new and interesting information about the case, and she offers a convincing explanation of why the police and the government were so determined to convict an innocent man.

May 18 #6 English Heritage has announced that Peter Cushing will be honored with a blue plaque at his childhood home in Croydon; the announcement was made on May 4 (Star Wars Day) and the plaque will be unveiled in July. Roger Johnson has noted that May 4 also is Reichenbach Day (when Holmes and Moriarty fought to the death in Switzerland); Cushing was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), a BBC television series (1968), and "The Masks of Death" (1984). He also played Conan Doyle in a television film "The Great Houdinis" (1976).

For those who may be wondering why May 4 is Star Wars Day (May 18 #1): the celebration was created by fans of the series, who happily say "May the 4th be with you." The announcement was made on Star Wars Day in recognition of Cushing's memorable performance at the Grand Moff Tarkin in the first "Star Wars" film in 1977.

Reported: Leslie S. Klinger's IN THE SHADOW OF AGATHA CHRISTIE (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 356 pp., \$25.95) is subtitled "classic crime fiction by forgotten female writers: 1850-1917" and offers 16 stories that include Carolyn Wells' 1915 Sherlockian burlesque "The Adventure of the Clothes-Line".

Fans of Scooby-Doo will welcome the news that "Scooby-Doo and Guess Who?" is being developed for a 2019 launch on Boomerang's digital-streaming service; episodes of the animated series will feature characters such as Batman, the Flash, Wonder Woman, and Sherlock Holmes.

When in Middlesbrough (in North Yorkshire): the Orange Pip Market, a monthly artisan food market is on Baker Street <www.orangepipmarket.com>; it was founded in 2014 and named for the Sherlock Holmes story. You can also stop in at the local pub The Twisted Lip <www.thetwistedlip.co.uk>.

Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE GYPSY GOOD-BYE (New York: Philomel, 2010; 176 pp., \$14.99) is the sixth and last in her pleasant series about Enola Holmes, the 14-year-old younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock; she's hiding from them in London and solving mysteries on her own. All of the books are available in trade paperbacks from Puffin (\$6.99), and the series has been in the news because Legendary Entertainment has signed the British actor-model Millie Bobby Brown to star in and produce feature films based on the series. There's more information about Enola Holmes, and Nancy Springer, at the author's web-site <www.nancyspringer.com>, and about Millie Bobby Brown at Wikipedia and elsewhere on the Internet.

Overwatch, a team-based multiplayer first-person shooter video game developed and published by Blizzard Entertainment <www.playoverwatch.com/en-us>, allows players to purchase "skins" that change the outfit or color scheme of the players' heroes, and one of the anniversary skins offers McCree the opportunity to dress in a Sherlockian costume that also fits support hero Ana; you can see Ana wearing the skin, and explore Overwatch, at the DBLTAP web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ydbeqats>.

BRAIN GAMES is a series of puzzle books, and their SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLES (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2017; 198 pp. \$12.98) has more than "100 cerebral challenges inspired by the world's greatest detective" (standard puzzles, with many tied to the Canon).

May 18 #7 Patricia Morison died on May 20. She had a long career both as a singer (she starred in "Kiss Me Kate" on Broadway in 1948 and then in "The King and I" on Broadway and on tour) and as an actor (in films and on television) and is best-known to Sherlockians as the evil Mrs. Hilda Courtney in Basil Rathbone's "Dressed to Kill" (1946).

The new block-buster film "Avengers: Infinity War" stars Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man) and Benedict Cumberbatch (Doctor Strange), who have both played Sherlock Holmes, but there are no allusions to that in the movie. According to Comic Book Resources <www.tinyurl.com/y97dbj44>, directors Joe and Anthony Russo believed that jokes about the character connection would have been "too obvious."

The East Haddam Stage Company, which is based at Gillette Castle in Connecticut, will be on tour with its radio drama "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" in the fall <www.ehsco.org>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Morris-Jumel Mansion in New York, N.Y., June 8-24 <www.morrisjumel.org>.

Ray Crew's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Avenging Angels" is scheduled at the Elementary Theatre in Cape May, N.J., June 21-Sept. 29, during the Sherlock & Shakespeare Festival <www.capemaymac.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is due at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., June 22-July 22 <www.alleytheatre.org>; at the Indiana Repertory Theatre in Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 25-Oct. 21 <www.irtlive.com>; and at the North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., Oct. 17-Nov. 11 <www.northcoastrep.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Tim Churchill and Catherine O'Reilly) is scheduled at the Stoke Repertory Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs., July 31-Aug. 4 <www.stokerep.info>.

The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at La Belle Angèle in Edinburgh, Aug. 2-26 <www.improvsherlock.com>.

Richard Lavin's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Impaled Whaler" is due at Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Aug. 10-25; website at <www.tudorhouseentertainment.villas>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Krevsky Center in Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 7-16 <www.theatreharrisburg.com>.

Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" is due at the Huntington Avenue Theatre in Boston, Mass., Sept. 28-Oct. 28 <www.huntingtontheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized from Nicholas Meyer's novel by Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge) will be performed at the Little Lake Theatre in Canonsburg, Pa., Oct. 11-27 <www.littlelake.org>.

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

Jun 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The mid-year letter from Mike Whelan ("Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars) included the news that the BSI Archive, formerly at the Houghton Library at Harvard University, is being transferred to the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.; the Lilly Library already has an impressive Sherlockian and Doylean collection, and now also houses the archive of the Mystery Writers of America.

There also was news of the next BSI conference, set for 2020, will have as its theme "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" (details to be announced later), Next year's birthday festivities in New York will be held on Jan. 9-13, and the Distinguished Speaker Lecture on Jan. 10 will feature director and playwright Ken Ludwig, author of "Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays", and "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery".

Russian war correspondent Arkady Babchenko, who fled Russia for Ukraine in 2017, turned up at a press conference in Kiev last month, one day after he had been reported killed; he explained that the announcement that his wife had found his body after he had been shot several times at the entrance to his apartment in Kiev was intended to help Ukraine's security services foil a real plot against his life. All this is of possible interest to readers of this newsletter because Anton Geraschenko, a member of Ukraine's parliament, then said that "Sherlock Holmes successfully used the method of staging his own death for the effective investigation on complex and intricate crimes, no matter how painful it was for his family and Dr. Watson."

Benoit Guilielmo has launched an on-line collection of Sherlockian articles from the 1930s (many of them reprinted for the first time), accompanied by some modern commentary on what he calls the Golden Age of Sherlockian scholarship (1927-1934), at <www.earlysherlockiana.blogspot.fr>. It's nicely done, and an opportunity to see what the Sherlockian world once was like.

The manuscript of "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" will be at auction at Sotheby's in London on July 10, estimated at £10,000-£15,000. There is a nice entry about the manuscript at Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" website at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/spedegues-dropper-2018.htm>.

Howard Ostrom has found another example of the wonders of digitization: the Nov. 1906 supplement to the Urban Films catalog, with a three-page synopsis of Vitagraph's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1905); it's on-line at <www.lukemckernan.com/2018/02/15/the-world-in-1906> [pages 61-63]. Leslie S. Klinger wrote about the film in The Baker Street Journal, June 1998.

Sherlock Bones Lost 'N Hound Dog Recovery has a Facebook page but no website: they're "a local group of animal lovers dedicated to reuniting owners with their lost furies" in and around Buffalo, N.Y.

"Hooray for Meghan Markle, a Very Modern Adventuress" was the headline on a story by Julie Burchill in the Spectator on Apr. 28, reported by Evy Herzog (who presides over The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). The word "adventuress" is rarely encountered today, other than in the Canon and at Sherlockian gatherings; you can read the article at <www.tinyurl.com/yd7d9ot4>.

Jun 18 #2 Erik Ofgang's GILLETTE CASTLE: A HISTORY (Charleston: History Press, 2017; 139 pp., \$21.99) is a nicely readable and attractively illustrated guide to William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn., with discussion of Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Gillette himself, but the main focus is on the Castle and its history.

A "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive was used on the Metropolitan Line in London from the early 1920s until it was withdrawn from service in 1962, but now there's a new one, christened at a naming ceremony at the Quainton Road Station on Apr. 29, and video of the ceremony is available at YouTube; search for [quainton sherlock holmes].

All that remains of the first locomotive are the nameplates, which are fortunately preserved in Sherlockian collections, but a battery-powered scale model (in 7¼ inch gauge, which means it will run on rails 7¼ inches apart) was at auction at Dreweatts in England in 2013, with an estimate of £1,000-£1,500. It sold for £2,728 (including the buyer's premium). Of course there is a 7¼inch Gauge Society, with a web-site <www.sevenandaquarter.org> for those who enjoy riding on (rather than in) these attractive trains, and you can do exactly that in Great Britain, Europe, and North America, as noted in the Club Directory at the web-site.



The winners of this year's Audie Awards (from the Audio Publishers Association) included Stephen Fry's recording of the Sherlock Holmes stories (for excellence in production); the recording is available from Audio Studios at <www.audible.com>.

THE CROWN JEWEL MYSTERY, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley (Wilton Press, 2017; 109 pp., \$5.98), a prequel to their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series, brings Lucy to London for the first time, hoping to determine the identity of her mysterious benefactor and winding up on the scene of a bank robbery; the novella is both imaginative and fast-paced, and the series has a web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.

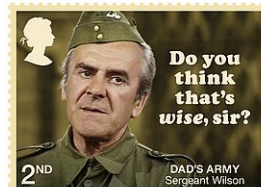
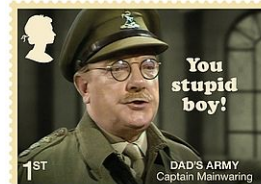
Earlier novels in the series include REMEMBER, REMEMBER (2017; 346 pp.) and THE JUBILEE PROBLEM (2017; 407 pp.) (each \$12.99); Lucy discovers who her mysterious father and mother are, and is involved in investigating two interesting mysteries, as well as some romance.

The restored version of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929) received a warm reception at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival this month, and there are reports that a commercial DVD will be available sooner rather than later; in the meantime, Danill Dubshin has reported, you can watch clips from the film uploaded by Rob Byrne to Vimeo: go to <www.vimeo.com> and search for [der hund von baskerville] to see how splendid the restoration is.

"Sherlock: The Game Is Now" <www.sherlockgame.com> is billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people," and it will open in London on Oct. 23 and run through Feb. 24, with tickets costing £54 per person. It's organized by Time Run and "Sherlock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and you can see some of Time Run's other escape games at <www.time-run.com>.

Jun 18 #3 Martyn Sutton is the proprietor of Uncle Jeremy's Household, a gift shop in Ingleton <www.unclejeremy.com> that celebrates the connections of Sherlock Holmes to the Yorkshire Dales; he believes that the name of Sherlock Holmes was inspired by Conan Doyle's visits to the region (he married his first wife Louise Hawkins there in 1885, the same year his short story "Uncle Jeremy's Household" was published). One of their Sherlock Holmes Teddy Bears will be the prize in the "This is Ingleton" competition in July at <www.facebook.com/VisitIngleton>; the contest is open to anyone, anywhere, who answers a simple question to qualify for the end-of-the-month drawing.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the BBC's long-running television series "Dad's Army" that was broadcast from 1968 to 1977. Two of the stamps show Arthur Lowe as Capt. George Mainwaring and John Le Mesurier as Sgt. Arthur Wilson; if the actors look familiar, it's because Arthur Lowe played Dr. William Watson in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977), while John Le Mesurier was Eduardo Lucas in "The Second Stain" in the Alan Wheatley television series (1951), Barrymore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), and Lord Redcliff in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975).



Rob Nunn has been posting to his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog since June 2017 <www.interestingthoughelementary.blogspot.com>. It's imaginative as well as interesting, with a mix of essays and interviews.

Bill Peschel's "223B Casebook Series" continues, offering his survey of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books, reprinted with footnotes and brief accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing each year. The latest volumes are SHERLOCK HOLMES: GREAT WAR PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1910-1914 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2017; 365 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: JAZZ AGE PARODIES AND PASTICHES I: 1920-1924 (2018; 352 pp.) (each \$15.99), and both volumes include one of his own pastiches, in which Mark Twain reports on his encounters with Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes. Bill's web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>.

It's likely far too late for souvenir-hunting, but Del Taco kindly offered free Sherlock Holmes lunch bags with the purchase of any Kid Loco Meal (a kid's quesadilla, fries, drink and a treat); their web-site allows you to find your nearest Del Taco <www.tinyurl.com/y873mmme>.

The latest catalog from the BBC Shop has as always a page of Sherlockiana, including a Sherlock Holmes Pewter Pocket Watch, just the thing for those who, like Holmes, don't wear a wristwatch <www.tinyurl.com/y9p7td5b>.

Ray Betzner continues to find new and interesting material for his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>, which now includes entries on "Where are the missing pages of Starrett's autobiography?" and a new translation of his classic sonnet "221B"; the new translation, handsomely printed and bound, is available the Atelier Typographique de la Cité in Switzerland for CHF40.00 <www.ateliertypo.tictail.com/product/221b>.

Jun 18 #4 "With Landmark UK Embassy Planned for East London, China Rides the River of History Full Circle" was the headline on a story in the South China Morning Post on June 05 <www.tinyurl.com/y98b82hs> about a new Chinese embassy that will be on the site of the old Royal Mint. The article noted that the East End was home to London's first Chinatown, and that the area's opium dens were legendary: "It was in one such establishment in Limehouse that Sherlock Holmes found Dr. Watson" in "The Man with the Twisted Lip". The Royal Mint moved to Wales in 1975, and (yes indeed) the South China Morning Post was quite careless about who found whom in the Bar of Gold.

Jennie Paton found a video demonstration <www.tinyurl.com/yadndn8p> of how easy it is to use the Mr. Sherlock lock-picking tool set, which comes with a full set of lock picks and a transparent padlock that helps you see what you're doing.

YOUNG PUFFIN'S WONDERFULLY GRAND MYSTERY is a delightful children's carousel-bound pop-up book created by Yekaterina Komarovskaya and Mike Ficarra: Young Puffins wears Sherlockian costume while investigating a mystery that unfolds (literally) as one turns the pages to read a story that's both imaginative and amusing. It was a successful Kickstarter project and now is available to everyone (\$31.00); just go to <www.youngpuffin.com> to see a demonstration of how the books works. Young Puffin himself also is available as a plushie (\$20.00), along with other merchandise.

RiffTrax offers a download of the colorized version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green" (1945) with commentary by Mystery Science Theater 3000 stars Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pehl (\$9.99) at <www.rifftrax.com>; needless to say, they don't take the movie seriously.

Holmes Fest is now an annual event in Portsmouth: this year's celebration began on June 27 and runs through July 14, with a wide variety of goings-on <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk/holmesfest>.

They're off and running at Laurel Park in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has arranged for The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) on July 22. You can read all about it at the Facebook page for the event, and there's more information available from Greg at <greg@fourthgarrideb.com>.

Royal Books is offering an early treatment of the script for "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929) for \$4,500 <www.tinyurl.com/y9shlpb4>; written by F. Hugh Herbert, it differs substantially from the finished film, and does not contain the now-classic statement "Elementary, my dear Watson" (spoken by Clive Brook in the film when it was released). It was the first talking Sherlock Holmes film, and the first known instance of Holmes actually saying the line (William Gillette often is credited as the first, but the line does not appear in any known script of his play, and no one has reported a contemporary newspaper or magazine that mentions Gillette saying it).

"Anything Goes--on ISLAND OF THE MAD" is an amusing book trailer promoting the latest volume in Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes (Apr 18 #2) <www.tinyurl.com/ydxlcqwb>. That's not Cole Porter singing, but Michael Meketa III does well with his cover of the song.

Jun 18 #5 "To review the books, monographs, films, and other, more ad-hoc projects inspired by Holmes today is not to note a revival of interest, but simply to let down a bucket into a bottomless well." That's according to Christopher Sandford in HOUDINI AND CONAN DOYLE (London: Duckworth Overlook, 2011; 282 pp.).

Excerpts from Jeffrey Hatcher's imaginative play were read during the Baker Street Irregulars' "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" conference in 2016 in Chautauqua, and the play premiered in 2017 in Tucson, Ariz., and has had other productions since then; the script has now been published by the Dramatists Play Service (\$9.00) <www.tinyurl.com/yaxbwm7y>, and you can read a sample at their web-site.

It would have pleased the late Herman Beerman and other members of the Sir James Saunders Society: "Had Sherlock Holmes Gone into Medicine, He'd Have Been a Dermatologist" is the headline on Phil Whitaker's article in the New Statesman on Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y94b8vcc>.

Records by Mail <www.recordsbymail.com>, launched in 1974, now has an 8000-square-foot warehouse with more than 2 million vinyl LPs and 45s; searching for [sherlock holmes] turns up a few interesting items, and of course there is a lot more material for anyone interested in old records.

Cynthia Ward's THE ADVENTURE OF THE INCOGNITA COUNTESS (Seattle: Aqueduct, 2017; 110 pp., \$12.00), is part of a "conversation pieces" series of feminist science fiction; Lucy Harker is Dracula's dhampir daughter and a British intelligence agent who encounters dangerous foes on board the Titanic; the book's Sherlockian only for occasional mentions of Mycroft as head of Britain's secret service.

Karen Murdock noted a letter to the editor in the Chicago Tribune on June 3 about "bringing the cane back into style" that mentioned that "you can even learn single-stick cane-fighting (like Sherlock Holmes) at the Forteza Fitness, a local gymnasium." Forteza Fitness also is the home of the Bartitsu Club of Chicago <www.bartitsuclubofchicago.com>.

"Comedy Playhouse" was a long-running British 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1 from 1961 to 1975; many episodes graduated to their own series, but among those that didn't was "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (1973) with John Cleese as Sherlock Holmes and Willie Rushton as Dr. Watson. As with so much long-lost television, a YouTube user has come to the rescue: you can watch the program at <www.tinyurl.com/ycgb59ux>.

Leslie Katz continues to make his Sherlockian scholarship available at the Social Science Research Network; his latest article is "The Game Is a Hand: Traditional Tabletop Games in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" and you can read or download all of his articles) at <www.ssrn.com/author=1164057>.

Mattias Boström, whose FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK has already been nominated for an Anthony Award (best critical/non-fiction book) at Bouchercon; also has been nominated for a Macavity Award (best mystery-related nonfiction) from Mystery Readers International; the winners of both awards will be announced at Bouchercon in St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sept. 8.

Jun 18 #6 The second issue of The Newspapers (it's an "Irregular Journal of Sherlockiana" that Greg Ruby edits for The Sherlockians of Baltimore) has been published, with 136 pp. of toasts, poems, articles, and much more, many by members of the SOBs <www.tinyurl.com/SOB2018Newspapers> (\$20.00). It focuses on material from Baltimore newspapers, and about Baltimore, but Greg casts his net widely to include Evelyn Herzog's account of the history of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, plus Ross E. Davies' investigation of the history of the first Sherlock Holmes game (the Parker Brothers card game that was launched in 1904).

Further to the earlier report (Aug 14 #2) about the Mars 2020 Rover and its Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals, Jeff Dow notes that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has a new and colorful web-site about SHERLOC and its Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and eNginering (yes, that's WATSON) at <www.tinyurl.com/ybvkgqj>.

"Save the date," says Susan Diamond: the 59th annual running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago will be on Oct. 20 at the Hawthorne Race Course. You can enroll on her mailing list at <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

Another early Sherlockian film has turned up at YouTube, reported by Jennie Paton. "Sherlock Holmes i Bondefangerklør" (1910) features Otto Lagoni as Holmes, and is one of the Danish silent films made by Nordisk (and the only one known to have survived) <www.tinyurl.com/ybocm6w8>; the title is "Sherlock Holmes in the Claws of the Confidence Men" in English.

Wikipedia has a web-page for "Hat" <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/hat> with illustrated entries for hats that range from the Ascot cap to the Zuchetto; one of the hats is the Deerstalker, with a mention of Sherlock Holmes.

Claire O'Dell's A STUDY IN HONOR (New York: Harper Voyager, 2018; 294 pp., \$15.99) reimagines Holmes and Watson in a feminist thriller set in a near-future Washington during the next Civil War; the protagonists are Dr. Janet Watson and covert agent Sara Holmes, both black LGTBQ women, engaged in a battle against both villainy and bureaucracy.

Greg Ruby discovered two amusing television commercials from 1970 and 1971 for Esso Home Comfort; available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y7lpcnut> and <www.tinyurl.com/ycgyecbh>.

EL GOS DEL BASKERVILLES is Catalan translation published by Vicens-Vives in Barcelona in 2013, with striking artwork by Bulgarian artist Iassen Ghiuselev; you can view the artwork at his web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7d2mbxs>, and order the book from the publisher or (possibly) at www.abebooks.com. Some of the original artwork is available from the artist.

In case you've wondered about how important Sherlock Holmes truly is, Sidney Paget's original watercolor of "Fishing Boats on the Shoreline" sold at auction this month for £160 <www.tinyurl.com/y7r2rqag>. In 2004 his original pen and ink and wash drawing of "The death of Sherlock Holmes" was sold at auction for \$220,000. Randall Stock has a nice (and nicely illustrated) census of Sidney Paget paintings at <www.tinyurl.com/y8hd6fxo>.

Jun 18 #7 "Revision, My Dear Watson" (episode 146 on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog) <www.tinyurl.com/y9765sbh> offers Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder; Nick suggests that Irene Adler was the Boba Fett of the Sherlock Holmes stories (and explains this for those who are fans of "Star Wars" and those who aren't), and has much more to say about the four long stories in the Canon. Scott and Burt have started providing a transcript of each of the podcasts; a few of them are available now, and they're asking for assistance in keeping the worthy project going.

Deadline Hollywood reports that the release date for "Holmes & Watson" (the new comedy that stars Will Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson) has been postponed once more: it's now scheduled for Dec. 21.

The Mount Nelson in Capetown is one of six "hotels with pasts as amazing as the amenities," Cator Sparks blogged on May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/yddwul3j>, noting that the Prince of Wales and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle both stayed at the hotel in 1925. According to Brian Pugh's A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (2012), Conan Doyle stayed at The Mount Nelson twice (in 1900 and 1928). There's no mention of Conan Doyle in Spark's entry for the Mena House in Egypt, but Conan Doyle did stay there, in 1895.

David Marcum has edited SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEFORE BAKER STREET for Belanger Books (2017, 356 pp., \$19.95); it's an anthology of stories from the years before Holmes met Watson and moved into quarters at 221B. The publisher's web-site is at www.belangerbooks.com.

David also continues to edit his series of annual anthologies of pastiches for MX Publishing, with two new volumes added this year: THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART IX and PART X (406 pp. for 1875-1895 and 386 pp. for 1896-1919, \$44.95 each); they are excellent anthologies, and offer poems and radio scripts, as well as traditional pastiches, written by authors old hands and newcomers, and good writers as well. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: Carl Heifetz's SHERLOCK HOLMES THROUGH THE MICROSCOPE (2018; 214 pp., \$14.95) is a collection of essays that reflect his expertise as a microbiologist and examine scientific aspects of the Canon; most have been published in journals with limited circulation, and it's nice to see them now more widely available. David Ruffle's WATSON: MY LIFE (2018; 148 pp., \$12.95) takes a new approach to the Canon, offering Dr. Watson's reminiscences about his life, loves, and career, and his association with Sherlock Holmes, as recorded in 1936.

And there's more from MX: Richard T. Ryan's THE DRUID OF DEATH (2018; 217 pp., \$28.95) has Holmes and Watson and Lestrade investigating a series of bizarre murders at Druid sites in England; his previous pastiches were THE VATICAN CAMEOS (2016) and THE STONE OF DESTINY (2017), and his new book includes a chapter from his upcoming THE MERCHANT OF MENACE. Michael Druce's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ROSWELL INCIDENT (2018; 211 pp., \$14.95) has Holmes and Watson alive and well in the 1940s and 1950s, involved with British and American and Russian intelligence and counter-intelligence in a plot that may or may not involve aliens and flying saucers.

Jun 18 #8 Last year the French company Black Box Boutique released a limited Blu-ray+DVD "Ultimate Collector's Edition" of the 1984 Japanese animated "Sherlock Hound" television series, in Japanese with French subtitles <www.blackbonesboutique.com/sherlockholmes.htm>, with a 200-page book of artwork. It cost €59.00, and is no longer available from the company, but completists may want to pursue it from other sources.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the English Theatre in Frankfurt, Germany, through July 8 <www.english-theatre.de>, and then tours to the Deutsches Theater in Munich, Germany, July 17-21 <www.deutsches-theater.de>.

"A Scandal in Bohemia, Part One" (a radio play) is due at the Edge Theater in Chicago on July 22 <www.idlemuse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is scheduled at the Clove Creek Dinner Theater in Fishkill, N.Y., Aug. 2-19; their web-site's at <www.clovecreekdinnertheater.com>. Also at the Magenta Theatre in Vancouver, Wash., Sept. 7-22 <www.magentatheatre.com>; and at the Duluth Playhouse in Duluth, Minn., Oct. 4-14 <www.duluthplayhouse.org>;

The Illyria Theatre Company will tour Oliver Grey's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Britain, Aug. 3-Sept. 7 <www.illyria.co.uk>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is due at the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre, Aug. 9-26 <www.chamber-theatre.com>.

Timothy Evers' new play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Chelsea Market Theatre in Houston, Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.

"Legenda jménem Holmes" [A Legend Named Holmes] (a "cult musical" by Ondrej G. Brzobohatý) will premiere at the Musical Theater Karlín in Prague, Oct. 12-21 <www.vstupenky.ticket-art.cz>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Masters of Crime" is scheduled at the Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., on Oct. 19-Nov. 4 <www.caminoplayhouse.org>.

The East Lynne Theater Company will perform Craig Wichman's radio-style adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes' Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 26-Nov. 2, and Mar. 15-17, 2019 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" has been scheduled by the St. Marys Community Players at the Town Hall Theatre in St. Marys, Ont., Nov. 1-11 <www.stmaryscommunityplayers.org>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Rosebud Theatre in Rosebud, Alta, from Nov. 2 to Dec. 23 <www.rosebudtheatre.com>.

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

Jul 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The new Baker Street Irregulars web-site is now live, and it's well worth exploring <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>; there are links to information about the BSI, The Baker Street Journal, the BSI Press, the BSI Trust, and BSI events, and there's even video encouraging people to subscribe to (and contribute to) the BSJ <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsj-why-subscribe>. Scott Monty has an interesting blog about the BSI's history on the Internet at <www.tinyurl.com/ybj82f5n>.

Harlan Ellison died on June 28. He was a prolific and sometimes controversial author of science-fiction and fantasy whose work included short stories, novels, comic books, films, and television. In a 1987 lecture he explained that those in search of success must read and re-read only one essential book: the collected Sherlock Holmes stories. It's well worth reading his short story "He Who Grew Up Reading Sherlock Holmes" (dedicated to Ray Bradbury), published in the Subterranean Press magazine (summer 2014) and available on-line at the press' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc9zpp2o>.

Further to the item (May 18 #5) about the race horse named Sherlock Holmes, racing in Australia, there's also Sherlock, winner of the Kodlipet Plate at Mysore, India, on June 27 <www.tinyurl.com/ybqgj8v4>.

221B Capital <www.221bcapital.com> describes itself as an "equity fund running long/short with a low net exposure." Jillian McIntyre, chief investment officer and portfolio manager, told TheStreet on May 3 that short sellers ought to be tasked with sniffing out fraud in any market, and that the firm is named after Sherlock Holmes' address <www.tinyurl.com/ybvjb8kv>.

Big Chief Studios offers a wide range of (expensive) figures of Holmes and Watson and Moriarty (from the "Sherlock" television series); their web-site is at <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk/e-mailer/sherlock-special-offers>.

Allen Osborne has started work on compiling a data-base that will indicate which of the many Sherlockian societies have Investitures, and what the Investiture process involves, and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who has information to offer <ibish1854@mail.com>.

Herb Moskowitz has written an interesting and nicely illustrated monograph on William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916); it's a 4.33-MB file, available by e-mail from Herb at <herbphilly@aol.com>.

Google Books offers access to their Ngram Viewer, which charts the frequencies of any set of comma-delimited search strings using a yearly count of occurrences in sources printed between 1500 and 2008; there are more than 5 million books in their data base. You can see how it works at their web-site <www.books.google.com/ngrams>, where, as reported by Mark Alberstat, their default sample search offers an interesting choice of names.

"To gnome is to love me" might be the slogan for Garden Fun, which offers a 14" Sherlock Gnomes (\$59.99) <www.gardenfun.com> that will be just as happy in your home as in your garden. Alas: the company doesn't offer an accompanying Watson Gnome. Sammi Mankini Gnome, however, is available (\$39.99).

Jul 18 #2 A Hollywood Reporter story <www.tinyurl.com/y7q9429q> about the new "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" discussed earlier dinosaur films, including "The Lost World" (1925), and mentioned "King Kong" (1933), noting that the paper had reported that Radio Pictures and the Los Angeles police department were trying to find two men who had worked as extras on the "Kong" set but had not shown up for their pay checks. "Studio and cops are not worried about the pay checks, but about a machine gun that disappeared."

Henry T. Folsom ("The Golden Pince-Nez") died on May 8. He graduated from Yale University, was president of the Folsom Arms Company, attended Berkeley Divinity School, and in 1957 was ordained, serving as rector of Episcopal churches in New Jersey, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Intrigued by Canonical chronology, Hank published THROUGH THE YEARS AT BAKER STREET in 1962 and became a Baker Street Irregular in 1965. He won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best paper in The Baker Street Journal in 1965 (appropriately titled "My Knowledge of the Bible Is a Trifle Rusty..."), received the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986, and for many years presided over The Cornish Horrors in Connecticut.

A story in the Sunday Times (Jan. 17, 2016) began "It has been home to the Doctor Who actor Tom Baker and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but the East Sussex town of Crowborough is about to welcome its most glamorous resident yet," and went on to describe Highwell House, and its new owner Cate Blanchett; you can see a photograph of the house at <www.tinyurl.com/y9ydzjad>. That led to a lot of publicity, from people who didn't read the Sunday Times all that carefully, saying that Conan Doyle actually lived in the house; as Abraham Lincoln once said, "if it's on the Internet it must be true."

When in Spain: you can visit La Pipa <www.pipaclub.eu>. "This clandestine after-hours jazz club is located in a third-story flat in Barcelona's gothic quarter. The Sherlock Holmes themed watering hole is reached by ringing the correct buzzer and is open well into the early hours, making it perfect for post-club debriefs."

Further to the report (Dec 17 #5) that the New Forest National Park Authority had rejected a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle had helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the Southern Daily Echo reported on July 3 that the developers had filed an appeal, hoping that a government-appointed planning inspector would allow the proposed development <www.tinyurl.com/yb8gdzvv>.

Javier Olivares' striking artwork for EL PERRO DE LOS BASKERVILLE (2011) is on display at his web-site <www.javierolivares.blogspot.com> [click on 2011 and scroll down].

"Hounds of the Bakersfield" is a song originally written by Bill Kirchen as a tribute to Merle Haggard, and Kirchen now plays, tours, and records with a group of the same name. Guitar Player Magazine has said that he's a "titan of the Telecaster," and a Google search for [hounds of the bakersfield] will turn up links to some of his tracks, including "When the Cowboy Sings" (in which he mentions Sherlock Holmes).

Jul 18 #3 "Holmes, Sweet Holmes" (a 1968 episode of a Canadian 30-minute television series called "Telescope") presented "a visit with Adrian Conan Doyle" at the Château de Lucens, and it's now nicely available in three parts at YouTube: the first part is at <www.tinyurl.com/hllmqpj>, and links to the other two are at the right. There's a lot of Adrian, and a brief view of him driving his Ferrari 250 SWB. Sotheby's recently had an interesting article <www.tinyurl.com/yd8b8k2l> about a Ferrari 250 GTO that is coming up for auction in August, with an estimate of more than \$45 million. Charles Foley, who lived for a time at the Château, notes that the SWB [short wheel base] wasn't as beautiful as the GTO, but nevertheless was fast enough, with a top speed of 168 mph; Adrian sold his Ferrari in 1967 and bought a Lamborghini Miura, the first mid-engined supercar.

How many actors have played the role of Sherlock Holmes? Almost 4,000, according to the count in the latest version of Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>, which includes more than 8,000 images of the actors; the index also is available directly from Howard <howardostrom@gmail.com>, and he has compiled many other interesting data-bases, available at <www.nplh.co.uk/original-essays.html>.

Miklós Rózsa, a musician best known for his film scores, is credited with almost a hundred films; tracks from ten of them recorded by the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra (with Elmer Bernstein conducting) were released in 1987 on a CD ("Miklós Rózsa: Classic Film Music"). The CD has been reissued by Jay Records (\$12.99) <www.jayrecords.com/recording/miklos-rozsa>, and one of the CD tracks is the "English Waltz" from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).

The colorful cover photograph of the spring 2018 issue of The Baker Street Journal shows an interesting bust of Sherlock Holmes, apparently created by M. G. Stead, who is cited in De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES for "a poor likeness of the Literary Agent" [C17602] described as a ceramic figure edition from Finesse Studios in Cornwall, and dated 1987. There's an image of the cover of the BSJ at <www.tinyurl.com/y9t3pev4>; does anyone have any information about M. G. Stead, or the busts of Holmes or Conan Doyle?

Jennie Paton notes that "Shivering Sherlocks" (1948) is available at Vimeo <www.tinyurl.com/ycg82c4t>; it's a "Three Stooges" comedy, not Sherlockian except for the title. However there are two films that do have the Three Stooges in Sherlockian costume: "Horses' Collars" (1935) and "We Want Our Mummy" (1939); all three films are available at YouTube.

Ronald B. De Waal ("Lomax, the Sub-Librarian") died on July 3. His career as a humanities librarian and associate professor at Colorado State University led him to consider creating a bibliography, and, inspired by William S. Baring-Gould's article about The Baker Street Irregulars in Esquire in 1966, he chose "Sherlock Holmes" as his subject, launching a project that resulted in three volumes of a massive record of anything and everything related to the Great Detective: THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (1974), celebrated at a "Sherlock Lives!" conference at CSU in 1975, THE INTERNATIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1980), and THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES (1994). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1984.

Jul 18 #4 William Hobbs died on July 10. Born in Britain, he grew up in Australia, where he took up fencing and almost made the country's fencing squad for the Olympics in Melbourne; he also tried acting in repertory theater, and went on to a decades-long career as a fight director and stuntman. He was credited as fight arranger on Gene Wilder's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and (according to his obituary in the Hollywood Reporter) once said that Wilder was his most promising actor pupil.

Jack Benny had a long career on radio, and was heard as Sherlock Holmes on "The Chevrolet Show" on June 2, 1933, in the second of two episodes of "Who Killed Mr. X?"; you can listen to the show at <www.tinyurl.com/y9tpv7zs>.

Designed by Geeks <www.designedbygeeks.com> offers a variety of Sherlockian SVGs and other merchandise (including an imaginative "Mind Palace Mug"); in case you're wondering about what an SVG is, it's an abbreviation for Scalable Vector Graphics, an image format that's used with computerized sewing machines, electronic cutters, and standard computer printers (their other merchandise doesn't require technology more advanced than credit cards).

Greg Ruby reports that The Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will hold a dinner meeting during the World's Fair of Money in Philadelphia on Aug. 15, and local (and visiting) Sherlockians are welcome; details are available from Greg <221b@fourthgarrideb.com>, and reservations are requested by Aug. 13.

Sam Hearn's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DISAPPEARING DIAMOND (New York: Scholastic, 2018; 176 pp., \$12.99) is written for young readers (ages 8-12) and attractively illustrated by the author; young John Watson arrives at Baker Street Academy in London as a new student and finds new friends, including Sherlock Holmes, Mrs. Hudson, and a hound named Baskerville, and of course there's a mystery to be solved. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET CURSE will be the next in the series.

Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud worked together in Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974), and now Netflix has announced that it will make its first Austrian drama series "Freud" with the young neurologist in pursuit of a serial killer in Vienna, assisted by a medium named Fleur Salomé and a police detective named Kiss. The series will be made in German, but will be streamed in other countries, presumably dubbed or subtitled.

The seventh season of the CBS-TV series "Elementary" officially began production on July 11, but there's no word so far of how many episodes there will be, or when the season will premiere.

Joel Senter died on July 23. Joel and his wife Carolyn maintained Classic Specialties since the 1980s, selling (and sometimes publishing) a wide variety of Sherlockiana from their web-site, and in 2005 they launched their Sherlockian E-Times, a delightful electronic newsletter. Joel was an enthusiast in the world of old-time radio, and a stalwart member of the Tankerville Club of Cincinnati; in 2000 he was interviewed by Jim Hawkins for the web-site of the Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and it's on-line at <www.nashvillescholars.net/cjsenterbio.html>.

Jul 18 #5 The N.Y. Book Review has an interesting podcast, and a recent program ("True Crime Starring the Creator of Sherlock Holmes") presented Margalit Fox talking about her new book CONAN DOYLE FOR THE DEFENSE (May 18 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/yalmtwkd>. An earlier podcast ("From Brooklyn to the Gulag") included Michael Sims discussing his biography ARTHUR AND SHERLOCK: CONAN DOYLE AND THE CREATION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 17 #5) <www.tinyurl.com/y984ku48>.

Kim Newman's PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (Dec 11 #2) has been optioned for television by Playground Entertainment, Lenny Picker reports. According to Deadline Hollywood (July 23), Newman announced that the book is in development as a long-form (mini-series) TV project; Playground has produced series that include "Wolf Hall" (2015), "Howards End" (2017), and "Little Women" (2017). Newman's book offers seven stories told by Col. Moran about his association with Prof. Moriarty.

Cliff Goldfarb has kindly reported Gray Basnight's article "A Brief History of Cryptography in Crime Fiction" <www.tinyurl.com/ybp3f34m>; it's an interesting discussion of "Biblical codes, Holmesian ciphers, and Poe's Encryptions." The article appeared on Crime Reads <www.crimereads.com>, an intriguing web-site that has many other posts of interest; you can search for [sherlock] and [conan doyle] to see much more.

Alexander Orlov has noted a "Detective Sherlock Holmes: Hidden Object Game" from CrispApp <www.tinyurl.com/y9q4oqsu>, available (free) at the Microsoft store; you can download and play it in Russian and English. The artwork on the opening screen is Sherlockian; there may be more Sherlockian content to be discovered by those who are willing to play through it all. There are other Sherlock Holmes games available at the Microsoft store, as well as 40 apps; search for [sherlock holmes].

Swinhay House (the home of Charles Augustus Magnussen in the finale of the third series of "Sherlock") will be open to the public for the first time ever, for just one day, on Sept. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/yd7yrmve>. The home of Sir David McMurtry, who has made the house available as part of Heritage Open Days this year, is in North Nibley in Gloucestershire.

John B. Koelle ("The Sussex Vampire") died on Apr. 25. Jack graduated from Swarthmore College and served in the U.S. Air Force; he retired in 1958 and worked as an electric engineer for many years. He enjoyed classical music, and diving and underwater photography, and was warm and welcoming to Sherlockians, Jack received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1965, and its Two-Shilling Award in 1986. He was a long-time member of the Sons of the Copper Beeches, serving as the society's Head Mastiff from 1971 to 1984, and always was glad to report that the Sons were alive and drinking in Philadelphia.

Angela Misri's NO MATTER HOW IMPROBABLE (Fierce Ink, 2016; 243 pp., \$16.99) is the third in a series about the adventures of Portia Adams, who has discovered that she's the granddaughter of both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and that her mysterious guardian and advisor is Irene Adler; Portia is pursuing her own career as a consulting detective in London. The author's web-site is at <www.aportiaadamsadventure.com>.

Jul 18 #6 Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Powerhouse in New Canaan, Conn., through Aug. 11 <www.tpsc.org>; the Peninsula Theatre in Woy Woy, N.S.W., until Aug. 12 <www.woywoy.lt.com>; and at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre in Kalamazoo, Mich., through Aug. 20 <www.kazoocivic.com>. The play also is due at the Fallon House Theatre in Columbia, Calif., Aug. 31-Sept. 30 <www.sierrarep.org>; at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., Oct. 12 through Nov. 4 <www.harbourtheatre.com>; and the Seacoast Repertory Theatre in Portsmouth, N.H., Oct. 18-28 <www.seacoastrep.org>.

Victoria Hudson-Muir's new "The Dark Discovery of Sherlock Holmes" is being performed at the Bell Homestead National Historic Site in Brantford, Ont., through Aug. 11 <www.branttheatre.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by R. Hamilton Wright and David Pichette) is being performed at the Anacortes Community Theatre in Anacortes, Wash., through Aug. 18 <www.acttheatre.com>.

Robert Brock's marionette production "The Death & Life of Sherlock Holmes" is running at Lancaster Marionette Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., through Nov. 17 <www.lancastermarionette.org>.

"The Empty Glass: Sherlock Holmes Comes to Dover" will be performed at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover, Del., on Aug. 18; the web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/y7hyf434>.

David Elendune's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of Moriarty!" will be performed at the Langham Court Theatre in Victoria, B.C., Aug. 23-Sept. 1, during the Victoria Fringe <www.tinyurl.com/y7yk2fnf>.

The Blackeyed Theatre will be touring Nick Lane's new dramatization "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" in Britain, Sept. 10-Apr. 6; the schedule is at <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Lancaster Playhouse in White Stone, Va., Sept. 14-29; their web-site's at <www.lancasterplayers.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is due at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (written by Eric Coble and based on the graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulwood) has been scheduled at the Valley Center Stage in North Bend, Wash., Oct. 12-27; web-site at <www.valleycenterstage.org>.

"Das Sherlock Musical" is a German/British production that will premiere at the Urania Theater in Cologne on Nov. 7 <www.thesherlockmusical.com>, and then tour in Germany and Britain.

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

Aug 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

A hitherto unrecorded page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has turned up, from Chapter XIII, where Holmes is giving instructions to Sir Henry. It's in the hands of a private owner, and is for sale; details are available at item H37 in Randall Stock's census at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9c5evqa>.

Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol will be offered at auction on Sept. 20 at Holts Auctioneers in the U.K., estimated at £4,000-£6,000. It has an interesting provenance: first owned by Conan Doyle's brother Innes, it likely came to Conan Doyle from Innes' widow Clara, and was one of two pistols placed in his London solicitors' safe deposit box in 1921, when the Firearms Act first became law, and apparently forgotten after he died. Details will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.

Bob Terry, who has been collecting Sherlockiana and Doyleana for decades, is selling some of his treasures at Heritage Auctions on Sept. 13, including a complete run of the Sherlock Holmes stories in single issues of The Strand Magazine, a delightful copy of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (with "The Sign of the Four"), and much more; go to <www.ha.com> and search for "bob terry" (in quotes).

"The Great American Read" is an eight-part series launched by PBS-TV in May <www.tinyurl.com/yd6or5l3>, based on their list of America's 100 best-loved novels; viewers will be able to vote on their favorites (the grand finale is to air in October); THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES did not make the list, but Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME did.

Howard Ostrom has noted an interesting article at the culturebox web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycrcyq4p> about an exhibition at the Cheverny chateau in Loir-et-Cher in France, where you can see full-size figures of Scooby-Doo, Hercule Poirot, John Steed, Colombo, and Sherlock Holmes, all created with Legos; the article's in French, with a colorful image showing Holmes.

Planning ahead: the Sherlockian birthday festivities in New York will be on Jan. 9-13, with The Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner on Jan. 11; the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will be on Jan. 19.

"Harrods is celebrating rarity in all its guises via a curated list of Rare Finds," the store announced this month, one of the rare finds being an Arthur Conan Doyle Goyard Trunk <www.tinyurl.com/y7e875u4>, one of only seven ever made (one of which has been lost); two of the trunks are owned by Goyard, and one of those was exhibited in New York two years ago (Nov 16 #5). This one, from a private collection, seems to have been sold (the price was £96,000); no one seems to know which of the seven trunks was the one that was commissioned by Conan Doyle.

Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.

Aug 18 #2 "I'll play Sherlock Holmes the detective," George Robey sang in the second verse of "Bang Went the Chance of a Lifetime" (which he wrote with Sax Rohmer in 1908); Robey was known as one of the greatest music-hall performers, and Rohmer certainly is best known as the creator of Dr. Fu Manchu. Howard Ostrom has reported that you can hear Robey perform the song at <www.tinyurl.com/y7mfvtpz>; it will be helpful if you also have a print-out of the lyrics, available at <www.tinyurl.com/yaw2jy7c>. Robey earlier played Sherlock Holmes in a revue at the Tivoli in London in 1902.

For the completists: there was a British movie tie-in edition of Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (Apr 05 #6) published by Canongate in 2015 as MR. HOLMES, with a movie-poster cover showing Ian McKellan as the Great Detective (£7.99).

THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME ONE: 1902-1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, published in 2011 and long out-of-print, has been reissued the Baker Street Irregulars Press as a trade paperback <www.tinyurl.com/yavarpbp>. The late Bernard Davies once wrote, "How wonderful to discover that, even if you are slightly mad, you are not alone," and the book demonstrates well just how interesting it can be to play the Grand Game (the web-site offers a look at the table of contents). Recommended.

Jim Hawkins has launched a Facebook page for the friends of the late John Bennett Shaw; it's intended to be an on-line gathering place where friends can share memories and tell stories about him <www.tinyurl.com/y9bzq38x>.

Philip K. Jones died on June 13. He worked for many years in information technology, and when he retired he devoted his attention to a comprehensive data base of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction, winding up with more than 11,000 entries; it is far more than merely a list of authors and titles: an excellent (some might say frightening) demonstration of how popular Sherlock Holmes is. An earlier version (with 9,531 entries) is available on-line at <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Sherlock.htm>, along with his 2012 paper "The Untold Tales--Analyzed".

Dermot McEvoy's article on "How Two Literary Legends Tried to Save Sir Roger Casement from the Gallows" <www.tinyurl.com/yb8o48h3> is an interesting exploration of the unsuccessful efforts of George Bernard Shaw and Arthur Conan Doyle to win a reprieve for Casement.

The Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring Scooby-Doo, who first appeared in a Hanna-Barbera television series on CBS-TV in 1969 and still is going strong, on stage and screen as well as on television. Greg Ruby posted a colorfully-illustrated discussion of "Sherlock Holmes and Scooby-Doo" at the Fourth Garrideb web-site in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/y9fsnxv9>.



Further to the item on the Google Books Ngram Viewer (Jul 18 #1) Scott Monty sent a reminder that Cory Howell reported in detail on "Sherlock Holmes vs. Tarzan--by the Numbers" at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/ybjjtzd6>.

Aug 18 #3 The 2018 Irene Adler Prize has been awarded to Lynette Curtis for her essay "Letters to Las Vegas". The prize is a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature, established by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning public speaker and writer in Vancouver, B.C.; it is indeed named for the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and you can learn more about the prize, and read the winning essay at <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.

Sheldon Comics is an on-line strip created by Dave Kellett, and you can see his colorful (and amusing) "Anatomy of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" at his web-site <www.sheldoncomics.com/archive/180730.html>; kindly noted by Alexander Orlov.

From 1978 to 1991 the U.S. Postal Service issued a series of stamps honoring the "Performing Arts" designed by Jim Sharpe; four of the stamps showed Will Rogers, W. C. Fields, Douglas Fairbanks, and the three Barrymores, all of whom had Sherlockian or Doylean connections. Sharpe's artwork for two of the (other) stamp designs, mounted with copies of the stamps in the series, is available from Taraba Illustration Art for a modest \$275 (shipping extra) and you can request an image from <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com>.

In 1979 the late Norman Schatell proposed that William Gillette be included in the series. As you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/ya5zrhux>, many of the stamps in the series showed the artists in performance, and a stamp honoring Gillette surely would have showed him as Sherlock Holmes, which would have been the only U.S. postage showing commemorating the Great Detective.

Evy Herzog has reported an amusing and colorful "Sherlock Bones and Doctor Pupson" T-shirt designed by Mike Tanoory and available (\$25.00) from John Wye's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y8bmjot2>; Bones is a chihuahua, and Pupson is a French bulldog.

"Arthur Conan Doyle was a doctor himself before becoming a writer. Talked about the lessons you learn as a doctor: discipline, confidence, and being able to be decisive. And all of that is indispensable. The last thing I got from him is a very deep understanding of science and also an appreciation of empirical evidence." Charles Krauthammer in "Charles Krauthammer: His Words" (a one-hour tribute on Fox News on June 22). You can watch the program at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8w50olSck8>.

Steve Mason has issued a call for nominations for the Beacon Award, given annually by The Beacon Society to someone who has "made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes." The deadline for nominations is Nov. 15, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>.

Penn & Teller are among the best magicians performing today, and they have a great television series ("Penn & Teller: Fool Us" on The CW); you can see Shawn Farquhar fool them for the second time with a Sherlockian magic trick at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=E64Z1j1Rn4E> (with thanks to Howard Ostrom for his report). Colin McLeod, who's often described as the Sherlock Holmes of mentalism also appeared on the show (but did not fool Penn & Teller); you can see him perform at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OnMPnNav_WE>.

Aug 18 #4 "The Daintiest Scream on the Moor Charity Ball" was one of many events during the birthday festivities in New York last January, and you can read (almost) all about it in Maria Fleishhack's report in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal; one of the highlights was the appearance of the Sherlock Holmes Cake created for the television reality series "Cake Boss", and there's video at <www.tinyurl.com/y739ullg>. There also is the Baker Street Babes' podcast, where they talk about the ball and the cake and other things <www.tinyurl.com/yabudnnt>.

Nero Wolfe was not the only son of Sherlock Holmes, according to Yuichi Hirayama, who has written THE REMINISCENCES OF KOGORO AKECHI, a biography of the detective created by Edogawa Rampo in 1925; Akechi was a brilliant but eccentric detective who consulted with the police and was a master of disguise and an expert at judo, and relied on a group of young boys to gather information.

MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK is the second in the series written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse, due from Titan Books in October; Bill Seil reports that there's publicity, a Sherlockian photograph of Abdul-Jabbar, and an extract from the book at <www.tinyurl.com/y7n3ddf>.

Paramount's "Sherlock Gnomes" has a lifetime gross of more than \$89 million worldwide (according to the Box Office Mojo web-site), far behind "Gnomeo and Juliet" (more than \$193 million worldwide). The numbers don't include revenue from television, DVDs, and tie-in merchandise, which of course can be significant. And there's lots of tie-in merchandise, including a 141-page movie novelization by Mary Tillworth that seems to have been based on an early version of the script, and A. E. Dingee's SHERLOCK GNOMES ON THE CASE, which comes with a handy decoder (\$5.99) (both from Simon Spotlight).

The fifth season of "The Flash" will debut on the CW channel on Oct. 9 with Tom Cavanagh as a new character Sherloque Wells; Nick Venable suggested on Cinema Blend <www.tinyurl.com/yagnoxae> that the character may be a nod to Sherlock Holmes, or perhaps Sherlock Hemlock.

John Allen's SHADOW WOMAN: THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Long Beach: Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2017; 302 pp., \$19.95) suggests that much of Conan Doyle's literary work was not in fact written by him, and that most of the Canon was written by Louise Conan Doyle and Jean Conan Doyle; Allen offers evidence from stylometric analysis, the Canon's literary allusions, and a detailed examination of the manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia", and does not neglect Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work. Allen's research involved scholarship by Sherlockians, and others, and he displays an ability to discover allusions, make connections and draw conclusions that rivals what Sam Rosenberg achieved in NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE more than 40 years ago.

He also has written BRIMSTONE (Long Beach: Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2018; 223 pp., \$9.99); it's billed as the first in a series of Louise Conan Doyle mysteries, but features Louise Hawkins and is set in 1879 (well before she met her future husband). The book's well plotted and well written, and has interesting supporting characters; careful readers will note foreshadowing of the Canon. The author has a "Louise Conan Doyle Cyclopeda" web-site at <www.louiseconandoyle.com>, where he has been blogging since June 2017.

Aug 18 #5 Joanna Blalock stars in A STUDY IN TREASON (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 299 pp., \$26.99), the second in Leonard Goldberg's series about the daughter of Sherlock Holmes, who once again is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. in 1914, searching for a missing document and encountering a vicious killer (Joanne has learned much from her father). The author has a web-site at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Sorry about that: the correct URL for Jim Hawkins' interview with the late Joel Senter (Jul 18 #4) is <www.nashvillescholars.net/jcsenterbio.html>.

Much has been written about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's encounters with Harry Houdini, and while Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing in Derek Tait's THE GREAT HOUDINI: HIS BRITISH TOURS (Barnsley: Pen & Sword History, 2017; 296 pp., \$39.95), the book offers a carefully-researched and enjoyable look at Houdini's appearances in Britain, where he performed in vaudeville theaters at the top of bills that included many other entertainers (audiences definitely got their money's worth in those long-ago days).

"How It Should Have Ended" is a 15-minute animated web-series streamed by Starz Digital Media; their 3-minute alternate ending for "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" premiered on Feb. 16, 2012, and it's available on-line at <www.howitshouldhaveended.com/?s=sherlock>, in case you don't want to wait until the third Robert Downey Jr. film arrives in theaters.

The "Baker Street Sonata" will be a performance by the Mother Lode Friends of Music at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Nov. 10 and 11; more information at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

"The John Batchelor Show" was launched on WABC-AM in New York in 2001, and is still going strong, and there's a web-site <www.johnbatchelorshow.com> where you can listen to his podcasts, including a two-part interview with Michael Dirda (uploaded on Aug. 12) about Conan Doyle, and Holmes, and The Baker Irregulars.

Alexander Orlov has reported that there's a "Baker Street" residential complex in the Dzerzhinsky district of Volgograd. There's a web-site (with an amusing video) at <www.bs34.ru/kompleks/o-komplekse>, and more information to be found at <www.bs34.ru/kompleks/novosti/novosti-17-09-2014-07>; it's all in Russian, and (as always) Google Translate can be helpful. Buildings in the complex are named Sherlock, Watson, Big Ben, and Hudson House.

Edward C. Rochette died on Jan. 18. He was a professional numismatist, as a cartoonist and editor and then an executive with the American Numismatic Association. Ed also was an energetic Sherlockian, and a member of three Sherlockian societies in Colorado, and for many years he presided over the mail-order company Sherlock, Stock & Barrel.

Michael A. Ventrella and Jonathan Mabery have edited BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THE GAME IS AFOOT (New York: Diversion Books, 2018; 257 pp., \$15.99); it's a sequel to their BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THIRTEEN AUTHORS WITH NEW TAKES ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 17 #5) and offers thirteen more versions of Holmes (among them a home security system, a rabbi, a female librarian in ancient Egypt, and Santa Claus).

Aug 18 #6 Further to the earlier report (Jan 18 #7) that items from the Daniel Posnansky Collection are turning up at eBay from people who bought large lots at the auction, Lewis Durbin (lewidurbi0) is offering a nicely bound volume of Chambers's Journal (1879) for \$649.50; "The Mystery of Sasassa Valley" (Conan Doyle's first published story) appeared in the magazine on Sept. 6, 1879 <www.tinyurl.com/y96jg25z> (when the author was only 20 years old).

The No Frills Silver Blaze was run at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J. on Aug. 18, arranged by The Turf Builders of Baker Street, and Kate Karlson suggests that the winner had the most appropriate name in any runnings of The Silver Blaze anywhere, ever <www.tinyurl.com/y869pblr>. Sherlockians (and others) who were wise enough to bet on the winner made a bit of money: the payout was \$4.80/\$2.60/\$2.20.

At least it's not a musical: "King Kong Alive on Broadway" will open this fall, using animatronics and puppetry in a 21st-century reimagining of the story of "a 2,000-pound, 20-foot high gorilla and the woman who risks everything to help him" <www.kingkongbroadway.com>. Nor is it Sherlockian, apparently, but nevertheless the mind boggles.

Further to the report (May 17 #4) about Sherlockian.Net having found a new home at Michigan State University, there has been a formal (and nicely illustrated) announcement on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/y87cvakj>.

Les Moskowitz has noted a story in the Philadelphia Inquirer that reports that the historic Carbon County Jail in Jim Thorpe, Penn., is for sale; the asking price is \$749,000 <www.tinyurl.com/yd8naz4v>. Sherlockians visited the jail in 2004 during the first of the Baker Street Irregulars' weekend excursions (it's where the Mollie Maguires were hanged), and if you buy it you also acquire the gallows and a ghost. Les also reports that there's an interesting podcast about the Mollies at <www.tinyurl.com/yb8g2xpd>.

"Professor Quiz" (radio's first quiz show) launched on CBS on May 9, 1936, and "Uncle Jim's Question Bee" was the second, premiering on NBC on Sept. 26, 1936; both programs had the same sponsor, the company that in 1930 had begun a long running series that starred William Gillette, Richard Gordon, and Louis Hector, all of whom played Sherlock Holmes. That series ended on May 26, 1935; it's likely that G. Washington Coffee decided in 1935 that a quiz show would be more popular with listeners than Sherlock Holmes.

So (spoiler alert): the appropriately-named winner of the No Frills Silver Blaze at Monmouth Park was named (in case you didn't bother to click on the link) Faster N Blazes.

The summer issue of The Baker Street Journal at hand, with scholarship and news and artwork, some of the artwork being a nice reminder of the humor of the late Norman Schatell. Editor Steve Rothman reports on Les Klinger's recent (and successful) battle with the Conan Doyle Estate Limited over its application for a trademark on Sherlock Holmes for use in books, short stories, and magazines in the field of detective fiction; there's still time to purchase a subscription for this year's five issues of the BSJ, available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

Aug 18 #7 Derrick Belanger's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE PRIMAL MAN (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2016; 167 pp., \$9.95) involves Holmes and Watson, and Holmes' cousin Prof. Ellington Dynamo (who is a dead ringer for Prof. George Edward Challenger) investigating a possible yeti, bought to London from Tibet in a block of ice; there's also an account of the first case Holmes solved, as a young student. The publisher's web-site is at <www.belangerbooks.com>.

Also from Belanger: David Marcum's HOLMES AWAY FROM HOME: ADVENTURES FROM THE GREAT HIATUS, VOLUME ONE (1891-1892) and VOLUME TWO (1893-1894) (2016; 279/305 pp., \$19.95 each) are collections of pastiches recounting Holmes' adventures between "The Final Problem" and "The Empty House" (he had many adventures, in many countries).

Barry S Brown's MRS. HUDSON'S OLYMPIC TRIUMPH (London: MX Publishing, 2017; 245 pp., \$16.95) is the fifth in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, and he continues his amusing approach to the Canon: Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case that takes them all to Greece for the 1896 Olympics (in which Holmes competes), and of course they solve a mystery on behalf of Her Majesty's government. The author's web-site is at <www.barrysbrown.com> and MX Publishing sells all of its books at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

Also from MX: Marcia Wilson's THE PEACEFUL NIGHT POISONINGS, 2017; 270 pp., \$14.95) is the second title in her "Test of the Professionals" series; the first was THE ADVENTURE OF THE FLYING BLUE PIGEON, with LEAP YEAR being the third). The books focus on the professionals (Lestrade, Gregson, and Bradstreet), and their work with Holmes and Watson, and the well-written story offers an interesting look at a world as seen by the Scotland Yarders.

More from MX: Thos. Kent Miller's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD was a 75-page booklet published in 1991 (Oct 91 #4); revised and expanded, it was published in three volumes in 2017 as HOLMES BEHIND THE VEIL: SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (116 pp., \$9.95); THE GREAT DETECTIVE AT THE CRUCIBLE OF LIFE (414 pp., \$18.95), and THE SUSSEX BEEKEEPER AT THE DAWN OF TIME (387 pp., \$18.95). Miller focuses on books written by H. Rider Haggard and the characters he created (chiefly Leo Vincey about Tibet, and Alan Quatermain about East and West Africa), with many more from books written by Rudyard Kipling and Jules Verne and others, as well as from both legend and history, past and present.

Still more from MX: Allan Mitchell's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOST OF GLASTONBURY (2017; 330 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes and Watson in Somerset, a region that Holmes knew well as a youth, with a mystery that involves a detailed ancient history of the area. John Sutton's UPON A NATION'S HONOUR (2018; 204 pp., \$16.95) has Holmes and Watson working hard to foil Germany's sinister plot to steal a top-secret weapon from the new HMS Dreadnaught (the weapon would provide Germany with a fearsome advantage in the coming World War).

"Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) is scheduled to open wide in theaters on Dec. 21, and there's an amusing poster, spotted by Herb Moskowitz, at <www.tinyurl.com/y7x7jbs3>.

Aug 18 #8 Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is running at the Maplewood Barn Community Theatre in Columbia, Mo., until Sept. 9 <www.maplewoodbarn.com>. It will also be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 22-Oct. 20 <www.lbplayhouse.org>.

Ray Crew's "Sherlock Holmes and the Avenging Angels" (not a dramatization of "A Study in Scarlet") is on at the Elementary Theater in Cape May, N.J., through Sept. 29 <www.centerforcommunityarts.org>.

Robert Brock's two-act puppet play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Lancaster Puppet Theatre in Lancaster, Pa., through Nov. 17 <www.lmtyapsody.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Century Church Theatre in Hillsburgh, Ont., Sept. 7-16 <www.tinyurl.com/ybbcmy6c>; it also will be performed at the Riverbank Theatre in Marine City, Mich., Sept. 7-30 <www.riverbanktheatre.com>.

John Goodrum's dramatization of "The Nightmare Room" will be performed at the Pomegranate Theatre in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, Sept. 13-15; web-site at <www.chesterfieldtheatres.co.uk>.

Christopher Cutting's "The Accidental Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Lansdown Hall & Gallery in Stroud, Gloucestershire, Sept. 14-16; and at the Bread and Roses Theatre in Clapham, London, Oct. 6-7; the web-site's at <www.tobaccoteatheatrecompany.co.uk>.

Hellan Salfas' "Sherlock Holmes i el Destripador" is scheduled (in Catalan) at the Teatre Apolo in Barcelona, Sept. 21-Oct. 7 <www.teatreapolo.com>.

John de Lancie and Nat Segaloff's dramatization of "The Lost World" will be performed at the Winnepesaukee Playhouse in Meredith, N.H., Sept. 28-29, as part of a "Radio Drama Double Feature" <www.winnepesaukeeplayhouse.org>.

Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham, West Midlands, Oct. 4-6 <www.crescenttheatre.co.uk>.

"The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled by the Synergy Theater at the Leshar Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Oct. 18-21 <www.lesherartscenter.com>.

Andy Suess' "Sherlock Holmes und der Diebstahl der Quadriga" (a radio play performed by actors and puppets) will be performed at Das Weite Theater in Berlin, Oct. 12 and 13 <www.das-weite-theater.de>.

Thomas Moore's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Lowry in Salford on Oct. 28, and at the Drayton Arms Theatre in London on Dec. 11-Jan. 12, 2019 <www.thehoundofthebaskervilles.co.uk>.

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

Apologies for being a bit late with this issue, my excuse being a trip to the land of the "dubhgall" (which translates to "dark foreigner"). That's Ireland, and the presence of the name in the historical records of the 8th and 9th centuries, when the Vikings arrived in Ireland, suggests that the descendants of that dark foreigner are those known today as Doyle (one recalls, of course, that there's a photograph of Conan Doyle in costume as a Viking).

Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Berlin in 1890 to investigate Robert Koch's widely hailed cure for tuberculosis is briefly discussed in biographies of Conan Doyle (he concluded that Koch's treatment was not, in fact, a cure, and published an article explaining why). Thomas Goetz's *THE REMEDY: ROBERT KOCH, ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, AND THE QUEST TO CURE TUBERCULOSIS* (New York: Gotham Books, 2014; 298 pp., \$27.00) offers a detailed account of how great a scourge the disease was at the time, and informative biographies of the two doctors.

The McClelland Tobacco Company has closed, after 40 years of selling pipe tobaccos from high grade leaf and strip tobacco that's no longer available; "we might have limped along with lesser leaf," the owners said, "but nobody would have been happy with the resulting products, and we would have been ashamed of them." Larry Wagner wrote about the company's history in an article in *Tobacconist* in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9dt3aya>, but doesn't mention their "221B Series" that featured Black Shag, Arcadia, and Honeydew, prized by Sherlockian pipe-smokers (and others who were happy to collect the handsome tins).

Alexander Orlov has noted a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Kharkov, in the Ukraine (without a web-site, but it's reviewed at TripAdvisor on-line). The fact that there are so many Sherlock Holmes Pubs around the world demonstrates his popularity.

The late Raymond Smullyan, author of *THE CHESS MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1979) and many other books, has been credited as having created "the hardest logic puzzle ever." If you would like to try your hand at it, you can find it at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/prux6yo>. But (spoiler alert): don't scroll down too far, because Wikipedia also gives the solution (which you may find as difficult as the puzzle).

"The Return of Sherlock Holmes" was a two-hour special broadcast by CBS-TV on Jan. 10, 1987, starring Michael Pennington (Sherlock Holmes) and Margaret Colin (Jane Watson); Jennie Paton has found it conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/y8wcm94k>.

Many will have seen at least one performance of Matthew Lang's one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" or Charles Marowitz's two-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was Marowitz's expanded version of the play he wrote as Matthew Lang). There's some interesting discussion of the play in his *BURNT BRIDGES* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1990); the sub-title of the book is "a souvenir of the swinging sixties and beyond," and he tells grand stories about his early theatrical career in London and elsewhere.

Sep 18 #2 It's always fun to realize that my local library is housed in three buildings on Capitol Hill. The Library of Congress has all sorts of resources, including a well-staffed reference desk, where for more than 30 years you could find Thomas Mann, who knew just where all the bodies were buried. Tom is now retired, and has found time to write *DOC AT THE REFERENCE DESK* (Washington: Alexandrina Press, 2017; 77 pp., \$7.00), a collection of "small stories in a large library" that gives one an idea of some of the strange things that can happen at a reference desk. Non-Sherlockian (but obviously written by a Sherlockian), and great fun for anyone who likes real libraries.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of eight stamps honoring the 200th anniversary of the Old Vic in London, and three of the stamps show actors who have had six Sherlockian roles (none of them at the Old Vic): Sir Ralph Richardson and Sir John Gielgud, Sir Laurence Olivier, and Dame Judi Dench. Try your hand at naming the six roles without looking them up (answers will be on the next page).



Craig Sodaro is a prolific playwright for younger performers, and Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> has published many of his plays (and plays by other authors); you can search at their web-site for [sherlock holmes] and (for one additional play) [conan doyle].



You can see a poster for "Detective Chimp and the Case of the Missing Mustache" (a film that exists only as a poster) in the trailer for "Teen Titans Go! to the Movies" (2018), and likely in the film itself. There's a brief glimpse of the poster (at 26 seconds) in the trailer <www.tinyurl.com/y8z428kj>.



"If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," is attributed to Sherlock Holmes in an article by Max Loh in Seeking Alpha on Aug. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/y9aspmol>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, so don't bother searching there.

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which for many years has published Sherlockiana in its February issue, nicely timed to coincide with the birthday festivities in New York, has a web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yaemcfc> that's well worth exploring. There's audio and video from the symposium at Columbia University in 2016 that celebrated the 75th anniversary of EQMM, Arthur Vidro's web-only account of the history of the magazine's first issue, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" report on "We Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" (Feb. 2018), and much more.

George Mann's *THE IMMORALITY ENGINE* (New York: Tor/Tom Doherty, 2011; 347 pp., \$33.87) is the third in his series about Sir Maurice Newbury and Victoria Hobbes; the first was *THE AFFINITY BRIDGE* (2009), the second *THE OSIRIS RITUAL* (2010), and the fourth *THE EXECUTIONER'S HEART* (2013). The series, set in a steampunk Victorian London, with interesting characters, is not Sherlockian, but nicely done. Mann has written some good Sherlockian pastiches, and has a web-site at <www.george-mann.com>.

Sep 18 #3 About those four actors: Richardson and Gielgud played Holmes and Watson in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC Radio (1954); Olivier was Prof. Moriarty in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976); Dench was Sally in "A Study in Terror" (1965), and was heard as Mrs. Hudson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio (1998), and Gielgud played Lord Salisbury in "Murder by Decree" (1979).

Why did Rex Stout decide that Nero Wolfe would live on West 35th Street in New York? John J. McAleer, who wrote a delightful and definitive biography of Stout, reported in 1979 that Stout explained that West 35th Street was where William Gillette's Holmes "received his first acclaim" at the Garrick Theatre.

CLASSIC AMERICAN CRIME FICTION OF THE 1920S (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2018; 1,152 pp., \$39.95), annotated by Leslie S. Klinger and with a Foreword by Otto Penzler, is an interesting addition to the wide variety of literature that Les has annotated; the book contains five novels by Earl Derr Biggers, S. S. Van Dine, Ellery Queen, Dashiell Hammett, and W. R. Burnett, from a decade in which American crime writing was reborn (and a decade that is far enough in the past that annotations are helpful indeed). Four of the authors likely will be familiar; Burnett wrote LITTLE CAESAR, today best known as the source of the 1931 movie that starred Edward G. Robinson, and it's a treat to see what Rico was like on the printed page.



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a colorful set of four postage stamps showing dragons, one of them being a green dragon and thus Sherlockian; dragons are mentioned in three of the Sherlock Holmes stories, but only one of them is green.

"If you could attenuate to every strand of quivering data, the future would be entirely calculable," was said by Sherlock Holmes in "The Six Thatchers" (an episode in the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and easily found, as it turns out, with a Google search. This is not the first time Holmes has been quoted in print from an unidentified non-Canonical source, and it's likely to happen more and more often.

Karen Murdock spotted Robert Douglas-Fairhurst's interesting review in the Guardian on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/y7qrxp6g> of two books about mazes and labyrinths; he draws an interesting connection between "the scarlet thread of murder" in "A Study in Scarlet" and the ball of red thread that Ariadne gave to Theseus to help him find his way out of the Cretan labyrinth after he killed the Minotaur.

The Baker Street Irregulars <www.tinyurl.com/yb57rklo> is one of the teams in the CSFBL [Computer Simulated Fantasy Football League]; you're welcome to click on the "How to Play" button to see how things work in the League.

Neil Simon died on Aug. 26. He wrote dozens of plays, more than 20 screenplays, and the scripts for five hit musicals, and was sometimes called the world's most popular playwright. Perhaps best-known for "The Odd Couple" (1965), he won the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1991 for "Lost in Yonkers", and wrote the screenplay for "Murder By Death" (1976); one of the alternate endings for the film included an appearance by Holmes and Watson.

Sep 18 #4 Collectors of Sherlockian comic books face a problem: the older comic books are more and more expensive each year. But if you want only to read them, there's a great web-site with digital scans and a handy search engine. For example: Hit Comics #29 (Sept. 1943) had Sherlock Holmes on the cover (and in the story "Barry Magician"); you can read the entire comic book, in full color, at <www.comicbookplus.com/?dlid=71548>.

When in Edinburgh: consider The Real Sherlock Holmes Walking Tour of Edinburgh <www.realsherlockholmes.com>; tours can be three hours or a full day (and of course focuses on Conan Doyle rather than Holmes).

Further to the report (Feb 18 #6) on the competition set by the Folio Society and House of Illustration for Sherlockian artwork, one of the finalists was Nataša Ilinčić, and her three illustrations can be seen at her web-site <www.natasilincic.com/book-illustration-2>, and prints are available at her shop at Society6 <www.tinyurl.com/yafa4s9v>.

Karen Murdock has reported an article about "Miraculous Mushrooms" in the August issue of Remedies, and the Lion's Mane Mushroom, which is believed by some to be quite healthful and helpful. *Hericium erinaceus*, according to Wikipedia, has other names, including the bearded hedgehog mushroom and the satyr's beard, and is undergoing basic research for potential biological properties.

Canadian skater Stephen Gogolev landed a quad Lutz en route winning a gold medal in a competition in Slovakia last month; he skated to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" and wore imaginative costume, which you can see in a story in the Toronto Star <www.tinyurl.com/y7dsltre>.

What's the strangest location for a Sherlockian lecture? A leading candidate would be the Mountain View Mausoleum in Altadena, Calif., where Leslie S. Klinger will be the guest speaker on Oct. 11 at an event that will include (in addition to his lecture) a happy hour, a book signing, and a desert reception; the story at Pasadena Now <www.tinyurl.com/ya9ct3mm> has a nice image of the mausoleum.

About that postage stamp: the Green Dragon was the inn, kept by old Barnes, three miles off at Crendall (in "Shoscombe Old Place").

Greg Ruby continues to post interesting commentary at "The Fourth Garrideb" <www.fourthgarrideb.com>; devoted to the "Numismatics of Sherlock Holmes", it covers much more than money: "The Decorated Captain Tommy Gregson of the NYPD" explains the medals and ribbons one sees when he wears his dress uniform on the television series "Elementary".

Further to the report (Aug 18 #7) about the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (the film that stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly and is due for release on Dec. 21), the poster is now extremely difficult to find on the Internet: Torrent Freak noted (Aug. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/yczqgvr9> that Columbia Pictures sent DMCA notices to scrub any and all copies from the web (the DMCA is the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, enacted in 1998). Not every web-site received a DMCA notice; the Red Circle of Washington still displays the poster in its Calendar <www.redcircledc.org>.

Sep 18 #5 The British Library has an interesting web-site, which offers articles such as Liza Picard's "Education in Victorian Britain" <www.tinyurl.com/yba2nyza> which includes a brief mention of board-schools (as in "The Naval Treaty"). And John Sutherland's "An Introduction to *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats*" <www.tinyurl.com/y9cztloq> which includes a mention that Eliot was a great lover of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger have edited FOR THE SAKE OF THE GAME (New York: Pegasus, 2018; 284 pp., \$25.95), the fourth in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon." Sherlockians often use the word "pastiche" to describe just about any sort of Sherlockian story, including parodies (such as Robert L. Fish's "Schlock Homes" stories) and homages (August Derleth's "Solar Pons" stories), and it may be that yet another word is needed to describe what happens after Laurie and Les ask good writers to do something (or anything) Sherlockian; the results can be interesting and enjoyable indeed.

Further to the item (Mar 18 #5) on Tania Henzell's new Sherlock Holmes Tartan: she has a web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> where you can see a wide variety of merchandise; she will also have a table in the Merchants Room during the Birthday Festivities in January.

FLIGHT OR FRIGHT, an anthology of flight-based horror stories that was edited by Stephen King and Bev Vincent (Mar 18 #4), has been issued as an audiobook, with Simon Jones reading Conan Doyle's "The Horror of the Heights" (Simon and Schuster Audio, \$34.99); Jones played Sherlock Holmes on stage in the Gillette play in New York in 1998, and in the musical "Baker Street" in New York in 2001.

"It's good if you want to go to the Sherlock Holmes Museum every single day of your life, and less-than-ideal for literally anything else," according to an article in VICE on Sept. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/y85rgfoc>: it's a small apartment with a fold-out bed, available for £1,894 a month.

Jennie Paton spotted an imaginative and jazzy video that advertises Sherlock Handcraft Gin <www.vimeo.com/287490989>; there's a nice image of the label at <www.markspirits.com>. The method of production is "bathtub with premium grain alcohol," and the name was "inspired by the best hound of all time."

The summer issue of The Magic Door (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) focuses on Conan Doyle in Africa, with articles by James Reese, Hartley Nathan, and Brenda Rossini along with news from and about the Library and the Collection. Copies are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and you can easily join the Friends at <www.acdfriends.org>.

Sorry about that: the amusing poster for "Holmes and Watson" (Aug 18 #7) is hard to find on the Internet, likely because the studio requested/demanded that it be taken down. If you would like to see it, go to the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>: it's in the Calendar at the right, at Dec. 21.

Sep 18 #6 Ray Betzner plans to devote his "Studies in Starrett" blog this fall to a detailed examination of the publishing history of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a true classic in our literature, and he'd like to hear from anyone who has information about the history of Mike Murphy's plans to reprint the 1933 first edition, which resulted in a limited edition of unbound signatures from the Autolytus Press in 1979. Ray can be reached at <rlbetzner@mac.com> and you can read the first of his weekly installments at <www.bit.ly/2wTxQOB>.

Copies of William R. Cochran's THE EMPTY PROBLEM AND THE FINAL HOUSE (2017) are still available for \$21.00 postpaid from Bill (614 South Terrace Drive, Carbondale, IL 62901); the 35-page pamphlet offers the results of his explorations of the two stories that bookend the battle at the Reichenbach.

There's now an official trailer for the upcoming comedy "Holmes and Watson" (starring Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) <www.tinyurl.com/y8kgh4at>; the film's due in theaters on Dec. 21.

"Bejewelled: Badges, Brotherhood and Identity" is the title of an exhibition, open through Aug. 24, 2019, at the Library and Museum of Freemasonry in London. The exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/7zslb3j>, and there was an article in the Telegraph on Aug. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/yak9t69o> that said that the jewelry on display would include Conan Doyle's badge; it turns out that the reporter got it wrong: while the Museum does have Conan Doyle's jewelry, it won't be on display.

Mattias Boström's FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK will have a Japanese edition from Sakhin-sha, translated by Yuichi Hirayama; his book's already available in Swedish (2013), Danish (2014), German (2015), Norwegian (2016), and English (2017).

"The Hound of the Wasgijville!" is the title of a new 1,500-piece Sherlockian jigsaw puzzle that features detective Sheer-luck, available at Amazon (\$20.00) and elsewhere <www.tinyurl.com/y9yrhyaa>. There's also a new (and attractive) "Sherlock Holmes" 1,000-piece puzzle available from ThinkGeek (\$14.99) <www.tinyurl.com/y8xuezx5>.

John P. Crotty ("Dr. James Mortimer") died on Aug. 12. He worked for many years as a radiologist in St. Louis, and was a colleague of Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, from whom John acquired the treasure trove of original Frederic Dorr Steele artwork that Briggs had received from the artist. John was an energetic member of the Sherlockian society in St. Louis, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Those who enjoy the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will welcome the news that the two-part finale does not end the series. The seventh season is now in production, picking up a year later, and show-runner Rob Doherty has told a TV Line interviewer that "Sherlock, Joan, Gregson, and Bell form this very non-traditional family unit, and as the seventh season begins there's going to be a family crisis." Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu now firmly hold the second-place record for having played Holmes and Watson in the most performances in the most shows (Rathbone and Bruce still lead, counting all their films and radio programs).

Sep 18 #7 S. C. Roberts' HOLMES AND WATSON: A MISCELLANY, first published in 1953, was a landmark in Sherlockian scholarship, offering a collection of his writings, including a play and a pastiche, and his comments on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in 1951, demonstrating well just how much fun there is in taking a serious look at the Canon. Roberts was an excellent writer, and the first president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and his book has now been reissued by the British Library (160 pp., £10.00/\$15.95), with an nicely insightful Introduction by Guy Marriott; it's grand to have Roberts' thoughts on the Canon available again.

Conan Doyle's Colt .38 semi-automatic pistol, offered at auction on Sept. 20 in the U.K. (Aug 18 #1), sold for £4,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y9o9kkoy>.

Further to the item (Sep 97 #1) about Abdul Hamid II, who was the last Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, the Daily Sabah had an interesting story on July 27 about the Sultan's passion for Sherlock Holmes, and his meeting with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/yd57kftz>. Grey Ruby has an interesting post about the medals the Sultan awarded to Conan Doyle and his wife at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y7f67nd4>.

Evy Herzog reports that Fabienne Courouge and H el ene Colin, with some kin-sprits, have founded "La Gazette du 221B" (a "webzine d' tudes et d'actualit es sur l'univers de Sherlock Holmes"), all in French, with three issues so far; all available in the Archives at <www.gazette221b.com>, and they're a colorful demonstration of what can be done now on the Internet.

"Sherlock Holmes brings The Rolling Clones" was the headline on a story in the Gulf Daily News <www.tinyurl.com/yc6hfx3n>; the Rolling Clones band is a tribute to the Rolling Stones, and the "Sherlock Holmes" turns out to be the Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Gulf Hotel in Bahrain.

Further to the report (Jul 18 #2) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the National Park Authority has scheduled a five-day inquiry in January, at which the developer will continue its battle against local objections, according to a story in the Southern Daily Echo <www.tinyurl.com/y7t87ssw>.

Conan Doyle and hockey? We know he was an athlete, but we don't know if he played hockey, although there is a connection: a letter he wrote (well, it actually was written and signed for him by his secretary) from Undershaw to Miss Williams, saying, "I am sorry to say that I have so much heavy work to hand at present that I fear I am quite unable to be of any use to the Hind-head Hockey Club." There seems to be nothing on the Internet about a Hind-head Hockey Club, but there is a Haslemere Hockey Club that was founded in 1946, with eight teams for men, five for ladies, and ten squads in a junior section. And their sport, of course, is field hockey. The letter was at auction this month at Duke's in Dorchester, estimated at £200-£300; it sold for £180 <www.tinyurl.com/ybgulfff>. You can identify letters written and signed by Conan Doyle's secretaries by the symbols written underneath the signatures; this is something to look for if you have any doubts about the handwriting.

Sep 18 #8 And there's no shortage of Sherlockian (and Doylean and Watsonian) theater coming up: Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" is on at the Dragon Theatre in Redwood City, Calif., though Oct. 7 <www.dragonproductions.net>.

Timothy N. Evers' "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" ("The Greek Interpreter" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") will be performed at the Classical Theatre Company in Houston, Tex., Oct. 3-21 <www.classicaltheatre.org>.

"The Twilight of the Gods" (a new "comedic thriller" written by Wes Driver and Gregg Greene) is due at the Williamson County Performing Arts Center at Academy Park in Franklin, Tenn., Oct. 4-14 <www.blackbirdtheater.com>; the play offers "Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, Annie Oakley, Arthur Conan Doyle, and a number of other 19th century luminaries...locked in a battle of wits and ideologies, while a killer in their midst turns their dream for a modern Utopia into a Gothic nightmare."

Patrick Derksen's "A Lighter Shade of Noir" (a parody whose characters include Shirley Holmes and Dr. Watson) is coming up at the Aledo High School in Weatherford, Tex., Oct. 4-7; the Aledo Players have a Facebook page.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Garvin Theatre in Santa Barbara, Calif., Oct. 10-27; their web-site is at <www.theatregroupsbcc.com>. It's also due at the Jewel Box Theatre in Oklahoma City, Okla., from Nov. 19 to Dec. 5 <www.jewelboxtheatre.org>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is performed at Monkey Barrel Comedy in Edinburgh <www.thespontaneousplayers.com>, next on Oct. 11 and 25, and Nov. 8 and 22. Their first performance was in Feb. 2015, and they have since appeared at the Edinburgh Fringe and on tour in the U.K.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., from Oct. 24 to Nov. 24 <www.barntheatre.org.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Cape Fear Playhouse in Wilmington, N.C., Oct. 25-Nov. 11; web-site at <www.bigdawgproductions.org>.

"Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is planned by the Owasso Community Theatre in Owasso, Okla., Nov. 1-3; their web-site's at <www.octok.org>.

John Alvarez's new "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of a Siren's Call" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 2-4 <www.capemaymac.org>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the W. D. Powell Theatre at Union University in Jackson, Tenn., Nov. 8-13 <www.uu.edu/theatre>.

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

Oct 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; detailed information will be available at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/bsi-event-dates>. The (very) long weekend will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 9, and end on Sunday, Jan. 13, and the schedule may or may not include some surprises; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering. There will be more information at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be at <www.ihose.co/bsi2019tips> in December.

Copies of two of the sepia gelatin prints of the Cottingley Fairies went to auction this month at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester, estimated at £700-£1,000 each, and went for £15,000 (Frances Griffiths with the fairies) and £5,400 (Elsie Wright with the gnome) <www.tinyurl.com/y7edj26u>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2018 Christmas Card features a period photograph of The Royal Exchange <www.tinyurl.com/yde36bvd> (\$20.00 for a packet of ten). The Society's home-page has much of interest, including (under Publications) a link to an archive of all of the issues of The District Messenger, the newsletter launched by Roger Johnson as a "Grapevine Service" in 1982 and now (edited by Jean Upton) after 379 issues continues to offer the same mix of information and gossip in the U.K. (and elsewhere) that this newsletter does for the U.S. (and elsewhere).

It's nice to know that treasures do turn up: a previously unrecorded copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 is advertised by Peter L. Stern, for \$75,000; it has been added to Randall Stock's annotated checklist and census at <www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm>, where you'll also find a link to the AbeBooks entry.

MC Black has noted the web-site of the Haslemere Society, which has placed a blue plaque at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home); their web-site's at <www.haslemeresociety.org/undershaw.html>, with a link to the booklet that the society issued when the plaque was unveiled in 2016.

Samantha Wolov has reported an En Voyage Perfumes eau de parfum called "The 7% Solution" (suitable for men or women), described at the company's web-site as happy, relaxing, stimulating, and clarifying (and with a mention of Sherlock Holmes at their web-site) <www.tinyurl.com/y73uzs7u> (\$60.00 for an ounce, or \$50.00 for half an ounce).

Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers at eBay include six Sherlockian prints, one of them a (and colorful) tribute to "The Dancing Men" (\$20.00) that you can see at <www.tinyurl.com/y7ovwujc>.

Bill Seil discovered an intriguing Literary Hub blog by Emily Temple on "A Century of Reading: The 10 Books That Defined the 1900s". THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is one of the ten, and Temple noted that the book revived the Sherlock Holmes series, asking "was this an early precursor of Twitter fans bringing back every show on the planet?" <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ohr6u>.

Oct 18 #2 THE ADVENTURES OF TWO BRITISH GENTLEMEN IN GERMANY/DIE ABENTEU-
ER ZWEIER BRITISCHER GENTLEMEN IN DEUTSCHLAND, edited by Nicole
Glücklich, and published by the Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft (286
pp. in English and 298 pp. in German), is a welcome companion to their ear-
lier book about Switzerland (Jul 17 #1); the new book discusses the visits
to Germany by Conan Doyle, the Great War, Sherlockian societies in Germany
(including a detailed discussion of a society apparently founded in 1902),
and Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, and television in Germany, all
carefully and colorfully illustrated. Available for \$42.00 (€36.00) post-
paid from the society via PayPal <info@sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de>.

Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with nearly 40% of its popula-
tion aged under 25, according to the "Student City Guide" published in The
Sunday Times on Sept. 23. The Guide also notes that the city has made its
mark as the birthplace of HP Sauce and Black Sabbath, "not to mention Sir
Arthur Conan Doyle, who bought a violin on Sherlock Street while he was a
medical student." No author stated for the Guide, so there's no one to ask
for evidence that Conan Doyle ever played the violin. And yes, he was born
in Edinburgh.

Howard Ostrom's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939 is the first volume of
his Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia (Saint-Sauvier: Mycroft's Brother Editions,
2018; 88 pp., €30.00) <www.mycrofts.net>; it's a delightful exploration of
the first decade of Sherlockian talking films, major and minor, from "The
Ghost Talks" (1929) to "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939). Howard
has spread his net widely, and includes actors in Sherlockian costume, and
the entries are accompanied by contemporary reviews, photographs, posters,
and commentary; those who have access to the Internet can (and surely will)
find many of the major (and minor) films at YouTube or Vimeo. Copies (in-
scribed on request) are available for delivery in the U.S. for \$35.00 post-
paid, from Howard (5748 SW 60th Place, Ocala, FL 34474).

James Mustich's 1,000 BOOKS TO READ BEFORE YOU DIE (from Workman, 2018) was
warmly reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post, and it is reported
that one of the 1,000 books is THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES ("it would be
hard to name another modern literary character who has achieved such inter-
national celebrity").

MYCROFT AND SHERLOCK, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse (New York:
Titan Books, 2018; 355 pp., \$25.99) is set in 1872, two years after their
MYCROFT HOLMES (Jun 15 #2); the brothers are unintentionally investigating
the same mystery, and don't share information until the end of their case.
The book's a thriller as well as a mystery, with interesting major and mi-
nor characters, and it offers an intriguing look at Victorian London.

Further to the previous report (Jun 18 #3) on "Sherlock: The Game Is Now"
<www.sherlockgame.com> (billed as "the only official Sherlock Holmes Escape
Game, a 90-minute immersive experience for teams of 4-6 people"), it's sold
out through the end of the year, but tickets are now being made available
through the end of May 2019. The game is organized by Time Run and "Sher-
lock" creators Steve Moffat and Mark Gatiss, and tickets for the 90-minute
experience cost £54 per person. If you don't have your own group, there's
a Facebook page for those who want to form teams.

Oct 18 #3 Terry Hunt has reported on a discovery in Christopher Morley's memorandum book for 1935 (in the Morley collection at the Harry Ransom Center in Austin, Texas): a list of "names for cottage" that he was considering for the one-room cabin that he used as a studio: Ex Libris, The Knothole, The Molehill, The Dachshunds, Satisfaction Piece, The Workhouse, Poison Ivy, Socony Cottage, and The Nerts. Those who've made a pilgrimage to Roslyn, Long Island, know that the name he chose is The Knothole (which also is the name of the newsletter of The Christopher Morley Knothole Association <www.christophermorley.org>).

Samantha Wolov has reported <www.bookmarksreviews.com>, handy for those who want to see what reviewers have said about new books from major publishers; you can also search to see how older books (and authors) have been rated.

Reported: the Folio Society's THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 18 #6) has been published (\$45.95), and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y85vw9br>; Helen Dorey was on the panel of six judges that chose the illustrator (Max Lüffler), and there's an introduction by Michael Dirda.

Nils Clausson's ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ART OF FICTION: A REVALUATION (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars, 2018; 384 pp., £67.99) opens with a suggestion that "the fact that Conan Doyle is almost universally regarded as a popular writer has meant that his fiction, like most popular fiction, has been studied not as literature but as a manifestation of popular culture." Clausson offers an academic "close reading" that is intended to reveal the "neglected artistry" in Conan Doyle's fiction a decidedly different view of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian writings. The publisher offers a 40% discount if you purchase from their web-site by Nov. 15; use the special code ACD40 at their web-site <www.cambridgescholars.com>.

Cinema Scandinavia reported on Oct. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/y7luok7w> that the television series "Sherlock North" (in development by Snapper Films in Finland) has been picked up by Viaplay for international distribution; Holmes travels to Scandinavia after the battle at the Reichenbach and "finds himself solving crimes in Finnish Lapland."

"The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" at <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com> is a spectacular web-site, maintained by Alexis Barquin in France. It has more than 5,000 pages, and is devoted to all aspects of the life and career of Conan Doyle. You can see the depth of the research with a text search for [les andelys]. It's a town in Normandy that is mentioned several times in Conan Doyle's fiction, and Alexis explains that two of Conan Doyle's sisters went to school there, and Conan Doyle visited the town, and there's a video of a 1959 television interview with the woman whose home he stayed in (the interview was filmed in her garden).

The opening of "Holmes & Watson" (with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly) has been delayed until Dec. 25, which will please those who want something to do after opening their Christmas presents; no reason was given, but likely it was competition (five other films were scheduled for Dec. 21). The official name for the film now has an ampersand (and no reason was given for that, either).

Oct 18 #4 Bill Mason's *A HOLMES BY ANY OTHER NAME* (Rockville: Wildside, 2018; 195 pp., \$12.99) offers the results of his exploration of variations of the Great Detective's name that he found in parodies, films, comic books, and many other sources, from 1891 to the present; 578 names, from Airlock Holmes to Zoolock Holmes, annotated and indexed, and there are shorter lists for Watson and Moriarty (it's amusing to see the fun people have had with the name of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty). The publisher's web-site is at <www.wildsidepress.com>.

Also from Wildside: *SHERLOCK HOLMES IS LIKE*, edited by Christopher Redmond (2018; 275 pp., \$14.99), offers what he describes as "sixty comparisons for an incomparable character," with essays by sixty Sherlockians whose suggestions range from traditional and expected to weird and wonderful (the latter including Lucy van Pelt, proposed by Steve Mason).

The airport in Tottori in Japan has been renamed the Tottori Sand Dunes Conan Airport, according to a story in the Japan Times (July 28). The name of the airport honors the province's impressive sand dunes, and the manga and anime character created by Tottori native Gosho Aoyama; the comic has been running in a weekly magazine since 1994 and features a young detective named in honor of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the English version of the manga is called "Case Closed"). You can see Detective Conan at the airport in an image at <www.tinyurl.com/y8rysgel>.

Jennie Paton spotted "Back of the Bookshelf" (a monthly podcast of classic short stories narrated by C. J. Carter-Stephenson); the first story is Conan Doyle's "The Disintegration Machine" <www.vimeo.com/293785106>.

Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his *A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (Mar 14 #7); the fourth edition (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 444 pp., \$34.95) is a grand resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (with the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and one of the truly useful aspects of the chronology is the citation of sources, so that one can sort through conflicts (and learn that in some cases, Conan Doyle himself was not the most reliable source). There's also information about aspects of his life and works, and maps and photographs, and a careful and useful index compiled by Geraldine Beare. Recommended. MX's books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADOWS OF ST. PETERSBURG* (2018; 182 pp., \$12.95) offers an interesting intersection of the Canon with *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT*; Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of a killer who seems to be recreating the murders in Dostoyevsky's book. Elizabeth Crowens' *SILENT MERIDIAN* (2016; 350 pp. \$16.95) is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves Conan Doyle, Wells, Houdini, Freud, Jung, and a Japanese shogun in a set of parallel and sometimes supernatural universes. W. P. Lawler's *TREACHERY IN TORQUAY* (2018; 317 pp., \$16.95) is set on the south coast of England in 1905, with Holmes and Watson investigating a series of brutal murders and aiding a client in protecting his family from dire peril. *TALES FROM THE STRANGER'S ROOM, VOLUME 3*, edited by David Ruffle (2017; 207 pp., \$16.95), is an interesting anthology of pastiches, poetry, vignettes, and quizzes.

Oct 18 #5 The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, N.J., on Nov. 3, running through May 27, 2019, and their web-site's at <www.lsc.org>. It's a spectacular exhibition, and it has been welcomed with enthusiasm everywhere it has been in the U.S. and overseas; there are no future venues scheduled for the exhibition, and it's nice indeed (for travelers from afar) that it will be open during the Sherlockian birthday festivities in January.

Congratulations to Russell Merritt, who received the David Shepard Career Achievement Award at the Denver Silent Film Festival; Russell was instrumental in the rescue and restoration of both "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) and "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929).

Canadian Holmes, published quarterly by The Bootmakers of Toronto, always is interesting; the fall 2018 issue includes Peter Calamai's "Seeking the Conan Doyle 'Estate' in Portugal" (detailing the results of his investigation triggered by a report that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once had an estate in Sintra) (he didn't, but there was one), and much more in the 40-page issue; subscriptions to the quarterly cost \$30.00 (US or CA) a year, by mail to the Bootmakers at 2045 Lakeshore Boulevard West #3303, Etobicoke, ON MV8 2Z6, Canada; or at their web-site <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Martin Edwards will deliver next year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Apr. 6 at the Toronto Reference Library (Edwards is president of the Detection Club and chair of the Crime Writers' Association, and his topic will be "In Sherlock's Footsteps"); admission is free, and the public is welcome to attend <www.acdfriends.org>.

The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (produced by HBO Asia and Hulu Japan) (May 18 #4) is now available on HBO Go in the U.S., and it is well worth watching; it stars Y-ko Takeuchi as Sherlock, and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes.

It's sometimes tempting to suggest that everything has a Sherlockian connection. "King Kong" does, at least to the author of the Sherlock Holmes stories: Willis H. O'Brien, who created the stop-motion special effects for "The Lost World" (1925), did the same for "King Kong" (1933), and the late Forry Ackerman owned a pair of models of pterodactyls, one from each film. If you'd like to see what modern technology can do, there's a trailer for the musical "King Kong" (now in previews on Broadway) that shows their 20-foot version of the "gentle giant" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=y8YJwRUTK7Y>. See also the N.Y. Times <www.tinyurl.com/yb9losty>.

EconoTimes reported on Oct. 23 that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" has celebrated production of its 150th episode <www.tinyurl.com/y7fywz4e>, and has links to images of the event at the Twitter account of writer and producer Jeffrey Paul King, who has worked on every episode.

Bradley Harper's A KNIFE IN THE FOG (Amherst: Seventh Street Books, 2018; 288 pp., \$15.95) has Arthur Conan Doyle and Joseph Bell in pursuit of Jack the Ripper, accompanied by Margaret Harkness (who also was a real person, quite familiar with the appalling conditions faced by the poor in London); Conan Doyle is an excellent detective, and the story's nicely told.

Oct 18 #6 And theatrical news: C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Doom of Devilsmoor" is on at the Gillette Community Theatre in Gillette, Wyo., through Nov. 3 <www.gillettecommunitytheatre.weebly.com>.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Bay Area Harbour Playhouse in Dickinson, Tex., through Nov. 4 <www.harbourtheater.com>.

Jeffery Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is running at the Clear Creek Community Theatre in Nassau Bay, Tex., through Nov. 4 <www.clearcreekcommunitytheatre.com>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is on at the Little Theatre in American Falls, Idaho, through Nov. 5; Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/y9p2a2ud>. It's also due at the Wade James Theatre in Edmonds, Wash., June 14-30; web-site at <www.edmondsdriftwoodplayers.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the Monon Depot Theatre in Lafayette, Ind., through Nov. 10; the web-site's at <www.lafayettecivic.org>. It also will be performed at the Andria Theatre in Alexandria, Minn., Jan. 11-20, 2019 <www.andriatheatre.org>; and the Des Moines Community Playhouse in Des Moines, Iowa, Jan. 25-Feb. 10, 2019 <www.dmpplayhouse.com>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is due at the Lansing Hannah Community Center in East Lansing, Mich., Nov. 2-11 <www.allofusexpress.org>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at Harriton High School in Bryn Mawr, Pa., Nov. 14-17 <www.harritontheater.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Missing Holly" is due at the Prairie Pines Playhouse in Maize, Kans., Nov. 16-Dec. 23 <www.prairiepinesplayhouse.com>.

The Rain or Shine Theatre Company will perform their new comedy "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Dr. Jekyll & Miss Hyde" at the Bradwell Village Hall in Bradwell, Oxon., on Nov. 17, and then take the show on tour in the U.K. <www.rainorshire.co.uk>.

John Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" is due at The Gladstone in Ottawa, Ont., Nov. 23-Dec. 1 <www.thegladstone.ca>.

The Tehachapi Community Theater will perform John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" at TCT Second Space in Tehachapi, Calif., Nov. 23-Dec. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/y9nt4zyn>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., Nov. 30-Jan. 6 <www.virginiarep.org>. And at the Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 7-23; web-site at <www.stageiii theatre.org>.

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

Nov 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Modern technology has made it possible to abbreviate the traditional forecast for the birthday festivities in New York in January; details available at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2018/11/20/the-2019-bsi-weekend. Space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering.

The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.

Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year is on-line at www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm#newgifts; he also has recommendations of older Sherlockiana.

Those who fondly remember the days when one could listen to "Bob and Ray" on the radio in the 1950s will welcome Jennie Paton's discovery that one of their "Sherlock Sage" segments (with Bob Elliott as Sherlock Sage and Ray Goulding as Dr. Clyde) is available at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/y8xjss8w; and yes, YouTube does audio as well as video.

Thomas D. Utecht ("Arthur Charpentier") died on Nov. 9. He worked in marketing communications for Macy's and then for the U.S. Navy, and discovered the Sherlockian world at a John Bennett Shaw workshop in 1984. Thom was a founder of the Montague Street Lodgers and a stalwart member of the Three Garridebs, and (like Holmes) was an inveterate pipe-smoker; he was an enthusiastic attendee at Autumn in Baker Street, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.

The next 221B Con will be held in Atlanta on Apr. 5-7; registration is now open at www.221bcon.com, where you'll also find information on guests and performers and much more (it's billed as a "fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes"). Bob Stek's enthusiastic report on the 2014 event will be found on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at www.tinyurl.com/y8y3muvs.

A passing mention of George Charles Haité, reported by Karen Murdock from a newspaper in New Zealand, led to an interesting discovery: Haité was a designer, painter, illustrator and writer who illustrated an article on "The History of the Strand" in the first (Jan. 1891) issue of The Strand Magazine and (far more important to Sherlockians) created the iconic image that graced the cover of the magazine for decades; it also appeared on the covers of the first British editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. There is an excellent entry about him at Wikipedia; his original artwork was on display at the "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" exhibition in London in 2014-2015, and is reproduced in the catalog of the exhibition (Quarterly Press) and in Alex Werner's book about the exhibition (Ebury).

Nov 18 #2 The PM was dressed up as Sherlock Holmes for Halloween, according to a Huffington Post story <www.tinyurl.com/yaaxldar>, and was accompanied by his wife, costumed as a zombie bride. Add another name to the list of Sherlockian politicians: Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada; there's a photograph of him as Sherlock Holmes in the article. And there was a report on Yahoo Canada Style that some Canadians were wondering what exactly might have been in Trudeau's pipe, two weeks after marijuana was legalized in Canada.

Further to the report (Sep 18 #4) on Canadian skater Stephen Gololev performing in an imaginative costume to music from the film "Sherlock Holmes" in a competition in Slovakia, Jennie Paton has found video of him competing at the Minto Summer Skate in Canada <www.tinyurl.com/ya9bsrhl>.

Edward J. Van Liere was a prolific contributor to Sherlockian literature in the 1950s and 1960s, and a co-founder of The Scion of the Four in Morgantown, W. Va., and a new book provides much more about his life and career. William A. Neal's QUIET ADVOCATE (Morgantown: West Virginia University Libraries, 2017; 264 pp., \$14.95) focuses on Van Liere's many contributions medical education in the state (where during the depression he was successful in establishing a four-year medical school). His Sherlockian writings were collected in A DOCTOR ENJOYS SHERLOCK HOLMES (1959), and he was a contributor to Michael Harrison's anthology BEYOND BAKER STREET (1976); Neal's biography has a fine chapter devoted to Van Liere as a Sherlockian.

For those who are into Sherlockian games, MMORPG notes that Wizard101 has released a "Great Detective" bundle starring Sherlock Bones and Dr. Rolf; details (and images) are at <www.tinyurl.com/y83gnxds> and (with video) at <www.tinyurl.com/y7zo7r26>.

"Can you solve the secret werewolf riddle?" is the riddle-of-the-month at TED-Ed, discovered and reported by Samantha Wolov; there's Sherlockian artwork, but otherwise it's not Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/yd4eg444>.

"I sent down to Stanford's for the Ordnance map," Sherlock Holmes said to Watson (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The iconic London bookshop, which was established by Edwin Stanford in 1853, is moving to a new location (just round the corner in Covent Garden); the Stanfords web-site has a section on the shop's history at <www.stanfords.co.uk/our-history>. If you don't recognize the name, that's because it's mis-spelled Stamford in many editions of the Canon.

Publicity for the "Holmes & Watson" film is gearing up: Kelly Blau kindly reported that the N.Y. Times published an interview with Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly on Nov. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/y9am3fam>, including their explanation of how they chose who would play Holmes and who would play Watson.

"A box of Watson's memorabilia of Sherlock Holmes has been stolen from his club in Piccadilly," is the premise of the first in the Sherlock geocache series set in London <www.tinyurl.com/y97oylfe>, reported by Jennie Paton. Geocaching is the modern version of a Victorian outdoor recreational activity called letterboxing, participants now use GPS technology, and there's an excellent article about geocaching at Wikipedia.

Nov 18 #3 Nicholas Utechin's THE COMPLETE PAGET PORTFOLIO (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2108; 274 pp., \$46.95) is a delightful tribute to Sidney Paget, offering high-quality reproductions of all his Sherlockian illustrations from The Strand Magazine, and (for the first time) an opportunity to see 22 (that's almost all) pieces of the original artwork known to have survived shown (in full color) side-by-side with the illustrations published in the magazine; the book also includes full-color portraits of Sherlock Holmes that weren't published in the Strand. Highly recommended. The publisher's web-site is at <www.gasogenebooks.com>, and you can listen to an interesting interview with Nick at <www.ihose.co/ihose156>.

Gasogene also has published Terence Faherty's THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ANNOTATED EDITION (2018; 153 pp., \$19.95); it's a collection of his amusing "earlier drafts" of the stories, some of them reprinted from the annual Sherlockian issues of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and others new, and all great fun. Faherty's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian bibliography can be found at his web-site <www.terencefaherty.com>.

The long wait for Pokémon's "Detective Pikachu" film is scheduled for release on May 11; it's based on the company's Nintendo game, and there's an amusing 3-minute official trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/ybszkk68>.

Stan Lee died on Nov. 12. He was a legend in the world of comic books, and famous for creating a new world of super-heroes for Marvel Comics. In 2008 he told an interviewer that "There have been millions of detective stories over the years. Many of them are forgettable. Somehow Sherlock Holmes has endured, mainly because no one could write a detective story as brilliantly as Conan Doyle and nobody could come up with a character as interesting and flawed as Sherlock Holmes." And two years later he explained that "I know what I loved about Conan Doyle's work was he made his characters so real. I mean not only me, but the people that read Sherlock Holmes felt that they knew him." The "Marvel Preview" series (billed as "Stan Lee Presents") had a two-part "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1976, and he had author credit for "Spidey Super Stories: Sherlock Spidey" in The Electric Company in 1977.

The Strand Magazine (the modern version that's edited by Andrew Gulli) continues to offer a wide variety of Sherlockian merchandise at its web-site, including an attractive and artistic wall calendar for next year (\$24.95); the URL is <www.strandmag.com/product/sherlockholmes-calendar-2019>.

"Live from the Red Carpet" is the title of the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" report on this year's "From Gillette to Brett" conference in Bloomington, Ind., on Oct. 5-7 <www.tinyurl.com/y9lyjjh5>. There were 150 people on hand for the festivities, and you can hear all about it at the podcast.

"I know perfectly well how unneptile you are about aunts," the late Ronald Knox wrote in his Miles Bredon novel DOUBLE CROSS PURPOSES (1937), Stu Nelan has noted (on p. 155 in his copy of the Dover edition), and he wonders just what "unneptile" means. Google is of no assistance, and it's possible that Knox, who enjoyed word-play, invented the word. Has anyone seen the word used anywhere else?

Nov 18 #4 "American Is Killed by Bow and Arrow on Remote Indian Island" was the headline on the N.Y. Times article (Nov. 21) about the death of John Allen Chau, who attempted to go ashore on North Sentinel (one of the Andaman Islands) apparently in hopes of converting the tribesmen to Christianity. The Indian government has banned all access to the islands, and the seven fishermen who brought Chau to the island have been arrested and charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder; the government also has announced that although charges have been filed against "unknown persons" for killing Chau, it is virtually impossible to prosecute members of the protected tribes, or to recover his body.

Thanks to YouTube, admirers of the Brigadier Gerard can see him in action in "The Fighting Eagle" (1927) <www.tinyurl.com/ybx8ap8t>, and in "How the Brigadier Won His Medal" (1954) <www.tinyurl.com/y74nymv3>.

There's additional news for admirers of the Brigadier: the British Library has acquired the manuscripts for five of the first eight stories, and Randall Stock has a detailed report on the manuscripts, and their history, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y8gmfu08>. The survival of the manuscripts was reported more than two years ago (Mar 16 #1), and it is nice indeed that they will now be readily available to scholars.

Melvin Ragin ("Wah Wah Watson") died on Oct. 24. A guitarist and session musician, he was famous for his skills with the wah-wah pedal and in 1976 recorded an LP album "Elementary" that showed him on the cover with deer-stalker and calabash; you can see the cover and listen to an extended release version of the album at <www.tinyurl.com/y8cgxfau>.

Flicker Alley (the company that distributed the restored versions of William Gillette's 1916 "Sherlock Holmes" and Wallace Beery's 1925 "The Lost World") also offers "Douglas Fairbanks: A Modern Musketeer" (a 5-DVD set of digitally remastered versions of 11 films that include his 1916 "The Mystery of the Leaping Fish") (with Fairbanks as Coke Enneyday in Sherlockian costume) and a 22-page booklet with an essay about Fairbanks and his films by Jeffrey Vance and Tony Maietta (\$69.95) <www.flickeralley.com>. The set offers a grand opportunity to see some of Fairbanks' classic films (as well as one of the truly weird Sherlockian films).

The BoardRoom is a speakeasy (they're coming back into fashion, even though liquor's legal now) in Los Angeles <www.patinagroup.com/the-boardroom>, and Karen Murdoch spotted a story in the Los Angeles Times that noted that the cocktails are named after famous authors, including a "gin-forward Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (the recipe is Plymouth gin, Dolin Blanc, Braulio, orange bitters, and lemon peel). For those not versed in cocktails: Dolin Blanc's a vermouth, Braulio's a liqueur, and gin-forward appears to be a gin that's not flavor-added and thus tastes like juniper berries).

"Cats on the Page" is an exhibition at the British Library, that will run from Nov. 27 to Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/y7cjczvo>; you will have a chance to "renew your acquaintance with familiar favorites including *Mog*, *Winnie and Wilbur*, and T. S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (the last of which includes "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" and "Gus: The Theatre Cat", both of interest to Sherlockians).

Nov 18 #5 "Everyone needs a mother who keeps them grounded," according to Benedict Cumberbatch, who told GQ that he bounded home, full of excitement, after being told that he would be the next Sherlock Holmes, but he was soon put in his place. "The first thing my mother said when I mentioned I'd got the part was: 'You don't have the right nose.'" Noted by Karen Murdock in Patrick Kidd's "The Times Diary" in The Times on Nov. 2.

Juris Jurjevics died on Nov. 7. He had a long career in the publishing industry, and in 1986 was one of the founders of the Soho Press, to publish "books that deserve to be published, but that the bigger houses can't afford to do." His obituary in the N.Y. Times noted that earlier, as editor in chief for E. P. Dutton, he "scooped up a manuscript that had crossed his desk on a hunch that readers would clamor for a Sherlock Holmes revival." The novel was Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION (1974).

Hospitality & Catering News reported on Oct. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yakcegyz> that Adrian Martin, newly appointed Master Cook at Simpson's-in-the-Strand (an establishment mentioned in the Canon), has delved into its archives to create a spectacular new Bill of Fare. And it's spectacular indeed.

Basil Rathbone with two Hounds of the Baskervilles? Not quite, but there's an amusing signed photograph of Rathbone coming to auction at Written Word Autographs on Dec. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/y8kg4wnk>.

Further to the item (Apr 16 #4) on the metal plates apparently created in 1940 to celebrate Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, Greg Ruby has continued his research on "Sherlock Holmes and the American Bank Note Mystery" and posted his latest findings at the Fourth Garrideb web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ycvgvpy7>.

Greg also notes <www.tinyurl.com/y7a7hdfm> the appointment of Hugh Laurie as CBE (that's Companion of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to drama in the 2018 New Year Honours List. Laurie read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on BBC Radio 2 (in 2002) and played the Holmes-inspired House in the long-running Fox television series, and will be seen as Mycroft in the film "Holmes & Watson" due in theaters in December.

Peter Brace died on Oct. 29. He began his long acting career in 1947, and went on to being a stuntman and stunt coordinator, with more than a hundred credits; he played the hangman in the 1990 television film "Hands of a Murderer" (also known as "Sherlock Holmes and the Prince of Crime").

Karen Murdock has noted an article in the Irish Times (Nov. 10) about how craft breweries are becoming creative with artwork on their cans. Yellowbelly Beer in Wexford offers an "It's Elementary" India Pale Ale that has Sherlockian artwork <www.yellowbellybeer.ie/beer-type/its-elementary>.

Visitors to Edinburgh might want to stay at the Sherlock Apartments at 14 Picardy Place; the three serviced apartments are named for Doyle, Watson, and Moriarty, with nicely modern furnishings (according to on-line images). You can see the Doyle Residence at <www.tinyurl.com/y7wklvrh>, the Moriarty Residence at <www.tinyurl.com/y8xp8y7a>, and all three with a Google search (Conan Doyle, it should be noted, was born at 11 Picardy Place).

Nov 18 #6 George A. Cooper died on Nov. 16. He began his acting career on stage in Britain in the 1940s and then moved to television, performing for almost 50 years. He was Mr. Fawcett in "The Croxley Master" in the BBC series "The Stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (1967), Inspector Gregson in "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Greek Interpreter" in Peter Cushing's "Sherlock Holmes" series (1968), and Inspector Beedel in "The Missing Witness Sensation" in "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).

Theatrics: John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Christmas Carol" is being performed at the Company OnStage in Houston, Texas, through Dec. 22 <www.companionstage.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" on at the Runway Theatre in Grapevine, Texas, through Dec. 17 <www.runwaytheatre.com>; and at the Richardson Theatre Centre in Richardson, Texas, through Dec. 23 <www.richardsontheatrecentre.net>. It's also scheduled at the Performing Arts Center in Tarpon Springs, Fla., Dec. 8-16 <www.tarponarts.org>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Salterton Playhouse in Salterton, Devon, Dec. 3-8 <www.saltertondrama.co.uk>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Colonnade Theatre in Ringgold, Ga., Dec. 6-8 <www.colonnadecenter.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at Theatre Lawrence in Lawrence, Kans., Jan. 18-27 <www.wp.theatrelawrence.com>. Also at Stage West in Fort Worth, Texas, May 30-June 20 <www.sagewest.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Das Musical" (Holmes and Watson investigate their first case) will premiere (in German) at the First Stage Theater in Hamburg Jan. 20, 2019 <www.sherlockholmes-musical.de>; it's billed as "ein rasantes Musical über Liebe, Tod und Leidenschaft".

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Black Box Theatre in LaGrange, Ga., Jan. 24-Feb. 2 <www.lsparts.org>; at the Hill Country Community Theatre in Cottonwood Shore, Tex., Feb. 14-Mar. 3 <www.thehcct.org>; at the Studio Theatre in the Hong Kong Cultural Centre, Mar. 29-Apr. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/ybcw83r6>; at the Falcon Theatre in Newport, Ky., May 3-18 <www.falcontheatre.net>; and at the Bellevue Little Theatre in Bellevue, Neb., May 3-19 <www.bellevuelittletheatre.weebly.com>. Also at the Lowe Auditorium in Upper Ferntree Gully, Vic., Aug. 8-31; website at <www.1812theatre.com.au>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Regis Centre in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, Feb. 7-9, 2019 <www.regiscentre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Music" (performed by the Nashville Symphony) is scheduled at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yc75uvxe>.

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

Dec 18 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There is still time to reserve for many of the events during the birthday festivities in New York (although the Saturday cocktail reception has sold out, and no tickets will be available at the door); details are available at www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2018/11/20/the-2019-bis-weekend.

Flicker Alley has announced that its deluxe Blu-ray/DVD dual-format edition of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929) will be released on Feb. 5, and there is a pre-order sale price of \$29.95 www.tinyurl.com/y9qh6zjs; this is the last Sherlockian silent film, directed by Richard Oswald, and the bonus materials will include Oswald's earlier "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914), as well as original commentary on the story and on the restoration, and an illustrated booklet with an essay by film historian Russell Merritt.

"There's a fundamental principle of law that derives from Sherlock Holmes, which is the dog that didn't bark," Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito said during an argument on Nov. 26; the case involved jurisdiction on Native American land in Oklahoma, and you can read the details in an article in The Economist (Nov. 28) www.tinyurl.com/ya8qyrkv.

"The Vampire of the Lyceum" (a short-story pastiche written by Charles Veley and Anna Elliott) is available (free) as text and read by Simon Prebble at their web-site www.sherlockandlucy.com/the-vampire-of-the-lyceum.

Big Chief Studios reports that production has been completed on their licensed figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in costume from "The Abominable Bride" are now on their way from China and should be available for Christmas shopping www.tinyurl.com/ycgvdqaf.

Thomas Mann's A CHRISTMAS CAROL AT 221B (League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, 2018; 21 pp., \$5.50 at Amazon) is a nicely seasonal (and Dickensian) pastiche.

Oscar Ross observed the Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the Dec. 2018 issue of Philosophy Now www.philosophynow.org; the issue's cover story is Tim Weldon's "The Forgiving Reason: The Secret of Sherlock Holmes' Success" (which explores the links between Holmes and Blaise Pascal) and there's also Carol Nicholson's "Ockham's Rose" (in which she discusses Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE). Both articles can be read at the web-site.

Howard Ostrom has now identified more than 4,300 actors who have appeared as Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and elsewhere. His SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREENS 1929-1939 (the first volume of his Sherlock Holmes Cyclopedia) appeared earlier this year (Oct 18 #2), and you can hear him discuss the project in the latest "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast www.tinyurl.com/ybslndo3.

The Canon has many mentions of fog, and today's readers might not know just what a "London particular" really was like. The MiceTimes of Asia had an interesting illustrated article on Dec. 8 about the "great smog" that enveloped London for four days in December 1952, when 12,000 people died and more than 100,000 were injured www.tinyurl.com/ybxecqcg.

Dec 18 #2 Responding to the query about "unneptile" (Nov. 18 #3), Steve Rothman suggests a bit of word-play on "neptis" (in Latin). It should be noted that "neptis" can mean "niece" as well as "grand-daughter" and that a nephew is "nepote" or "nepos" (giving us the word "nepotism"). Stu Nelan reports that Miles Bredon is speaking to his wife Angela, about her aunt, so Angela would be the niece (and "unneptile" would be a coinage by Ronald Knox for "not niece-ish").

SHERLOCK and SHERLOCK DELUXE are memory games designed by Reinhard Staube, first issued in 2009 for ages 5 to adult. SHERLOCK (\$10.00) has 49 cards, and SHERLOCK DELUXE (\$15.00) has 60 cards and a small Sherlockian figurine. The games are made by PlayRoom Entertainment for Ultra-PRO Entertainment, and are available at Amazon and elsewhere.

All sorts of things turn up on YouTube. Howard Ostrom has noted two videos produced by the Columbia University Libraries Preservation Committee: "Murder in the Stacks" (1987) and "Shedding Light on the Case" (1990), with David Chapman (Sherlock Holmes) showing David Bowman (Dr. Watson) the proper techniques of preservation. You can search for the videos by their titles at <www.youtube.com>.

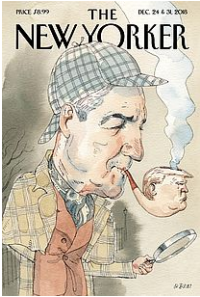
Two pieces of artwork showing Snoopy in Sherlockian costume from the television program "It's a Mystery, Charlie Brown" (1974) were offered at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 9: a production cel <www.tinyurl.com/y9fwzwl5> sold for \$1,800 (including the 20% buyer's premium), and a graphite animation drawing <www.tinyurl.com/yd2o2bqd> sold for \$780 (ditto). Both were signed by Bill Melendez, who produced the program and provided voices for Snoopy and Woodstock.

Denis Norden died on Sept. 19. Famous (sometimes notorious) for his often-ribald sense of humor, he had a long career on British radio and television and was a successful screenwriter as well; he wrote the screenplay for "The Best House in London" (1969), an X-rated film (because it was that sort of house) remarkable for a very short scene that included uncredited performances by Peter Jeffrey as Holmes and Thorley Walters as Watson.

Michael Robertson's A BAKER STREET WEDDING (New York: Minotaur, 2018; 291 pp., \$26.99) is the sixth in his series about Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have their offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail; Reggie's marriage to Laura Rankin puts them both in unexpected and dire peril, and they are rescued by Reggie's law clerk Lois and a thoroughly intriguing character who has made a minor appearance in a previous book but now comes into his own (no spoiler here, but Sherlockians won't be fooled for very long).

"Do not destroy the Strand," was the plea from Nancy Bass Wyden, owner of the Strand Bookstore, which has been a destination for visitors to New York since it opened in 1927. "18 miles of books" is the slogan of the store, and those miles include a separate section for rare books located on an upper floor. The city wants to declare the bookshop's building an official city landmark, but the owner believes that landmarking would result in the death of the business. You can read all about it in an article in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y8x6x2nk>, kindly note by Samantha Wolov.

Dec 18 #3 Ron Fish's Sherlockian Calendar <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> is a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what is happening when and where, and it offers an interesting look at how many society events are being held hither and yon. You should contact Ron <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.



It's not all that often that The New Yorker offers an image of Sherlock Holmes on its cover (in fact, this the first time ever): the Dec. 24 "Power Issue" has Barry Blitt's "Elementary" tribute to the ongoing investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller; you can see the cover in full color (and with Blitt's preliminary sketch) at <www.tinyurl.com/ycsvsb5>.

Vicki Delany's *A SCANDAL IN SCARLET* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2018; 293 pp., \$26.99) is the fourth in her series of "Sherlock Holmes Bookshop" mysteries that star Gemma Doyle (proprietor of the Sherlock bookshop) and her friend Jayne Wilson (who manages the next-door Mrs. Hudson's Tea Room). The pastiche begins with a mysterious fire at the local house museum, and needless to say there are murders and a complicated plot. The author has more than one series going, and her website's at <www.vickidelany.com>.

"A four of gin hot" is Scott Monty's Canonical introduction to his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" post about Sherlock & Sons Gin; it's a new brand of small-batch products from Distillers of Surrey, founded by Simon Sherlock. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y95wyp6d>.

Barbara S. Koelle died on Nov. 28. She married her husband Jack in 1948, and for decades shared his many interests; she also was a gourmet cook, an avid reader, and a keen collector of children's book, and was a long-time member of the International Wizard of Oz Club, serving as a member of its board of directors, its president, and editor of its magazine *The Baum Buggle*. She was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman* in 1982.

The January-February issue of Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork by Nataša Illinčić on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, a new story about the Amlingmeyer brothers by Steve Hockensmith, a pastiche by Keith Hann (with artwork by Jason C. Eckhardt), a Sherlockian cartoon by Scott Masear, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

A bit more about T. S. Eliot's *OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS*: there is a registered charity called Old Possum's Practical Trust, established by Valerie Eliot in 1990 <www.old-possums-practical-trust.org.uk>.

Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki's long and distinguished career includes his work on the 1984 Japanese-Italian television series "Meitantei Homuzu" ["Famous Detective Holmes"], widely available in English as "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"; Miyazaki directed the first six episodes, and they're great fun. Jenne Paton reports an interesting video by Stevem at YouTube about "Miyazaki's Forgotten Gem" <www.tinyurl.com/yc6bwhpk>.

Dec 18 #4 From manga to the stage: the Anime News Network reports (Dec. 21) that Ryōsuke Takeuchi and Hikaru Miyoshi's "Yūkoku no Moriarty" ["Moriarty the Patriot"] manga has inspired a stage musical that will be performed in Tokyo and Osaka in May <www.tinyurl.com/y9ts25js>; the manga debuted in 2016 and stars James Moriarty, an orphan who is adopted into the Moriarty family. The musical will star Shōgo Suzuki (William James Moriarty) and Ryō Hirano (Sherlock Holmes). There's a brief trailer for the musical at <www.tinyurl.com/ybulsm4>.

Further to the report (Oct 18 #3) that THE SELECTED ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has now been published by the Folio Society, there was a post on Dec. 5 at the Flavorwire web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yazqzzyy> that offers a look at some of the artwork, and at Michael Dirda's introduction.

Tim Dedopoulos' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE CARD CHALLENGE (Carlton, 2018; \$14.95) is a colorful box of 60 decorative cards with logical puzzles that are only marginally Sherlockian.

John Wulp died on Nov. 27. He was a playwright, producer, director, visual artist, designer, and educator, and in 1979 was nominated for a Tony Award as scenic designer for "The Crucifer of Blood" (which starred Paxton Whitehead and Glenn Close).

The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes debuted in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014, and after touring in the United States and in other countries, now is at the Library Science Center in Jersey City, N.J. through May 27, and well worth a visit. There are spectacular Sherlockian and Doylean items on display, and a murder mystery (written by Dan Stashower) to solve, and you can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with exhibition creators Amy Noble Seitz and Geoffrey Curley at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/y7bn6cjj>.

Gyles Brandreth, author of seven murder mysteries that feature Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde, has written a new short story that has them at a festive party at Buckingham Palace; the story was published, with colorful illustrations, in the Mail on Sunday on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/yddea86y>.

"Sherlock Holmes, John Watson, and a Christmas Gift of Friendship" is the title of Colin Fleming's warm holiday tribute, accompanied by some striking artwork, in the Daily Beast on Dec. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/y8rhozbo>.

The copyright clock continues to tick: at the end of this year "The Creeping Man" (published in 1923) will enter the public domain. Only the final nine Sherlock Holmes stories will be protected by copyright, and the last of them will enter the public domain at the end of 2022.

Further to the report (Sep 18 #7) on a proposal to demolish the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (the campaign to protect the hotel had cited evidence that Conan Doyle helped design the redevelopment of the building as a hotel in 1912), the BBC reported on Dec. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y9jrdk9w> that the developer has withdrawn its appeal against the National Park Authority's decision to reject the proposal to demolish the hotel. The NPA said it would seek to recover its costs of preparing for a public hearing scheduled in January.

Dec 18 #5 The two volumes of THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: SOME UNTOLD CASES, edited by David Marcum, are the latest additions to his excellent series of anthologies, and they will be welcomed by those who believe that traditional short stories are the best way to visit Holmes and Watson again (London: MX Publishing, 2018; 405/415 pp., \$44.95 each); there are new short stories, poems, and a radio script, all offering imaginative accounts of cases only mentioned in the Canon. MX's books are available at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

Also from MX: Tim Symonds' A MOST DIABOLICAL PLOT (2018; 156 pp., \$12.95) is a collection of six pastiches reprinted from volumes of David Marcum's THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES; his other Sherlockian work can be found at his web-site <www.tim-symonds.co.uk>.

Tom Bidwell, whose television adaptation of Richard Adams' "Watership Down" debuted on BBC One this month, has told the BBC Writersroom that his next project will be a Netflix series titled "The Irregulars" that will focus on a group of street urchins whose crime-solving success a drug-addict Holmes takes credit for; the interview's at <www.tinyurl.com/ydxgppqwh>.

Too late for this year, but in plenty of time for next year: Stephanie Urban has found amusing artwork by David Price on a "Sherlock Holmes Christmas" card from Allport Editions <www.allport.com/products/1873>.

The Chautauqua Institution, founded in 1874, offers a wide variety of summer educational programs, and Bob Coghill and Christopher Redmond discussed Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle at Chautauqua's Hall of Philosophy on Aug. 23, 2000; Jennie Paton has kindly reported a 35-minute video of the discussion at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6psB3rmNoBE>.

The Beacon Society works to provide teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with resources "to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life," and their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com> is well worth exploring. Click on "additional resources" and then on "beacon booklist" to see an interesting list of recommended books for younger Sherlockians to enjoy and use for research purposes.

Deadline Hollywood reported on Dec. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/yaccj5fo> that the CBS-TV series "Elementary" will end its run after the seventh season, due to air in 2019. Created by Rob Doherty, the series stars Jonny Lee Miller as Holmes and Lucy Liu as Watson, and at the end of the seventh season will have set a record of 154 episodes for a Sherlockian television series; only Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce have played Holmes and Watson more often and for more hours, screen and on the radio.

The District Messenger is the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, now edited by Jean Upton and as always interesting and informative, has reported in its latest (382nd) issue on some news from the U.S.: Ceylan Yeginsu, on the N.Y. Times' ReaderCenter on Twitter, recently asked readers about their experiences with petty crime in London; according to Jean, "one person reported that a red-headed man hired him to copy out the Encyclopedia Britannica, but it turned out to be a scam." The newsletter (and much more) is available at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

Dec 18 #6 The play's the thing (as Shakespeare wrote): Bart Lovins' "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet" is a new production of a dramatization performed at Expanded Arts in New York in 1998, now being produced again at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 17-27 <www.thepac.net>.

Kevin O'Brien's "Sherlock Holmes and the Temple of Doom" will be performed by Upstage Productions <www.upstageproductions.com> at the Carterville Community Center in Carterville, Ill., on Jan. 18; the dinner theater mystery is billed as "Sherlock Holmes, Nancy Drew, Lt. Columbo, and the Scooby Doo Gang are on a wild and dangerous treasure hunt, but so is the amazing archaeologist Louisiana Jones." The company has another play titled "No Schick, Sherlock" (Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson come through many a close shave as they investigate "The Case of the Slashing Razor").

Jami-Leigh Bartschi's musical "My Dear Watson" is due at the Edge Theater in Chicago, Ill. Feb. 5-23 <www.cmtf.org>.

Nick Scovell's "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Ferneham Hall in Fareham, Hants., Feb. 20-24 <www.fernehamhall.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Dying to Say I Do" is a new play scheduled at the Diamond Theatre in Ligonier, Pa., Mar. 1-3 <www.diamondtheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" will be performed at the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Apr. 5-July 6 <www.commonwealththeatre.org>.

Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the Oregon Cabaret Theater in Ashland, Ore., Apr. 11-May 26; web-site is at <www.theoregoncabaret.com>.

K. C. Brown's "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" will be performed at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville, Md., May 3-12 <www.rlt-online.org>.

Margaret Raether's new play "Sherlock Holmes & the Precarious Position" is scheduled at the Cheek Theater at Rockford University in Rockford, Ill., on May 9-26 <www.artistsensemble.org>. "Whistling in the Dark" (her dramatization of "The Speckled Band"), performed in 2017, was broadcast by Northern Public Radio on July 15, 2017; podcast at <www.tinyurl.com/yctj3aou>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Warner Theatre in Torrington, Conn., Mar. 23-31 <www.warnertheatre.org>. Also at the Ashland University Studio Theatre in Ashland, Ohio, Apr. 5-7; web-site at <www.ashland.edu>. And at the Firehouse Theater in Alliance, Ohio, May 10-19 <www.carnationcityplayers.com>.

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

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