

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 171st birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19, and reports on many of the goings-on will be posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over; you can also hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the festivities at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast at <www.bit.ly/ihose304>. Scott also reports on the weekend at <www.tinyurl.com/2m5s4ppz>.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of the Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society's web-site is at <www.acdsociety.com>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was author (and Oscar winner) Graham Moore, whose explanation of the Sherlockian aspects of the career of the famous economist John Maynard Keynes will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.

On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of Andrew Joffe's skit "Our Old Holmes" (with Paul Singleton as Holmes, Andrew Joffe as Watson, and Sarah Montague as Mrs. Hudson). And the Susan Rice Mentorship Award (which recognizes "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") was presented to Julie McKuras.

Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Dick Olken offered the traditional first toast to Ellen Pfeifer as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Ross Davies on "certain aspects of Sherlock Holmes' actual involvement with the Pinkertons," and by Ashley Polasek on the "collaborations, compromises, and occasional conflicts" she has encountered in bringing Sherlock Holmes to the stage. The entertainment also included a new song ("Brush up Your Sherlock") that was written and performed by Alex Katz and Karen Wilson.

Michael Meer was announced as the winner of the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the Baker Street Journal in 2024), for his article (in the winter issue) on the "Examination Paper" Conan Doyle wrote in 1893 on the methods of Sherlock Holmes. You can subscribe to the BSJ (four issues and the Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd>.

The BSI Birthday Honours were awarded to Shana Carter ("Carter"), Jim Cox ("Coxon"), Judi Ellis ("The Carlton Club"), Ron Fish ("The Hon. Ronald Adair"), Beth Gallego ("Lighthouses"), Bruce Harris ("Harris") Louise Haskett ("Aurora"), Rosemary Herbert ("A Slim Youth in an Ulster"), Christian Monggaard ("Neville St. Clair") and Gary Thaden ("Augusto Barelli"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Andrew Solberg.

Another Friday-evening event was the Gaslight Gala, held at Annie Moore's, honoring Watson's "pawky sense of humor" with cocktails, dinner, toasts, jokes, songs, a quiz, and a play. Planning for 2026 is under way.

Jan 25 #2 On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the usual opportunity for dealers to help those who wanted to add to their collections, and the Saturday luncheon and reception included the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction, which attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prizes included the last collection of medals and awards designed and made by the late Maggie Schpak, who had provided spectacular raffle prizes for Dr. Watson for many years, and a mantel clock that was designed and crafted by Danna Mancini to look like two books, back to back, honoring "The Bruce Partington Plans" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the traditional Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

You can plan ahead: the next annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2026. You can also plan much farther ahead: the BSI's next special conference (similar to "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at Bear Mountain in 2022) is scheduled for the summer of 2027. If you'd like to have information about future events (and much more) you are welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.

An added feature of the birthday festivities was a performance at the Coffee House Club of Hal Glatzer's "A Musicale in Mrs. Hudson's Parlor" which celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 60th birthday with music-hall presentations by Insp. Lestrade, Mrs. Hudson, Henry Baker, Irene Adler and other friends). A recording will be available at Hal's channel at YouTube in mid-February (stay tuned).

Another nice feature of the festivities was the opportunity to visit the Grolier Club to view their exhibition "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers. There are three nice Sherlockian items in the exhibition: "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of The Strand Magazine, Sherlock Holmes' notes for his monograph "On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus", and Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*.

The exhibition closes on Feb. 15, and there's another nice exhibition "A First-Class Fool: Mark Twain and Humor" (open through Apr. 5); one of the items on display is Mark Twain's typewriter. The Grolier Club's web-site is at <www.grolierclub.org>. If you're wondering about Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*, the only known copy of the book was destroyed by fire in a Benedictine abbey in the Piedmont in 1327, reported in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* (according to the exhibition catalog, "the safe handling of this book requires protective clothing and gloves). The catalog of the "Imaginary Books" exhibition, written by Reid Byers, is spectacular (scholarly, humorous, and in full color), and available from the Oak Knoll Press (\$65.00) <www.tinyurl.com/5e6smbs5>.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was not neglected during the festivities. You can watch the ACD Society's Doylean honors and its running of the Wessex Cup at <www.tinyurl.com/mxfnc82v>, as well as the annual meeting of The Literary Agents, held via Zoom on Friday, honoring the centenary of "The Land of Mist" and Christine Ferguson, editor of that book upcoming in the Edinburgh University Press series, at <www.tinyurl.com/5cap5cpd>.

Jan 25 #3 Daniel J. Morrow ("James Stanger of the *Herald*) died on Dec. 23, 2024. His long career in radio broadcasting inspired his dedication to Sherlockian radio programs, and in 1969 Dan was one of the founders of the Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey. He contributed scholarship to the Baker Street Journal and society newsletters, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

A non-trivial trivia question: many people celebrated the Chinese New Year this month. In the Chinese calendar each year is named for one of twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac cycle, and this year's zodiac animal is the snake. What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal?

Sonia Fetherston's "*Wiggins*": *Tom Stix & His Baker Street Irregulars* (126 pp., \$24.95), one of two new books from the Baker Street Irregulars Press, is the latest title in the Biography Series. It is a carefully-researched and well-written warm tribute to the fourth leader of the BSI, who in many ways brought the BSI firmly into the 20th century.

That Ghastly Face, edited by Ira Brad Matetsky, is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (224 pp., \$49.95); there's a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Blanched Soldier", accompanied by both an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is spectacular). Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

The three Sherlockian neckties offered by Frederick Thomas of London some years ago (Feb 16 #1) are still available, but (of course) more expensive now <www.tinyurl.com/568xuhty>.

Max Magee has noted that William S. Baring-Gould's *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967) can be borrowed (read on-line but not downloaded) from the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/52y7rtjx>. The book is available in the Internet Archive's National Emergency Library, which was created in 2020, at the start of the pandemic, and became the target of a lawsuit filed by four major publishers against the Internet Archive. On Sept. 24 the Wired web-site reported <www.tinyurl.com/rwbyjda4> that a U.S. Court of Appeals had decided against the Internet Archive, but Baring-Gould's book is still available at the web-site, possibly because the book's out of print, which would make it difficult for the publisher to demonstrate damages.

If you'd like to read the Court's 64-page opinion, it's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/36zpkb7r>. Thanks to Ross Davies for knowing how to find this sort of thing.

Scott Monty has reported on planning for what might well take first prize for the most unusual Sherlockian event: the H&W Con, scheduled on Mar. 1-3 in Sioux City, Iowa <www.tinyurl.com/ysmcm5fa>; fans of the 2018 "Holmes & Watson" film that starred Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly will gather for a celebration of the "hilarious and timeless comedy classic." Be sure to read Scott's report all the way to the end.

Jan 25 #4 "Why the British Love Belonging to Clubs" was the headline on an article (Dec. 31, 2024) <www.tinyurl.com/mry9kaf7> by Sean Walsh, at The Conservative Woman web-site, and he mentions one of his favorite clubs, found in "the fictional world of Sherlock Holmes." It's not the Diogenes Club, and you are welcome to guess what it was (or just go to the web-site and read the article).

The King's New Year Honours included a knighthood for Stephen Fry (for his work on mental health); he played Mycroft Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), recorded "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (2017), and is a patron of the Sherlock Holmes Collection in Portsmouth.

And Eddie Marsan received an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) for services to drama; his many credits include Inspector Lestrade in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011).

There also is the New Zealand Royal Honours List (created in 1975), which included the Order of Merit for Lee Murray (for services to literature); she was one of the 2024 honorees of the ACD Society, for her short story "Māoriland Blue" in their "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project.

What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal? If your answer was that Holmes was born in the year of the tiger, you're wrong.

There was an interesting article at the Country Life web-site on Jan. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/bjm7f7ms> about the history of the London double-decker bus, particularly interesting for the photograph of a horse-drawn double decker bus in Piccadilly about 1904, when Sherlock Holmes would have seen them, and (who knows) ridden in or on one.

SHERLOC is alive and well on Mars, still contributing to the exploration of the Red Planet. SHERLOC (it's an acronym) has its own entry at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh>. Just click on the image of the calibration target to see where it came from.

The National Park Visitor Centre in Princeton was under threat of closure in 2022 (Nov 22 #5), but it was rescued with a £440,000 government grant. The money has now been spent, and the Centre may be shut down, the Devon Air Radio web-site reported on Jan. 11 <tinyurl.com/yc756djk>. The Centre formerly was the Duchy Hotel <www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttyd>, said to have been "once home to Conan Doyle as he wrote the Hound of the Baskervilles."

The Living Life Fearless blog as reported <www.tinyurl.com/3u75axkj> that Manga Classics has launched a manga series of the Sherlock Holmes stories. *A Study in Scarlet*, adapted by Crystal S. Chan and with artwork by Julien Choy, released this month and available in comic-book shops and at Amazon (\$11.99). *A Scandal in Bohemia and Other Stories* is due in June. Manga Classics <www.mangaclassics.com> has published a long list of titles, and seems to be the modern equivalent of the Classic Comics that so many members of an older generation relied on for an introduction to literature or for writing book reports without actually having read the books.

Jan 25 #5 There are many people who prefer ink-on-paper when it comes to books, and others who prefer digital (and plenty of people, of course, who happily live in both worlds). Smashwords <www.smashwords.com> is an on-line retailer that offers almost a million ebooks (some of them free), and many (but not all of them) self-published. A recent search for ["conan doyle"] yielded 200 hits and ["sherlock holmes"] produced 906 (use quotation marks when searching).

The National Theatre's revival of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" closed on Jan. 25, but National Theatre Live will make it available in cinemas world-wide beginning on Feb. 20; the production seems to be (momentarily) Sherlockian: watch the trailer to see Ncuti Gatwa (Algeron Moncrieff) in Sherlockian costume <www.tinyurl.com/yfu5awfb>.

What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal? Holmes was born in the year of the ox. The new year in the Chinese lunisolar calendar does not begin on Jan. 1. In 1854 the year of the tiger began on Jan. 29, and Jan. 6 was in the last month of the year of the ox.

Ray Betzner was the Cameron Hollyer Lecturer at the Toronto Public Library on Nov. 30, 2024, on "Born in a (Toronto) Bookshop: Vincent Starrett and the World of Sherlock Holmes", and the lecture's now on-line, so you can watch the proceedings at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbSGzMnyzs>. Ray is an entertaining speaker, as well as an expert on Starrett.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder reviewed 2024 on their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog with an interview with Ross Davies (who's the editor of the Baker Street Almanac) <www.tinyurl.com/5hf6mpze>. It's just the thing for people who want more news than you get in this newsletter.

Peter Lovesey's article "Wobble in the Aggie", an interesting account of the career of his Sergeant Cribb in novels and on television in the winter 2024 issue of the Mystery Readers Journal <www.tinyurl.com/bddsvcty>, ends with a surprising (and Sherlockian) reason why the television series ended prematurely.

It's not Sherlockian, except for many nice things said about Christopher Morley, but Evan Friss' *The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore* (New York: Viking, 2024; 403 pp., \$30.00) is a delightful read for anyone who remembers, or wants to know, what bookshops were like, in times past when there were lots of them.

"Sherlock Holmes' birthday is NOT January 6th after all," according to Erik Deckers, who has deduced what's quite likely (well, possibly) the correct date, and explains his reasoning in detail in a post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/3v2pdubv>.

Erin O'Neill (the editor of the Sydney Passengers' journal *The Passengers' Log*) has reported on interesting artwork available from the Chris Beetles Gallery in London. The artists include Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/y5k5vxk5> and by Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/44ebxw96>.

Jan 25 #6 Fowlescombe Farm in south Devon will open eight full-service luxury suites this spring, according to a report at the web-site of The Caterer (Jan. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm>. The ruined mansion on the estate, it seems, "may well" be the inspiration for "Baskerville Hall". The web-site of the Farm <www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm> has an account of the mansion's "legend of the hounds."

Sherlockian scholars have noted occasional mistakes in how nobility is described and addressed in the Canon, and an article in Country Life (Nov. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/5u6d5uez> about "The End of Deference: Why the Right Title Matters" offers an instructive look at proper terms of address.

Almost twenty years ago (Dec 06 #1) Stanford University's Community Reading Project published some of the Sherlock Holmes stories weekly, by mail and on the Internet, in nicely annotated facsimiles of the Stories as they first appeared in The Strand Magazine. Max Magee notes that they're still available on-line at <<http://sherlockholmes.stanford.edu/readings.html>>. Don't neglect to click on "more stories".

Max also has noted something that may interest fans of the "Raffles" stories that were written by Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung: the "Raffles Redux" web-site <www.rafflesredux.com>, where you'll find annotated reprints of all the stories, as well as a play.

Reported: Kerry McGee's "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" from the Literary Adventure Society (\$55.00); it's a mail-order audio mystery with clues, souvenirs, and audio, and there's more information (and an audio sample) at their web-site <www.literaryadventuresociety.com>.

There are many (some people would say far too many) ratings of Sherlockian films on the Internet, but Bob Rivers' list of his "top ten" films for The Strand Magazine (Jan. 13, 2017) <www.tinyurl.com/ycx8peas> is more interesting, because he gives his reasons for why he likes them.

Adrian Nebbett has reported discovering a film that's Sherlockian in a minor way: "The Curse of the Living Corpse" (1964), in which Paul Haney (as Chief Constable Barnes) is seen in Sherlockian costume. It's conveniently available at YouTube <[/www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuy6tmw8NuU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuy6tmw8NuU)>.

Cromer, in North Norfolk, is an underrated seaside town with a huge pier and the best fish and chips in the UK, according to the headline on an article in the Daily Mirror (Dec. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/5baf2z4c>. The article also mentions Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson, who visited Cromer in 1901, when they stayed in the Royal Links Hotel and were invited to dinner at Cromer Hall. They then went on to Dartmoor, and a ride in a carriage driven by Harry Baskerville, and the result of all that was "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

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

Jan 25 #7 CNN Travel had a story in 2017 headlined "All-White and Futuristic: Tianjin's Stunning New Library Looks Out of This World" <www.tinyurl.com/3tsuhjp4>; the Tianjin Binhai Library is impressive, and the article also had a grand gallery of images of "the world's most beautiful places to read." However: there's more to the story, as noted in an article at the Atlas Obscura web-site in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/5nym2267>.

No Comfort for the Dead, by R.P. O'Donnell (New York: Crooked Lane, 2024; 281 pp., \$29.99), is a pleasant Irish murder mystery, set in Castlefreke, a small village not far from Skibbereen; the detective is Emma Daly, the town librarian, who has read (and enjoys remembering) the Sherlock Holmes stories throughout her investigation.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 150 people have completed all three exams and have received a Doctorate in Sherlockiana. The 2025 Recertification Exam is available on request from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>, and there's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym>. The society's goal is "providing teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life" <www.beaconsociety.org>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar Awards, and one of them is Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4) in the best critical/biographical category. You can see the complete list of nominees at <www.tinyurl.com/muax2ej6>. The winners of the Edgars will be announced on May 1.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has always been imaginative: their Well-Readed League <www.tinyurl.com/3je6d8bf> is an informal on-line book group, and now they have their Reformed Diogenes Club, which is planning an excursion to Phantom Peak in Canada Water (a Wild West Frontier Town in London <www.tinyurl.com/carayzdw>, far more convenient than Phantom Peak in Nunavut Territory in Canada, or Phantom Peak in Whatcom County, Wash., in the United States. One of the wonders of modern technology is official lists of geographic names, available on-line for both countries.

Sherlock Holmes: Immortal Detective: Selected Writings of Donald A. Redmond, Volume 2 (193 pp., \$26.95), one of two new titles from the Gasogene Press, is edited by Christopher Redmond and collects many of his father's articles, notes, and essays, from 1983 to 2001, both published and unpublished. Don was among the most literate, intelligent, and entertaining of Sherlockian researchers and authors; the nine-page bibliography at the end of the book shows just how widely his interests ranged. It is grand indeed to have his collected work so easily available.

And *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2024 Sherlockian Annual* (96 pp., \$31.95), edited by Steven Doyle, is an anthology that ranges from a celebration of Eille Norwood to a tribute to Walter Klinefelter, with Rob Nunn providing "A Snapshot of Sherlockiana as Seen Through Interviews with 100 Sherlockians" and Ira Brad Matetsky discussing the suppression and resurrection of "The Cardboard Box". Gasogene's web-site's at <www.wessexpress.com>.

Jan 25 #8 "Watson" has now debuted on CBS-TV, and many people have (or haven't) seen it, and have (or haven't) enjoyed it. If you've not seen it, the premiere is available on Paramount+ and (thanks to Howard Ostrom for the report) on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36>. No spoilers here, but the show seems likely to please the CBS-TV viewers who made the CSI and NCIS series (and "Elementary") so popular. The next episodes will air weekly at 9:00 pm beginning on Feb. 16.

Theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is on at the Doris Harper-White Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., through Feb. 2 <www.theatrikos.com>; it also will be produced at the Jewish Community Center in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 20-Dec. 7 <www.jccstl.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is on at the State Theater in Olympia, Wash., through Feb. 9 <www.harlequinproductions.org>. It also is being performed at the Red Barn Theatre in Key West, Fla., through Feb. 22 <www.redbarntheatre.com>. And it will be produced at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee, Fla., May 30-June 15 <www.osceolaarts.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom, Calif., through Feb. 16 <www.sutterstreettheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is coming up at the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College in McHenry, Md., Feb. 19-Mar. 2 <www.performingartsgc.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Professor Moriarty" (a new play) is due at the Majestic Theater in Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 21-Mar. 2; their web-site is at <www.majestictheater.net>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is planned at the Arts Center of Cannon County in Woodbury, Tenn., Feb. 26-Mar. 8 <www.artscenterofcc.com>.

Tim Kelly's version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak, Mich., Feb. 27-Mar. 2; their website is at <www.stagecrafters.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Last Laugh" is due at St. Thomas Churchill Hall in Warrington, Ches., Apr. 25-26 <www.facebook.com/soupproductionsuk>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" is going to be Nick Lane's third Sherlockian play, performed on tour in Britain by Blackeyed Theatre beginning in September <www.tinyurl.com/y24fb6vn>.

C. P. Stancich's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Greek Chorus" is due at the Arapaho Center in Lafayette, Colo., in November <www.tclstage.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Ottawa Little Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 3-20 <www.ottawalittletheatre.com>. We can be sure there will be many more productions of this popular (and seasonal) play in 2025; there were at least 17 productions in 2024. And at least 38 productions of Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville".

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A bit more about the Grolier Club's exhibition of "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers (Jan 25 #2): the catalog twice references Walter Klinefelter (who was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, as "The British Barque *Sophy Anderson*, 1962), once for his *Books About Poictesme: An Essay in Imaginative Bibliography* (1937), and again for his *The Fortsas Bibliohox* (1941). You'll find much more about Klinefelter, who was a friend of Vincent Starrett, in two entries (on May 9 and 13, 2024) at Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com>.

And there's good news for those who weren't able to see the exhibition at the Grolier Club: according to the catalog, the exhibition will be at the Book Club of California in San Francisco, Mar. 17 to July 14, and then on tour through 2028, before returning to the Club Fortsas in Paris. If you would like to know more about the Club Fortsas you are welcome to visit <www.reidbyer.com/fortsas>. Reid will offer some remarks at the opening on Mar. 17, in-person and on-line; register at <www.tinyurl.com/yyy5fk94>.

The Grolier Club's spectacular web-page for the exhibition may well still be available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb>, and well worth exploring. Don't neglect the menu with live links at the left, which will allow you to see close-up views, with commentary, of many of the books on display at the Grolier.

Matt Berry will provide the voice of Sherlock Holmes (in a hallucination) in the seventh episode of the "Watson" television series, according to a post at the TV Insider web-site (Feb. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/yffjmsrh>. And there will be at least ten episodes <www.epguides.com/Watson>.

Bonnie MacBird's *The Serpent Under: Treachery, Twists, and Terror in Baker Street* (New York: Collins Crime Club, 2025; 367 pp., \$26.99), the sixth in her series of novels about Holmes and Watson, lives up to the subtitle by offering readers a thriller as well as a mystery. It begins with a summons to Windsor and a commission from Her Majesty to investigate a bizarre murder, and ends in Baker Street with the mystery solved. You will find more about the book, and other titles in the series, at Bonnie's web-site <www.macird.com>.

Howard Ostrom has reported Project Audion <www.projectaudion.com>, which was launched during the pandemic with the goal of recreating old-time radio broadcasts and making them available at YouTube. They have done many programs, two of them Sherlockian: "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) and "The Curse of Dr. Anselmo" (1945).

Their web-site also offers a link to a wide variety of scripts at the Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com>, where there are free downloads of scripts that include the Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud series [sherlock holmes]; the Orson Welles' version of the William Gillette play [mercury theatre]; the Jack Benny program with a 12-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" [jack benny show]; and a broadcast of "The Lost Special" [suspense].

Feb 25 #2 The fall issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Tom Ue's article on "Storytelling at its Finest", Jessie Amaolo's impressive account of the Library's Digital Archive, and Rebecca Nevset's discussion of Watson's descriptions of Anglo-Indian heroines. Copies of the newsletter are available from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW2APROQo4g> to see Craig Fraley perform an intriguing Sherlockian card trick. One wonders where all the Sherlockian magicians are: the Sherlock Holmes Magic Circle no longer is active.

Twelve Classic Christmas Stories: A Feast of Yuletide Tales is edited by Timothy Larsen (Chicago: Moody, 2024; 328 pp., \$22.99); it's an anthology intended as "a Christian affirmation of yuletide joy and celebration," and includes "The Blue Carbuncle". The book is one of many titles published by the Moody Bible Institute.

G. Washington Coffee sponsored "Sherlock Holmes" radio programs from 1930 to 1935, with William Gillette, Richard Gordon, and Louis Hector starring as Holmes. And there really was a G. Washington: there's an interesting entry for him at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/233urjuu>.

H. S. Carter's article on "Medical Matters in the Sherlock Holmes Stories" in the Dec. 1947 issue of the Glasgow Medical Journal is available on-line at <www.pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5969659>, noted by editor Terri Haugen in this month's issue of Ineffable Twaddle, the newsletter of the Sound of the Baskervilles.

An interesting letter written by F. Scott Fitzgerald was sold by a dealer at the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America's virtual book fair this month <www.fairs.abaa.org/item/1593881128>. Fitzgerald mentions having written an "utterly imitative" Sherlock Holmes story, which may or may not have become his first appearance in print, "The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage" (published in a school magazine in 1909, discovered by Fred Dannay, and published in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1960).

The letter reminded Dan Stashower of something Conan Doyle wrote: "Every writer is imitative at first. My early work, as I look back on it, was a sort of debased composite photograph in which five or six different styles were contending for the mastery."

Jules Feiffer died on Jan. 17. He was a talented cartoonist who began his career at the Village Voice in 1956 and went on to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1986; he also was highly praised for his plays, movie scripts, and children's books. He drew a Sherlockian cartoon for the Village Voice (Apr. 24, 1978, p. 4), conveniently on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2mwau34u>.

Sherlock Holmes paid fifty-five shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it was worth at least five hundred guineas (at the time of "The Cardboard Box"). That was then. Last month the Joachim-Ma Stradivarius was sold at Sotheby's for \$10 million (\$11.3 million including the buyer's premium); you can watch the auction at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLHFGPSZeKQ>. The estimate before the sale was \$12 to \$18 million, and Sotheby's had a promotional video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbqmZBcf_98&t=1s>.

Feb 25 #3 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the winter issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Some news about the next 221B Con, which is coming up on Apr. 11-13 in Atlanta <www.221bcon.com/news/ye2k7hionkue433bm9tzfc4go6br3y>.

Pattie Tierney's *Murder on the Menu: Recipes from Sleuthing Stars* (available free on Amazon Kindle Unlimited, or \$4.99 on basic Kindle) has Sherlockian contributors that include actors Steven Fry (Mycroft), John Thaw (Jonathan Small) and Rosalie Williams (Mrs. Hudson); authors Lloyd Biggle Jr., Loren D. Estleman, Otto Penzler. and Daniel D. Victor; and many others from the world of Sherlockians. A paperback version of the cookbook is due in late spring.

Jennie Paton found another Sherlockian card trick performed by Pit Hartling at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYklko62JPA>; with audio in French, but the closed captions are in English.

Geneviève Page died on Feb. 14. She began her acting career in France in the 1940s, and made her film debut in 1950, going on to star in "Foreign Intrigue" (1956), "El Cid" (1960), "Belle de Jour" (1967), and (as Gabrielle Valladon) in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).

If you wondered about the colorful dinosaurs that Dan Stashower and Lucy Worsley visited in the third episode of her series about Holmes and Conan Doyle, here's their history, with a contemporary illustration, thanks to the Public Domain Review <www.tinyurl.com/yc5xbc9r>. You also can visit them in London now <www.tinyurl.com/3kn89ked>.

Paul Morrissey died on Oct. 28, 2024. He began his career in films in the 1950s, and by the late 1960s was a dedicated collaborator with Andy Warhol at the Factory, going on to direct films that included the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

More about the "Watson" series now running on CBS-TV: almost all the series was filmed in or near Vancouver; some viewers are wondering why they see so much of Pittsburgh. The answer's simple: Craig Sweeny, who created the series, was born in Pittsburgh and grew up there. If you've not seen the first episode, it may still be at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36>.

Railway enthusiasts such as Ralph Edwards, Wayne and Francine Swift, and John Baesch, and others who enjoy the idea of private varnish (you're welcome to look that up) never got round to creating a Sherlockian society, but they'd certainly be delighted to hear about the Sky Railway, which was founded in 2020 from the ashes of the Santa Fe Southern Railroad; the web-site's at <www.skyrailway.com>. And so would John Bennett Shaw, since the railway runs between Santa Fe and Lamy, and it's almost as good an excuse to visit Santa Fe as was a visit to John Bennett Shaw and his spectacular library. Thank to Douglas Preston, you and everyone else in your party can receive a \$15.00 discount through Oct. 1 by using the codeword PENDERGAST when you purchase tickets.

Feb 25 #4 There have been all sort of ways attention was drawn to films over the years. Michael Meer has reported that when "Der Hund von Baskerville" was released in Dusseldorf in 1914, uniformed "messenger boys" wore sashes with the title of the film and walked the streets of the city accompanied by spotted Great Danes. And he has found film, so you can see for yourself <www.tinyurl.com/bdexeuc8>.

There also was some imaginative publicity for "The Lost World" (1925) when it was screened in Wellington, New Zealand, as shown in my seasonal souvenir for this year's birthday festivities in New York. If you've not seen it, just let me know and I'll be happy to send you a scan.

Welcome news for fans of the Granada series that starred Jeremy Brett: the "Sherlock Holmes" CD issued by Jay Records in 2000, with Patrick Gowers' music, is available again (£12.99) <www.tinyurl.com/mwzap53e>.

Anthony R. Lewis died on Feb. 11. He was one of the founders of the New England Science Fiction Association and active in many World Science Fiction Conferences, and his short-story pastiche "The Adventure of the Illegal Alien" was included in the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in Orbit* (1995).

The Feb. 17+24 issue of The New Yorker celebrated the magazine's 100th anniversary, mentioning Sherlock Holmes in a retrospective article by Jill Lepore about the history of the magazine, and (perhaps more important) a "Looking Back" column with reminders from the "Goings On" feature of reviews from the Feb. 21, 1925, issue, one of which (written by Will Hayes Jr.) in its entirety, was: "Moving Pictures. The Lost World, Astor Theatre. Through camera trickery, dinosauri and other beasts of the prehistoric past live again. Interesting because it proves that the camera is a liar."

Peter Lovesey's last Peter Diamond novel is *Against the Grain* (Soho Crime, 2024), in which Diamond visits "the idyllic village of Baskerville (no relation to the Sherlock Holmes story), so he's told."

"Detective Chinatown 1900" is the third in a series of Chinese films that feature Liu Haoran (Qin Fu) as the detective. You can see him perform in Sherlockian costume in a trailer (with subtitles in English) that Aziz Adam has found at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivy8A3GmK6U>.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have interviewed Ira Brad Matetsky, editor of *That Ghastly Face*, the latest volume (about "The Blanched Soldier") in the Baker Street Irregulars Press' Manuscript Series (Jan 25 #3); you can listen to the interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast, online at <www.tinyurl.com/bdh7hmrn>.

The Electronic Freedom Foundation's "Privacy Badger" is an intriguing (and free) app that will help you avoid being tracked by third parties when you visit some web-sites <www.privacybadger.org>; it works nicely on most (but not all) browsers.

If you weren't able to see the new play "Holmes/Poirot" (by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) in St. Paul, Minn., last year, you can suggest it to your local theater; the play is now available for license from the Dramatists Play Service. You can also read the script; an ePub version is available (\$17.50) <www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=6693>.

Feb 25 #5 Further to Al Gregory's offer for sale of four letters written and signed by King Charles III that have serious Sherlockian content (Dec 24 #3), there's much more information about them (with illustrations) in a post by Scott Monty to the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/w6p89tzb>. Three of the letters were written to Douglas Wilmer, and one to his widow, when Charles was still the Prince of Wales.

There's another Sherlockian connection for Prince Charles: in 1969, while he was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, he performed as Sir Cumberbund Overspill in a short skit "The Hound of the Overspills". Alas, there is no recording of the skit, but you can read the script in the June 1969 issue of Bill Rabe's *The Commonplace Book*, a wonderful compilation of anything Bill thought interesting and happily photocopied for his CPB.

The Bookseller has reported (Feb. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/hde67c89> that Hodder & Stoughton has signed with Lucy Worsley for three new books, one of them a biography of Conan Doyle. Her U.S. publisher is Pegasus Books.

Yet another Sherlockian card trick, reported by Jennie Paton, with a tutorial so you can perform it <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bs7Ud9s8onw>.

Occasionally a book or play or film turns up with a Sherlockian title, but isn't Sherlockian: Jane Upton's new play "(the) Woman" certainly is one of them <www.tinyurl.com/4r8fwrwn>.

Jim Ballinger has entertained the Bootmakers of Toronto (and others) for many years, and he has now composed (and performed) songs for all of the 60 stories; you can hear them all, and his other Sherlockian songs, at his YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/@sherlocksongs221b/videos>.

The nominees for the Agatha Awards from *Malice Domestic* include Elizabeth Crowens' *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskerville* (for best first mystery novel) (Feb 24 #8), James Ponti's *The Sherlock Society* (best children's/young adult mystery novel) (Aug 24 #4), and Evan Friss' *The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore* (best mystery nonfiction) (Jan 25 #5); the full list of nominees is at <www.tinyurl.com/4y89y742>. Donna Andrews, author of *The Hen of the Baskervilles* (Jul 13 #3) and the editor of the anthology *School of Hard Knox* (Oct 23 #2) will receive a lifetime achievement award.

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." New issues are published near the end of each month, and PDFs of current and past issues, with recent issues in full color and with live links, are always available at <www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39>. If you occasionally forget that a PDF of a new issue is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.

If you would like to run a word-search on a large file that has all of the text since March 1985 (which is when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and posts it at the Beacon Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc4mre2j>.

Feb 25 #6 Theatrics; Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Burt-
ness Theatre in Grand Forks, N.D., through Mar. 2; web-site at
<www.burtness.und.edu>. It also will be performed at the Cape Rep Theatre
in Brewster, Mass., Mar. 6-8 <www.caperep.org>; and at the Shoeni Theatre
in Mendocino, Calif., Mar. 6-Apr. 6 <www.mendocinotheatre.org>. Also at
the Chemainus Theatre in Chemainus, B.C., May 2 to June 1; their web-site
is at <www.chemainusthetrefestival.ca>. And at the Strand Theater in Wat-
ertown, N.Y., May 8-10 <www.littletheatreofwatertown.com>.

The musical "The Remarkable Mister Holmes" (by Daniel Lincoln, David El-
lenstein, and Omri Schein) will be performed at the Laguna Playhouse in
Laguna Beach, Calif., Mar. 5-30 <www.lagunaplayhouse.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at the
Cannon Street Arts Center in Charleston, S.C., Mar. 6-29; web-site's at
<www.puretheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at The Coro in Ulverston, Cum-
bria, Mar. 11-14 <www.thecoro.co.uk>; at Barton College in Wilson, N.C., on
Mar. 13-16 <www.barton.edu/baskerville>; and at the Allen Contemporary
Theatre in Allen, Tex., Mar. 14-30 <www.allencontemporarytheatre.net>.

Kent R. Brown's "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Comic Thriller Starring
Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" will be performed at the Greenhills High
School in Ann Arbor, Mich., Mar. 13-15 <www.greenhillschool.org>.

"Steamin' Sherlock and the Hound of the Govanhillies" will be performed at
Inn Deep in Glasgow, Mar. 25-27, during the Glasgow International Comedy
Festival <www.tinyurl.com/yzv5d9k3>. "A demonic dug, a famous detective
duo, and some drunken debauchery...it's all going down in Govanhill."

"Sherlock Holmes and the Presidential Scandal" is due at the Greater Escam-
bia Council for the Arts in Atmore, Ala., Apr. 24-May 4 <www.gecarts.org>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is due at the
Avon High school in Avon, Ind., Apr. 25-27 <www.avonhs.booktix.com>. And
at Saint Mary's Parish Hall in Brantford, Ont., June 6-8; their web-site's
at <www.ichthystheatre.ca>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Thief of Antiquity" will be performed at the The-
atre Royal in Winchester, June 11-12 <www.blueappletheatre.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (a new musical comedy writ-
ten by Humphrey Ker and David Reed, and with songs by Tim Rice and Andrew
Lloyd Webber) will be performed at the Birmingham Rep in Birmingham, West
Midlands, Nov. 14-Jan. 11 <www.birmingham-rep.co.uk>. There was an arti-
cle about the show in the Guardian (Feb. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/2v9jn9xp>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and Case of the Fallen Soufflé" will be
performed at the Stage West Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 12-29; web-
site at <www.stagewest.org>.

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Some non-Sherlockian original artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele was offered by Heritage Auctions last month <www.tinyurl.com/2v29ff7r>; his illustrations for Ellis Parker Butler's short story "The False Gods of Doc Weaver" were sold for \$450, including the buyer's premium. The story appeared in the Sept. 1901 issue of The Century Magazine, and it's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4trawwrj>, allowing you can compare the artwork with what appeared in the magazine (and read the story, of course).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's excursion to India (Feb 24 #2) is getting prominent mention in the Indian press, including an article in the Kolkata Telegraph (Mar. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/mrjtnsr5>.

Ray Betzner has reported Scott Heller's interview with Mark Greaney (who writes the "Gray Man" espionage series) in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review (Mar. 2). Heller asked: "You're organizing a literary dinner party. Which three writers, dead or alive, do you invite?" Greaney replied: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Winston Churchill, and David Sedaris. That would be a weird night."

The Deadline website reports that the series "Sherlock & Daughter" (with David Thewlis as Holmes) will debut on The CW on Apr. 16.

"I'm going to be doing an 'Enola Holmes 3' this year," according to Millie Bobby Brown, at the Collider web-site (Mar. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/54w57nfr>. "We start filming in the coming weeks. I'm very excited." There's no word on when we might expect to see the third film on Netflix, but it's likely to turn up next year.

Ross E. Davies' *Casey at the Bat and the Supreme Court* (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2024; 163 pp., \$65.00 hardbound/\$35.00 softbound) is subtitled as a short and incomplete chronicle of connections; it is an interesting and amusing exploration of the now-legendary poem's history, baseball, and (as Ross promises in his preface) the "closenesses and distances between law and literature." It's also Sherlockian, closing with comment on Martin Gardner's *The Annotated Casey at the Bat*, and his explanation of the connection between Casey's Mudville and Sherlock Holmes. You can order the book at <www.tinyurl.com/bdfhxa9m>.

But: if all you want is to know what that connection is, Gardner explained that the reason one cannot today find Mudville in Kansas today is that the town's civic leaders, hoping to escape its disgraceful image, changed its name to Moorville; that didn't work, and the town withered on the vine (so to speak) and vanished, which is why, now, Moorville can be found only in the text of "The Three Garridebs".

The Letters of Noël Coward, edited and with commentary by Barry Day (Alfred A. Knopf, 2007) has an interesting paragraph, in which Ian Fleming, Leslie Howard, David Niven, Roald Dahl, Alexander and Zoltan Korda, and Cary Grant are reported as having something in common with Coward: they were all recruited by William Stephenson to assist the British Security Coordination, the administrative headquarters for the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Special Operations Executive (SOE). It was the SOE who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because they were headquartered in Baker Street.

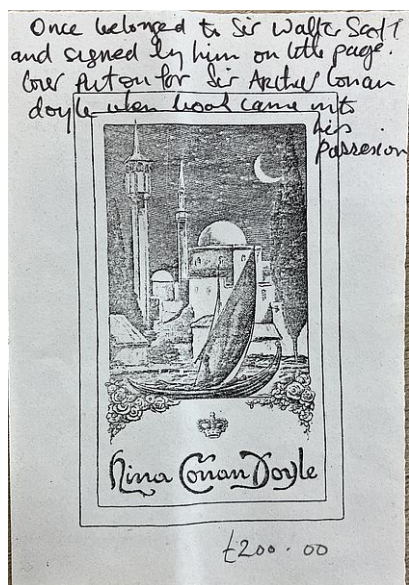
Mar 25 #2 Rebecca Romney's *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend* (New York: Marysue Ricci/Simon & Schuster, 2025; 453 pp., \$29.99), is as much a memoir as it is an exploration of authors Austen admired; the introduction is nicely Sherlockian, as might be expected, since Rebecca is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. She is also an expert book dealer, an energetic and informed collector, and a writer who kindly shares the fun she has had in her quest. Recommended.

Rebecca also has an on-going series of short videos covering a wide range of collectables (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), explaining various aspects of book collecting <www.youtube.com/@rebecca.romney/shorts>.

Laurie R. King's *Knave of Diamonds* (New York: Bantam Books, 2025; 318 pp., \$30.00) is the 20th title in her series about Mary Russell, her (now) husband Sherlock Holmes, and her Uncle Jake, and it's a welcome addition to the series that began with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. It was Uncle Jake who gave young Mary her throwing knife, and taught her how to use it; she hasn't heard from him in years, but now (in 1925) Jake has returned and he involves Mary, and Sherlock, in a search for the Irish Crown Jewels (which were stolen from Dublin Castle in 1907 and never recovered). No spoilers here, but you'll have fun with the book.

Offered at Forum Auctions in London on Mar. 6: a book owned and signed by Walter Scott, and then owned by Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/3sjmy5yx>. Estimated at £200-£300, it sold for £750 (plus a 26% buyer's premium). Of interest for Doyleans was the laid-in bookplate of Nina Conan Doyle, the wife of Conan Doyle's son Denis. Has anyone ever seen her bookplate in another book? Could this be something truly new?

A Sir Arthur Conan Doyle bookplate with an elaborate family coat of arms is relatively common, and confusing to collectors who don't know that Adrian Conan Doyle obtained the family coat of arms from the Dublin Herald and added the bookplate to the books in his father's library after Adrian moved into the Château de Lucens; some of the books had been acquired by Adrian after his father's death.



R.P. O'Donnell, author of *No Comfort for the Dead* (Jan 25 #7) has posted to CrimeReads an excellent essay on "Sherlock Holmes in the World"; it's online at <www.crimereads.com/sherlock-holmes-in-the-world>.

Jan C. Prager ("Lowenstein of Prague") died on Nov. 18, 2024. Jan was a pioneer in environmental protection, first with the Sandy Hook Laboratory in Jersey, and then with the Environmental Protection Agency in Rhode Island. His grand sense of humor inspired him to use, on visits to the EPA headquarters in Washington, an official identity card issued to his miniature poodle Phineas T. Buzzerhound, and it took almost three years before an alert security guard actually looked at the card. Jan received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1975.

Mar 25 #3 Christopher Plummer's *In Spite of Myself: A Memoir* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008) is a detailed, and interesting account of the life and career of a noted actor whose credits include appearances as Sherlock Holmes on television in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and on the screen in "Murder by Decree" (1979). He also toured in the one-man play "Barrymore" (1997), becoming one of the very few actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and an actor who played Sherlock Holmes



"Holmes discovered that we had come without our spoon-bait for jack," according to Watson (in "Shoscombe Old Place") "which absolved us from fishing for the day." While that may not be the most memorable of Watson's sentences in the Canon, it certainly presents a puzzle for readers who don't have access to annotations. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a sheet of five stamps showing freshwater fishing lures, one of them a spoon lure. "Spoon lures have been around since the 1800s and are named for the concave shape," according to their press release, which adds that "Spoons have remained popular because their unique movement and glimmer under water are so effective at catching fish," such as bass, pike and trout." And "jack" is a common name for pike.

Rebecca Rego Barry's *The Vanishing of Carolyn Wells: Investigations into a Forgotten Mystery Author* (New York: Post Hill, 2024; 332 pp., \$30.00) is a detailed account of the life and career of a best-selling author who wrote more than 80 mysteries and many other books from the 1890s into the 1940s, but now is largely ignored by those who write about the genre. There are many mentions of Conan Doyle and Holmes (she wrote two Sherlockian ballads and two pastiches), and Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett.

Barry also reports an anonymous article in the Apr. 1905 issue of the Century Magazine on "President Roosevelt as a Reader" that praises Theodore Roosevelt as "one of the greatest readers we have among our literary men" and lists, among the many books he read in 1901-1903, Conan Doyle's "The White Company".

Harold E. Niver ("The Man on the Tor") died on Mar. 17. He contributed to the Baker Street Journal and many other Sherlockian society publications. He obtained a SHROLOK license plate and his many interests included music and especially William Gillette. Tyke and his wife Teddie founded the Men on the Tor in 1977, and impersonated the Gillettes at Gillette Castle on weekends beginning in 2001, and in Victorian costume celebrated their 50th wedding this year at the Castle. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.

Michael Cohen's *The Golden Era of Sherlock Holmes and His Contemporaries* (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2024; 258 pp., \$16.95) begins with the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes short stories in The Strand Magazine, and goes on to discuss the wide variety of authors whose detectives, amateur and professional, were inspired by Conan Doyle's success. Cohen's book is a detailed and informed guide to the genre. But (fair warning): he seems to have written for academics, offering plot summaries that will spoil things for those who would prefer to be surprised when they read the stories. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's recent interview with Cohen at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/29hja47n> offers much more about the book, and its author.

Mar 25 #4 Mark your calendar for July 26, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter (and play in) his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It's well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny <dendobry@ptd.net>. You can see colorful images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html> from his similar event in 2021.

The Royal Mint happily offers a wide range of collectibles in addition to providing pocket change, and they have just added a £5 coin honoring John Lennon to their "Music Legends" series <www.tinyurl.com/2hdrbdjt>; there's a Sherlockian connection for Lennon, of course: his self-portrait in Sherlockian costume will be found in his *A Spaniard in the Works* (1965), along with his Shamrock Wolms and Doctored Whopper parody "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield".

Sharon Klinger died on Mar. 6. Her husband Les Klinger described her as his inspiration and as his head cheerleader, and he thanked her for proof-reading every word of his Edgar Award-winning *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories*. She was honored as *The Woman* by the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009.

Bill Seil has noted the availability (for 99¢) <www.tinyurl.com/444mdj7c> of a ringtone of the theme music from the BBC "Sherlock" series.

Ed Rampell's review, in the *Progressive Magazine* (Mar. 19) of Francis MacDonnell's new book *Policing Show Business: J. Edgar Hoover, the Hollywood Blacklist, and Cold War Movies*, mentions what MacDonnell calls "the Sunset Street Irregulars" (movie industry insiders who spied and snitched on colleagues to Hoover's investigators).

If you missed Reid Byers' remarks at the opening of the exhibition of imaginary books at the Book Club of California (Feb 25 #1), they're on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=M75FjR59Tes>. You will get to see two of the exhibition's Sherlockian items: Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy* and "The Giant Rate of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of *The Strand Magazine* (Jan 25 #2).

Many people hoping to find recruits interested in founding a Sherlockian society have in the past relied on the classified advertisements in their local newspapers, but now the Internet has essentially replaced the classifieds. But newspapers do have web-sites, and they can be useful, as was the *Albuquerque Journal* on Mar. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/3bvykt9e>.

The oil-on-canvas painting "Chimney-sweep" by Swedish artist Frans Wilhelm Odemark (1880) is in a private collection, but you can see it at Wikimédia <www.tinyurl.com/47yfxupj>. And in the March issue of *The Moor*, the journal of the Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden. It's a grand reminder of what Watson wrote (in "The Five Orange Pips") when he said that "the wind cried and sobbed like a child in the chimney." That child was of course a chimney-sweep, as readers of the story in the November 1891 issue of *The Strand Magazine* would have known.

Mar 25 #5 Simon Fisher-Becker died on Mar. 9. A British character actor, he began his career on television in the early 1990s, and went on to provide voices for audio and podcast series. He voiced Arthur Morstan in "The Ghost of of Chammersmith Manor" (2022), an episode in the Overton Audios "Sherlock Holmes" mini-series that starred Connor Chadwick (Holmes) and John N. Harper (Watson). The mini-series is on-line at YouTube, and the episode is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hVnpvwHkHg>.

More about the "Watson" series now running on CBS-TV: it seems there will be a break in the broadcast schedule (one assumes there are some serious Sunday sports coming up). The next-to-last episode will air on Apr. 13, and the last episode will air in two parts on May 4 and 11. In the meantime, there's an interview with series costume designer Kerry Weinrauch at the ProductionHUB blog (Mar. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/26szvpna>, and another with Ritchie Coster (Shinwell Johnson) at the Ghostly Gallery podcast, on-line at You-tube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXrYPE30hyI>. And there's more news: the network announced (Mar. 26) that the series has been renewed for a second season <www.tinyurl.com/5f6kpukc>.

Leonard Goldberg's *A Scandalous Affair* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2025, 251 pp., \$27.95), the eighth title in his series about Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who has learned much from her father and is now working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr., is set in 1918, when they are set in pursuit of a truly evil villain who is blackmailing a high official in the British government. It is nicely done, and the author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Undershaw, formerly the home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and now used by the Stepping Stones School for children with special needs, made the news with a story in the Bordon Herald (Mar. 18) reporting that the school had been given an "outstanding" rating from Ofsted <www.tinyurl.com/cbpasp43>. Ofsted is the British government's Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services, and Skills (definitely needing an abbreviation).

The Lego Group began manufacturing its interlocking toy bricks in Denmark in 1949, and according to Wikipedia, it's now the largest toy manufacturer in the world by sales. So far they have issued a "detective" figure that is in Sherlockian costume, but now there are rumors that this year there will be an official Sherlock Holmes booknook. Jennie Paton found some of the rumors on-line <www.tinyurl.com/4j52b4wd> <www.tinyurl.com/3udecfcs>. Stay tuned for more news, if there is some.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), was created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20 #3), and in May 2024 they presided over Brettcon 2024: The 40th Anniversary Celebration in Guildford in Surrey (Feb 24 #1). The podcast continues, and it is well worth exploring, especially for their new posting of Gary Leach's interview with Brett in 1985 <www.tinyurl.com/5ambbjjt>. They've also commissioned a new run of the "Secret of Sherlock Holmes" T-shirts, designed by Leach, and previously available only at the Wyndham Theatre during the run of the play (1988-1989); they're available (while supplies last) at Etsy for \$29.99 <www.etsy.com/listing/1870427276> in various colors and sizes.

Mar 25 #6 It's (sort of) Sherlockian: a new eight-episode Netflix series "The Residence" offers a fictional murder scandal involving the staff of the White House, and began streaming on Mar. 20. "The Engineer's Thumb" is the title of the seventh episode, and there are other Canonical echoes. It was praised by most reviewers, and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/hnxf3upk>; as for why "The Residence" is Sherlockian, just see the interview with showrunner Paul William Davies at the Shondaland web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3a66vtwr>.

Theatrics; Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Collaborative Theatre Project Playhouse in Medford, Ore., through Apr. 13 <www.ctpmedford.org>. It also will be performed at the Village Hall in Nayland, Suff., Apr. 2-5 <www.villageplayers.co.uk>.

Ben Abbott's new play "Shut Up Sherlock" is on at the Great American Melodrama in Oceano, Calif., through Apr. 16 <www.americanmelodrama.com>.

Miriam Cyr's "A Case of the Heart" (an adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") will have a staged reading at the Gloucester State in Gloucester, Mass., on Apr. 5 <www.punctuate4.org>.

Jacklyn Fazio's "Sherlock Holmes and the Familiar Face" will be performed again, during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., Apr. 5-6 and Oct. 25-Nov. 2 <www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend>.

Stand-up comedian Robert Rule will perform "The Sherlock Files" at the Interchange Theater Co-op in Milwaukee, Wis., on Apr. 5; the web-site is at <www.interchangetheater.com>.

Martin Parsons' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Colin Baker and Terry Molloy as Holmes and Watson) will tour again in Britain, Apr. 7-19; the web-site's at <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk>.

T. S. Forsyth's "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" will be on tour in and near Sacramento, Calif, Apr. 24-May 2 <www.placerrep.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Kootenay River Theatre in Creston, B.C., Apr. 3-5 <www.facebook.com/CrestonFootlighters>. Also at the Civic Arts Theatre in Oswaldtwistle, Lancs., June 5-7; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/5cpvxet9>.

Joshua L Peugh's ballet "My Dear Watson" (with music by Brandon Carson) is scheduled at the Catherine B. Berges Theatre in St. Louis, Mo., May 30-31 <www.saintlouisdanceheatre.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is due at the Gloucester Stage in Gloucester, Mass., Sept. 4-27 <www.gloucesterstage.com>.

Fiona Maher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Man Who Believed in Fairies" will be performed at the Greenwich Theatre in London, Oct. 10-11; web-site at <www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk>.

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Judge Dee and Lao Sheh met with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in London in 1924 in John Shen Yen Nee and SJ Rozan's "The Killing of Henry Davenport" in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Jan./Feb. 2023), and they then appeared in *The Murder of Mr. Ma* (Apr 24 #2), The second book in the series is *The Railway Conspiracy* (New York: Soho Crime, 2025; 394 pp., \$25.95), like the first, not Sherlockian but inspired by the Canon. Judge Dee and Lao Sheh are again in London in 1924, pursuing an interesting assortment of international villains.

An apartment at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco sold has been sold for \$999,000 <www.tinyurl.com/bph66psk>, according to Samantha Wolov. In the 1920s the building was the home of Dr. Albert Abrams, and Conan Doyle visited Abrams (but never stayed there, as claimed now by the owner). The entry for Abrams at Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Abrams> is entertaining.

Sherlock Holmes at Universal (1942-1946), Volume 1, by Scott Allen Nollen and Kris Allen Marentette (Orlando: BearManor, 2025; 395 pp., \$33.00), is a grand exploration of the Rathbone/Bruce films, with a chapter on the two made with 20th-Century Fox and then a chapter each for the first six made with Universal. The authors are dedicated enthusiasts who dig deeply into each film, discussing scripts and finished films, and offering hundreds of illustrations that include lobby cards and publicity portraits. They have interviewed actors and writers, and tell many stories about the people who worked on the series. One can assume that the second volume, covering the remaining six Universal films, will be just as thorough and interesting.

The Sub-Librarians of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association's meeting during the annual conference of the ALA in San Diego in 2024 included a panel discussion of "Writing Sherlock Holmes into the 21st Century" that featured Laurie R. King, Nicholas Meyer, and Leslie S. Klinger; a recording's now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4pf74v77>.

The times they are a-changing: it has been many years since the first mention of Jim Weiss' audiocassette recordings for children in this newsletter (Apr 92 #8). As technology changed, he moved from audiocassettes to CDs, and now he's moving from CDs to MP3. His long list of recordings includes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Sherlock Holmes for Children* (with narrations of four stories) and *Mystery! Mystery!* (which includes one of the Sherlock Holmes stories). You can purchase CDs (while they're still in stock) and MP3s, and listen to samples, at <www.welltrainedmind.com>, and learn more about his recordings at <www.jimweiss.com>.

This newsletter has appeared monthly for many years, but the Internet now allows you to read Sherlockian (and Doylean) news daily on Facebook. Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock on Screens" Facebook page has more than 8,000 members worldwide, covers more than just film and television, and offers (according to Howard) more Sherlockian news and photos on a daily basis than any other Sherlockian source of information. You can see it all easily at <www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesonscreens>.

Apr 25 #2 The Andaman Islands are in the news again. Mykhailo Viktorovych Polyakov, an American YouTuber, faces up to eight years in prison if he is convicted for the crime of visiting North Sentinel Island, which is protected by the Indian government; the Sentinelese are believed to be one of the world's most isolated indigenous people. Polyakov is reported to have arrived on an inflatable boat with a coconut and a can of Diet Coke intended as gifts to the natives, but he wasn't able to find anybody. The BBC News story (Apr. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/mr28k97t> is only one of many press reports on Polyakov's adventures.

Another comic strip: "Barney & Clyde" (by Gene and Dan Weingarten and David Clark) on Mar. 30 <www.gocomics.com/barneyandclyde/2025/03/30> dealt with copyright and (among others) Sherlock Holmes.

Max Bogdan at Craftsman Pipes offers hand-carved briar pipes for smokers and collectors, including a pipe showing Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes <www.craftsmanpipes.com/product/sherlock-holmes-wood-tobacco-pipe>. Our thanks to Adrienn Fray of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary for the report at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ywnmx8j7>.

It's always interesting when something new about Conan Doyle turns up in the news: on Apr. 11 the Al Hakam web-site reported on news from 100 years earlier <www.tinyurl.com/ncerducw>. A Google search turned up a bit more <www.tinyurl.com/3a797b5c> and <www.tinyurl.com/3dr8dwdm>.

Gregory Urbach's *Dashiell Hammett vs. Sherlock Holmes: In Search of Jack the Ripper* (2024; 294 pp., \$16.99) opens with Hammett in London in 1929, researching *The Maltese Falcon*, and with some time travel he finds himself in London in 1888, joining forces with Holmes and Watson in pursuing Jack the Ripper; he gets to meet the Queen, and (of course) succeeds in ending the vicious serial killer's reign of terror.

The ACD Society's "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project" (presided over by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder) has reached page 10 of the manuscript of the story, halfway through the manuscript, and the Project's a fine demonstration of making scholarship available on-line; you can explore the results at <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/10/bjg10.html>.

The ACD Society also has reported on the discovery of Conan Doyle's reply to the Toast to Literature at the 1901 annual meeting of the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club, and you can read what he had to say on that occasion at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8y9bsy>. The society's web-site <www.acdsociety.com> is well worth exploring, including the link to A Common Newsletter.

Peter Lovesey died on Apr. 10. He was a prolific mystery writer, winning many honors and awards in Britain and the United States, and his work included Sherlockian pastiches and a bit of Sherlockian poetry. You'll find what he had to say about himself at <www.peterlovesey.com/about>, but with no mention of his interest in the Olympics; in his article on "Conan Doyle and the Olympics" (*Journal of Olympic History*, Dec. 2001) he discussed the famous photograph of the end of the 1908 marathon that some believe shows Conan Doyle helping Dorando Pietri across the finish line, and was able to identify the two Olympic officials who did help Pietri (Jun 02 #4).

Apr 25 #3 The Japanese are still celebrating last year's 40th anniversary of the "Sherlock Hound" television series: Jennie Paton has reported that Wayô Records will issue the original soundtrack of the entire series, and the first animated film, on two LPs or two CDs, accompanied by an eight-page illustrated booklet <www.tinyurl.com/uvu2hj58>.

Many Sherlockian societies met via Zoom during the pandemic, and some continue to do so. Some of the societies record their meetings and make the recordings available on-line at web-sites or YouTube channels (or both). One of the societies is The Sherlocki-anns, who are fond of Irene Adler's younger sister Ann Adler <www.travelswithsherlock.com/sherlocki-anns> (the web-site includes a link to their YouTube channel). Some other societies record the speakers at in-person meetings and make the recordings available at their web-sites (one of them is The Red Circle; their web-site's at <www.redcircledc.org>. Are there other societies doing this?

"Kabukicho Sherlock" was a Japanese television anime series (Apr 19 #2 and Mar 20 #6) that has an entry at Wikipedia <www.tinyurl.com/3ccrzt9>. But there's nothing that explains the "pervert detective who loves rakugo" inscription on a tie-in hardcover notebook spotted by Jennie Paton in an advertisement at a Japanese website <www.tinyurl.com/58pnvmn7>.

The web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has many useful features, including the Gazetteer <www./gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>, an opportunity to "discover all about the important locations from the stories about Sherlock Holmes," with photographs of many of them. Another is the Scrapbook <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook>, maintained by Ashley Mayo, who has indexed the Sherlock Holmes Journal and provided both text of the stories and text of what has been said about them (and about other general topics) in the SHJ.

Watson said you hear of the Shoscombe spaniels at every dog show (in Shoscomb Old Place"), and described them as "the most exclusive breed in England." They're not among today's most vulnerable breeds, according to an article in Country Life (Apr. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/yc69yab9>.

"Shall the world, then, be overrun by Sherlock Holmes television series? No, no, horrible!" isn't quite what Holmes once said (in "The Dying Detective"), but it does seem appropriate. Older series are streaming on the cable channels, "Watson" has been renewed for a second season by CBS-TV, and "Sherlock & Daughter" (now running on The CW) has received some nice reviews (for its actors, if not so much for its plotting). It's interesting that the Indian film industry, which continues to turn out modern detective-and-assistant features that proudly claim to have been inspired by Holmes and Watson, has a new film in pre-production: according to Variety (Mar. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/bdh7jh7z>, director Deepa Mehta is developing "Sher" (which she describes as "a complete fun take on Watson"). Sherlock Holmes is dead, and Watson, in Calcutta, finds that Holmes has an illegitimate daughter, born from an affair with a young Indian woman while he was at Cambridge. One can't be entirely sure about the new film (as so often is the case when something's pre-production <www.tinyurl.com/yc6yy4jy>.

Apr 25 #4 Sherlock Holmes called it "the great convict prison of Princetown" (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), but it's now HMP Dartmoor (HMP being an abbreviation for His Majesty's Prison). And it has made the news: the Observer reported (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/mumjsfux> that the prison was closed last year after high levels of radon gas were discovered in the prison. It's unlikely that the prison will ever reopen, but the government is still paying Prince William's Duchy of Cornwall \$1.5 million a year to lease the land.

"An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" will be held at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 17 (6:00-7:30 pm UK, and 1:00-2:30 pm EST); the event will be live-streamed, and you can register at <www.tinyurl.com/33c4senc>. There will be celebrity guests, live performances, a silent auction, and a lot more by way of entertainment. Ticket-holders also will have access to a recording at any time after the event.

James Polchin's *Shadow Men* (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2024; 354 pp., \$29.00) is a detailed examination of a complicated Jazz Age crime in New York (not all that many people confess to murder, and are then tried and acquitted), with a chapter devoted to Conan Doyle, who in 1922 was in the U.S. lecturing on Spiritualism, and said during an interview that the case would have made an "ideal Sherlock mystery."

Tim Major's *The Defaced Man* (New York: Titan, 2022; 254 pp., \$14.95), one of many titles in Titan's series of "new adventures of Sherlock Holmes," is set in 1896, when Holmes' client is the photographer Eadweard Muybridge (one of the pioneers in the study of motion-picture projection), involved in a complicated mystery that Holmes (of course) eventually solves.

The U.S. Postal Service does a lot more than just deliver the mail (even though there's less and less mail to deliver now that so many people use the Internet). Their Criminal Investigation Group works hard to prevent people from defrauding the public, and you can listen to and read about some of their work to their "mailin' it" podcast; it's available on-line at <www.usps-mailin-it.simplecast.com/episodes>.

Brad Keefauver's *Holmes in an Hour or Two* (May 23 #5) is aptly subtitled "A Sherlock Holmes Fan's First Sherlockian Chronology, or Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible," and you can listen to Brad talk about the book, and much more, in an interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/bdf2afwu>.

The Torists International S.S. have announced that the 66th running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will be held on June 29. The Watsonians are waiting to determine the meeting place, as the track is still under construction." Stay tuned for details from Jonathan Shimberg <www.toristintss@gmail.com>.

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial has started work on *The Complete Steele Portfolio*, reproducing all of his Sherlockian illustrations, from original artwork when possible, in 2027 <www.tinyurl.com/59jkzjf6>. They also are planning to upload to their YouTube channel in mid-May recordings of the lectures at their illustration seminar at the Salmagundi Club last year.

Apr 25 #5 The April issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Phillip Bergem's article "Getting to Know Jerry Margolin" (explaining how much fun Jerry had as a collector, occasioned by his donation of his spectacular collection of original Sherlockian artwork to the University, and much more news from and about the collections). Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Bruce Beaman has reported that some PBS stations are airing a six-episode series "Ghost Stories" that includes Mark Gatiss' dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Lot 249" (which was broadcast on BBC Two in December 2023), and you can watch it if you have PBS Passport. You may need to pretend that you are somewhere else (try ZIP code 54401). The other five episodes are dramatizations of stories by M. R. James, and all are nicely done.

Further to the item (Mar 25 #5) about a rumored Sherlock Holmes book nook from Lego, there is indeed more news: Ross Davies has kindly noted that a sketch has been posted to the Internet <www.instagram.com/p/DIymXdbJzZE>. There's also video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1GKODegE_Q>.

Modern technology can be nice indeed: Adrienn Fray has reported from Hungary that Owen Davies is posting to YouTube remastered 4K versions of the Jeremy Brett "Sherlock Holmes" series <www.tinyurl.com/39683kjj>. 4K is a horizontal resolution of about 4,000 pixels, which makes things crisp indeed on your computer monitor.

The Beijing Global Times reported (Apr. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/ypfppdr2> on the announcement that Chinese authorities have identified the tomb of Di Renjie, who was a renowned statesman of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). He is much better known in the west as Judge Dee, compared to Sherlock Holmes by Vincent Starrett, noted by Ray Betzner <www.tinyurl.com/ynnfmzmbv>. Judge Dee also has an informative entry at Wikipedia.

You can see the dust-jacket art and read a bit about Nicholas Meyer's next novel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing*, due from the Mysterious Press on Aug. 26, at <www.tinyurl.com/3czwkuu6>.

There was a nice panel on "What's So Great about Sherlock?" at Malice Domestic, with Carla Coupe as moderator, and Hal Glatzer, Delia Pitts, and Dan Stashower as panelists. Delia reminded everyone how good the Netflix series "The Residence" (Mar 25 #4) is, noting how many echoes of the Canon there are, if you look for them.

Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 10,000 entries (with more than 25,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the new list will be available on-line later this year at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>. Howard decided at the end of 2024 to add new modern entries only for screen and television (there just is too much new material on stage, television, and the Internet), but he'll continue to pursue older entries that turn up as more and more resources are digitized and made available on-line.

Apr 25 #6 The Sherlock Holmes (the iconic pub in Northumberland Street in London) has reopened, after being closed for renovation. Their colorful website's at <www.tinyurl.com/mr3c56ex>, and you can read press reports at <www.tinyurl.com/396eh2r2> and <www.tinyurl.com/bdd6fnxb>. The Sherlockian material, including the spectacular recreation of the sitting-room, has been carefully preserved, Roger Johnson reports (he and Jean Upton have been Sherlockian consultants for the pub for many years).

Theatrics: Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Hanover High School in Mechanicsville, Va., through May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/445pcn44>.

Ollie Jaye's "Sherlock Holmes and the Presidential Scandal" is on at the GECA Theater in Atmore, Ala. through May 4 <www.gecart.org>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the ISB Theatre in Brussels, May 9-10 <www.tinyurl.com/37mf7n5x>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is scheduled at the Elmhurst History Museum in Elmhurst, Ill., May 9-18 <www.greenmantheatre.org>.

Yinneboma Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes' Mysterious Case in Camelot" will be performed in Grass Valley, Calif., on May 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2fecjybw>. Holmes and Watson find themselves in Camelot alongside King Arthur, Merlin, and the Knights of the Round Table.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at Attic Productions in Fincastle, Va., May 15-25 <www.atticproductions.info>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson, Ariz., May 18-June 7 <www.atc.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Bellevue Little Theatre in Bellevue, Neb., June 6-22 <www.theblt.org>; and at Dudley Hall in Cleburne, Tex., July 18-Aug. 9 <www.plaza-theatre.com>.

Shari Prestwood's "Sherlock Holmes and the Haunted Theatre" is due at the Loxley Civic Center in Loxley, Ala., on June 8 <www.commediadelarte.org>.

Margaret Raether's "Sherlock Holmes and the Precarious Position" is coming up at the Clackamas Repertory Theatre in Oregon City, Ore., June 26-July 20 <www.clackamasrep.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is going to be produced at the Avalon Theatre in Marysville, Ohio, June 27-29 <www.silvrsceneplayers.com>. Also at the Ghostlight Theatre in Sun City West, Ariz., Oct. 16-26; their web-site's at <www.ghostlightaz.com>.

"The Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, July 31-Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/5bvkzjs6>; their motto is "No script, Sherlock," and they're celebrating the 10th anniversary of the show's debut at the Fringe <www.improvsherlock.com>.

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Nicholas Meyer's *Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2025; 248 pp., \$26.96) is (perhaps) the last in his long series of Sherlockian novels (his *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* was published in 1974, and he has been writing Sherlockian stories for many years more than Conan Doyle). It's a well-told tale of chicanery and forgery and murder in the world of fine art; the author confesses that he has been a forger since he began the series, and of course he has been thoroughly successful at it. His web-site's at www.nicholas-meyer.com.

The LEGO Book Nook is now available, with 1,359 pieces (and instructions) www.lego.com/en-us/product/icons-10351-10351. There's also an informative video at www.tinyurl.com/2jfhfyvd.

"Powwows: Celebrating Native American Culture" is the theme of a new sheet of stamps from the U.S. Postal Service www.tinyurl.com/yck7syu8. It is possible that Jefferson Hope witnessed a powwow when he lived amongst the Indians (as noted in "A Study in Scarlet").

Benedict Cumberbatch Reads Sherlock Holmes' Rediscovered Railway Mysteries (an audiobook with four new stories by John Taylor), released by BBC Audio in 2015, is available (free) at YouTube www.tinyurl.com/3xasesht. Many people are now listening to audiobooks at YouTube, and many more Sherlockian recordings can be found there.

The CBS-TV series "Watson" has been renewed for a second season. If you had trouble recording and watching episodes when preceding sports programs ran long, the entire series is conveniently available on-line at the network's web-site www.cbs.com/shows/watson.

The restored (and most complete) version of "The Lost World" (1925), released on DVD by Image Entertainment in 2012 and by Flicker Alley on Blu-ray in 2017, is highly recommended to anyone who's not seen this classic film; it is still available from Flicker Alley www.tinyurl.com/yekt43r4, discounted to \$34.95. There are many added features on the Blu-ray, and a trailer at the web-site.

Alex Hutchinson will give the next Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at the Toronto Reference Library on Nov. 29, on "Conan Doyle's Lost World: Filling in the Blank Spaces on the Map" www.acdfriends.org/events.html. The web-site offers links to YouTube recordings of past lectures, 2022-2024.

Netflix has announced that production has started on "The Final Problem" www.tinyurl.com/2sny4juz, a five-episode mini-series that's based on Arturo Pérez-Reverte's novel *El Problema Final* (Sep 23 #5). The mini-series will feature Jose Coronado as Benjamin Basil ("a washed-up actor who once played the most famous detective of all time on the silver screen"); there isn't yet an English translation of the novel, so it's possible that Netflix will air the mini-series here with English subtitles, or dubbed into English. There's a summary of the novel, in Spanish and English on-line at www.tinyurl.com/6aeytf77.

May 25 #2 Olivia Rutigliano was the guest speaker at the luncheon of the Red Circle of Washington on Mar. 8, discussing Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle. Olivia has posted an interesting excerpt from the talk at the CrimeReads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/39sy7y5c>, and video of her entire presentation is conveniently available on-line at the society's YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku8N8B2c3B8>.

Fans of Mary Russell can sign up for an e-mail newsletter called "The Buzz from Laurie R. King" and receive news about things like a new short story she has written about Mary's Uncle Jake, available if you pre-order *Knave of Diamonds* (Mar 25 #2) from selected stores <www.tinyurl.com/4ewsz6hm>. You'll also be able to read the short story in Laurie's next collection, due in February 2027. If you'd like to subscribe to Laurie's newsletter, just go to <www.laurierking.com> and click on the "join Laurie's newsletter" button at the top of the opening page.

J. Lawrence Matthews' *One Must Tell the Bees: Abraham Lincoln and the Final Education of Sherlock Holmes* (Books Fluent, 2021; 552 pp., \$39.99) is part biography, part mystery, and part historical fiction; Holmes, younger than in the Canon, is sent by his brother to America before the Civil War to work at the DuPont powder factory and winds up in Washington, where he meets the president and many other important men. He's part of the pursuit of J. Wilkes Booth and is rewarded by Lincoln, returns to England in time to write his memoirs, and dies quietly in his Sussex country cottage.

More about plans for a Sherlockian weekend in Chicago: The Torists International S.S. have scheduled a dinner meeting on June 28, and the Watsonians will hold the 66th running of the Chicago Silver Blaze on June 29 at the Club Hawthorne in Oak Brook Terrace, Ill. (you'll get a free program and \$2 for your first bet); this may well be the first running anywhere of a Silver Blaze at an off-track betting facility. Contact Jonathan Shimberg <www.toristintss@gmail.com> for more information.

The Papal Conclave has elected Robert Preston as the new Pope, and he has chosen to serve as Leo XIV. Sherlockians will recall that Sherlock Holmes was twice of assistance to Pope Leo XIII (who served from 1878 to 1903), as noted in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "Black Peter".

Another recent conclave was the first Baker Street Irregulars' Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies, held in Indianapolis, Ind., on Apr. 26, and intended "to assist scion societies in sharing ideas, collaborating, networking, and thriving." It was well-attended and you can hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the goings-on at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/272cne87>.

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association (which has the record for the longest name of a Sherlockian society) will meet twice during the ALA's annual meeting. On June 28 at 4:00 pm at the Rosenbach Museum and Library, and on June 29 at 1:00 pm at the Philadelphia Convention Center <www.tinyurl.com/w63ub68p>. The tour of the Rosenbach is limited to 30 participants, and advance registration is required <<https://forms.gle/9nAyzqUuVfdTmtQFA>>.

May 25 #3 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the spring issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Jennie Paton has spotted Cults3D <www.cults3d.com>, a digital marketplace for 3D models where creators can showcase their designs; some of them are free, and some not. There are more than 2 million designs available, and 110 of them if you do a search for [sherlock], in case you want an excuse to do some 3D printing.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). There's news about first folios, posted at the blog of the Folger Shakespeare Library <www.tinyurl.com/2k7b89v4>.

The 42nd issue (2025) of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 60 pages of songs, recipes, articles, quizzes, and reports on the society and its members. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid (\$30.00 outside the U.S.) and checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467-2287.

"The name 'Nigel' has romantic origins—it means 'dark champion' in Celtic lore and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle titled one of his dashing medieval historical novels *Sir Nigel*," according to Nigel Jones in the Spectator (May 7) <www.tinyurl.com/4r3xmff6>. "But by the time of my birth," Jones added, "the name had become indelibly associated with cerebrally challenged upper-class twits with protruding teeth." He also notes that by 2022, only three Nigels were registered in the national birth statistics. How many Nigels do you know? There are two Nigels in my e-mail address book. One of them being Nigel Miles-Thomas, who has toured in "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" (the one-man play written by David Stuart Davies), and of course Sherlockians are indebted to two other Nigels, Bruce and Stock, who have played Watson on screen, radio, and television.

Laura F. Keyes' specialty is "teaching history with live performance," and you can see the women she portrays at <www.tinyurl.com/ywabr977>. One of them is Irene Adler, and Brenda Rossini has reported that Irene will be at the Winnetka-Northfield Library District in Illinois on Aug. 26. It will be a virtual performance, so you won't need to be there; you can register for the free event at <www.tinyurl.com/yw9b65vv>.

One of the exhibitors at this year's Malice Domestic conference in Bethesda, Md., was Open Book Chocolates <www.openbookchocolates.com>. who offer hand-made chocolate bars with literary-inspired flavors. It's unfortunate that they've had to discontinue their Sherlock Holmes bar, but they have instead a Doctor Watson bar (Earl Grey tea & honey in milk chocolate) (2.1 oz., \$12.00) that's not yet offered at their web-site. But you can order it by e-mail <openbookchocolates@email.com>. It's tasty indeed.

May 25 #4 "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gosho Aoyama, developed into a long-running animated television series, and into animated films (May 04 #6); Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa and pursues evil-doers. The films continue to be popular in Japan, according to an article at the CBR web-site (Apr. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/ykbp5cmn>, but not in the U.S. However, more than 1,100 episodes of "Detective Conan: Case Closed" are available with English subtitles on Crunchyroll.

The Elmer L. Anderson Library celebrated "Doors Open Minneapolis" on May 17-18 <www.tinyurl.com/5n77phvp>, welcoming the public for tours of their underground caverns and their recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street.

There's a long list of audiobooks available to people who subscribe to Audible <www.audible.com>, including 40 books in the long "Sherlock and Lucy" series written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley, and narrated by Edward Petherbridge and others; they're all also available free to those who subscribe to Audible Plus and Audible Premium Plus. Petherbridge's voice will be familiar to those who remember him as Sherlock Holmes in the 1991-1993 radio series "NPR Playhouse: The Cases of Sherlock Holmes". His web-site's at <www.edwardpetherbridge.com>.

Sherlockian magicians appear (and disappear) from time to time, and one of them is S. Brent Morris, who is a magician and mathematician and the first person in the world to earn a Ph.D. in card shuffling. You can hear about his career and research in episode 509 of John Gaspard's Eli Marks Podcast <<https://preview.mailerlite.com/u3t0j5f5x7/2742956204614489374/c3r0>>.

Many Sherlockians continue to help spread the gospel: Carlina de la Cova, a professor at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, is presiding over ANTH 221 (Forensics of Sherlock Holmes) <www.tinyurl.com/4hftf9ts>.

Yet another Sherlockian television series is under consideration: Deadline has reported (May 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yxtv9e69> on plans for a series to be based on Brittany Cavallaro's four "Charlotte Holmes" books, which have sold more than 250,000 copies worldwide, and feature teen-age descendants of Holmes and Watson. There's more about Cavallaro's series at her web-site at <www.brittanycavallaro.com>.

Jennie Paton continues to recommend Spoonflower <www.spoonflower.com> as an excellent source of fabric and wallpaper with Sherlockian designs.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), was created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20 #3), and it has a conversation with Hugh Bonneville <www.tinyurl.com/4djp9ncw> about his new narrations of the "Sherlock Holmes Short Stories". Bonneville played Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994), as well as Robert Crawley (7th Earl of Grantham) in the long-running "Downton Abbey" series, and his recordings (for Noiser) <www.noiser.com> are nicely done indeed.

May 25 #5 James Chapman's *Screening Sherlock: A Cultural History of the Great Detective on Film and Television* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2025; 355 pp., £90.00) is the first book-length academic study of Holmes on the large and small screens. Chapman quotes from filmographies, academic articles, and many reviews in magazines and newspapers, and offers his own opinions on how Holmes has been presented over the decades, and the coverage of the book is extensive. He concludes with the suggestion that "if the history of Holmes on screen demonstrates anything, it is that new interpretations will appear with the regularity of seasonal fogs in Baker Street."

Brad Keefauver's "Sherlock Peoria" blog <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> is always interesting, and he recently attended, and reported on, the goings on at 221B Con in Atlanta and the Canonical Conclave of Sherlockian Scions in Indianapolis. You can also hear more about 221B Con at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, where Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Johanna Draper Carlson, one of the volunteers who helped put on the Con <www.tinyurl.com/6byj767f>.

For fans of the well-received "fictional true crime" podcast "Sherlock & Co." <www.tinyurl.com/67kh9em9> (if you're in or near Los Angeles on Aug. 2): Ed Locke has scheduled a four-hour meet-up with podcast co-creators Joel Emery and Adam Jarrell. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/4xzvbn8>.

And at Comic-Con in San Diego: on July 25 at 5:00 pm, Les Klinger will be moderating a panel featuring Laurie R. King, Nicholas Meyer, Craig Sweeny (showrunner of the "Watson" series), and likely Rob Doherty (showrunner of the "Elementary" series), discussing "Holmes: Past, Present, and Future". Comic-Con, which is considered to be "the largest convention of its kind in the world," fills the San Diego Convention Center to capacity with more than 130,000 attendees.

Vasilisa Larianova is a high-school student in France working on a thesis for an English oral exam, focusing on "How has the character of Sherlock Holmes been adapted and reinterpreted in cinema over time, and what makes him still popular nowadays?" She has a brief questionnaire she would like to send to Sherlockians, and she's at <vasilisa.larionova27@gmail.com>.

Peter Lovesey died on Apr. 10 (Apr 25 #2), but it took quite a while for the Washington Post to publish an obituary (May 2) that noted: "His start in crime fiction had its own very English origins. In 1969, he was 'perusing the personals columns of the Times as Sherlock Holmes used to do, he recalled, and came across an advertisement for the crime novel contest by publishers Macmillan and Panther Books." And his entry, *Wobble to Death*, won the £1,000 first prize.

Michael and Jessica Kolence preside over the Grimm Life Collective, a horror-themed YouTube travel channel, and they recently posted a video about their search for Peter Cushing's grave, which they couldn't find, because it's unmarked. They did tour the nearby village where Cushing lived, and found many reminders of him <www.youtube.com/watch?v=DupZwqrqw6c>.

May 25 #6 *Bye Bye Blackbird* (Olney: Level Best, 2025; 277 pp., \$16.95) is a sequel to her *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8); young and somewhat more experienced private detective Babs Norman and her partner Guy Brandt, in Hollywood in 1941, are hard at work investigating bizarre threats against people involved in making the movie "The Maltese Falcon". Basil Rathbone has a cameo appearance (in the book, not the film), and the author's web-site is at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

Theatrics: the musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Tates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is running at the Pulse Opera House in Warren Ind., through Aug. 3 <www.pulseoperahouse.org>.

Magician Carlos David will present "Ghosts of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (the illusions that mystified Conan Doyle) at the American Oddities Museum in Alton, Ill., June 6-7 <www.dinnerandspirits.com>.

Richard Conlon's "Sherlock Holmes and the Thief of Antiquity" will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Winchester, Hants., June 11-12; their web-site's at <www.blueappletheatre.com>. If you can't get to Winchester, you can book to watch a live-stream performance on June 12; that web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/37um3pud>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Morgan Theatre at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, June 21-July 26 <www.usu.edu/lyricrep>.

Jennifer Dick's new "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" (inspired by three of the stories) will be performed at the Kibble Palace Glasshouse in Glasgow, July 17-Aug. 2 <www.bardinthebotanics.co.uk>.

Molly Taylor's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre in Chester, Ches., July 18-Aug. 31; their web-site's at <www.storyhouse.com/whats-on/the-adventures-of-sherlock-holmes>.

"A Highly Suspect Murder Mystery: The Death of the Great Detective" will be performed during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at theSpace @ Surgeon's Hall in Edinburgh, Aug 1-23 <www.tinyurl.com/7f64jnn3>.

Bill Amos' "Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Avenger" (an adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet") will be performed at the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts in Hazleton, Pa., Aug. 14-17 <www.ptpashows.org>.

Mark Edward Lang's "Sherlock Holmes: Scandals!" ("Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Cardboard Box") will be performed at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 23-25 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Ulmer Auditorium in Bluffton, S.C., Sept. 19-28 <www.mayrivertheatre.com>. Also at the Genesian Theatre in Rozelle, N.S.W., Aug. 8-Sept. 13 <www.genesiantheatre.com.au>. And at the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre in Issaquah, Wash, Jan. 20-Feb. 22, 2026; and at the Everett Center for the Performing Arts in Everett, Wash., Feb. 28-Mar. 22, 2016 <www.villagetheatre.org>.

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A pair of Waxflatter ornithopter wings made for the movie "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) <www.tinyurl.com/y8th58f6>, offered at Dominic Winter Auctions on May 22, estimated at £2000-£3000, went unsold. Unfortunately, it wasn't a complete ornithopter, one of which sold at Christie's in 2013 for £55,875.

Sherlock Holmes truly is a world-wide phenomenon. You can listen to "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" in Bangla broadcast by Radio Mirchi in Bangladesh at <www.tinyurl.com/2z9bdwsk>.

If you neglected to purchase one (or more) of the Montblanc pen "writer's edition" tribute to Conan Doyle (Jul 21 #6), a set of three pens will be offered at PBA Galleries on July 24 <www.tinyurl.com/bdupyef3>, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500.

"Gracie and Pedro: Pets to the Rescue" (2024), an animated film for children, features Detective Doyle (voiced by James Kee) and his ferret Sherlock (voiced by Mike Nadajewski). It's available on various pay-per-view streaming channels, and (free) at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x9gkl9c>. In Britain it's "Gracie and Pedro: Mission Impossible", and the film's website's at <www.gracieandpedro.com>. If you're not sure whether you should watch the film, there's a review at <www.tinyurl.com/52p6dr65>.

The next "Holmes in the Heartland" conference is scheduled at the Cheshire Inn in St. Louis on July 24-26, 2026. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, the contact is Rob Nunn <parallelcasestl@gmail.com>.

Michael McStay died on May 11. He had a long career in British television, wrote plays for BBC radio, and acted as well in French television. He played Inspector Schmidt in the television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1991).

Terry Pratchett's *Hogfather* (1996) was the 20th title in his long-running series of "Discworld" books, and it was adapted for television in two episodes, broadcast in 2006. Howard Ostrom has reported a child in Sherlockian costume in the first episode: <www.tinyurl.com/yckervpx> (at 1:22:05). Wikipedia's entry for *Hogfather* <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hogfather> will be helpful in keeping track of what's going on.

"An evening with Sherlock Holmes" held at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 17 (Apr 25 #4) raised more than £14,000, according to a report in the Farnham Herald (May 20) <www.tinyurl.com/ye2fms3x>.

The Clermont Victoria is one of the London hotels of interest to Sherlockians, since it was formerly known as the Grosvenor Hotel and mentioned in "The Final Problem". You can read all about the Clermont Victoria in an article in The Luxe Review (Apr. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/3r43ztuc>. An additional note: the management of the Clermont has reported that their historical archives show that Conan Doyle stayed at the Grosvenor.

Jun 25 #2 Harry King Television <www.harryking.tv> has announced a new series "True Sherlock" (it's now in pre-production with four two-hour episodes scheduled to be shot in Britain in Jan. 2026); the first episode will be titled "A Balls-Up in Bohemia", with Oli Higginson cast as Sherlock Holmes and Will Kemp as Moriarty. The series has an entry at the Internet Movie Data Base, but that doesn't mean it will actually be made; it's to be based on the "Unexpurgated Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series of books written by Nicholas Sercombe, CEO of Harry King Television.

Little attention has been paid to AI in this newsletter, because there's so much of it that's thoroughly amateurish. Jennie Paton found an amusing birthday tribute to Conan Doyle at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSRzO3JIeTw>.

One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere: the British Library has kindly made the Qatar Digital Library available on-line. A search for [sherlock holmes] turns up four hits <www.tinyurl.com/2u3zu29n>. And a search for [conan doyle] turns up seven hits <www.tinyurl.com/4p3z9965>. Alas: nothing consequential among all the hits.

CBS-TV's entertainment president Amy Reisenbach has told the Deadline website (May 26) <www.tinyurl.com/39u6yu4z> that the network's "Watson" series will return on Sundays in January 2026.

There seems to be nothing Sherlockian on display, but Britain's National Archives offers an interesting exhibition of material on loan from the archives of MI5 <www.tinyurl.com/mry4w9sw> and <www.tinyurl.com/mwtpks7j>. MI5 is the U.K. Security Service for domestic counter-intelligence; one of the items on display is double-agent Guy Burgess' briefcase, left behind at the Reform Club when he fled to Russia.

It's sometimes said that the best writing in newspapers will be found in the Sports section, and a fine example of that was Sally Jenkins' column (June 8) about the dangers encountered when using AI (in this case Sage) <www.tinyurl.com/4c7c4zzx> or <www.wapo.st/3Tdgt4V>.

Denny Dobry <dendobry@ptd.net> will be glad to send more information about his open house, in Reading, Pa. on July 26, when visitors will have their last chance to play in his spectacular recreation of the sitting-room (before it is packed up to be shipped to the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis). There will also be an opportunity to browse the shelves at Denny's Parnassus on Wheels Book Fair.

Matt Hall reports that Watson's Tin Box has a new web-master (Liane Luini) and web-site <www.watsonstinbox.org>, and that Liane is uploading PDFs of the society's annual journal "Irene's Cabinet". The web-site also has a link to the spectacular Evidence Boxes prepared by the late Paul Churchill for all the 60 Canonical cases, with images and discussion of the evidence that Paul found or forged (and he was an expert at Sherlockian forgery). You should add Watson's Tin Box to the list of Sherlockian societies that have impressive web-sites. Another is the Sound of the Baskervilles, who have posted back issues of their newsletter Ineffable Twaddle, from Jan. 2008 to the present <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.

Jun 25 #3 There's more news from Mars, where SHERLOC is hard at work exploring the Red Planet (Jan 25 #4). Just click on the image of the calibration target <<www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh> to see an appropriate address (first from the left in the bottom row) and to see a familiar portrait (fourth from the left in the top row). Here's a well-illustrated story from the Space.com web-site (June 6) <<www.tinyurl.com/4thkrke5>.

It's worthwhile mentioning, every so often, that prices given in reviews of books are for hard-cover editions. The books often are also available in less-expensive soft-cover, e-book, and audio-book editions.

Work continues on the new Indian film "Sher" (Apr 25 #3), described as "a comic reimagining of the Sherlock Holmes universe centered around the detective's fictional Indian daughter." The Sri Lanka Financial Times reported (May 31) <<www.tinyurl.com/4ws8zvrx> that filming will take place at various Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts properties in Sri Lanka.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20 #3), is continuing to offer videos from Brettcon 2024 <<www.sherlockpodcast.com>.

John DeGaetano's *The Sherlock Holmes Cookbook* (2025; 176 pp., \$34.99), inspired by his "Sherlock Holmes: 10 Minute Stories" series, offers recipes for 27 three-course meals that will please those familiar with traditional British cuisine. There's commentary by Holmes, and the author's web-site is at <<<https://johndegaetanoproductions.com>>.

Iban Barrenetxea is a Basque artist who has illustrated many books, among them a Spanish translation of "The Red-Headed League", which you can see at his web-site <<www.ibanbarrenetxea.com/picture/20452>. Click on links at the left to see his artwork for other books. Thanks to Dan Stashower for reporting Paul Huenemann's post to the Stranger's Room at Facebook.

Hampshire Life's web-site <<www.tinyurl.com/45bd6mbt> offered a nice self-guided (and well-illustrated) New Forest walking tour in and around Minstead, including a visit to Conan Doyle's grave-site.

An interesting photograph of Conan Doyle was offered by RR Auction on June 11 <<www.tinyurl.com/bdcmjsne>. It shows him with Craigie Aitchison outside the Edinburgh High Court in 1928, likely on the day that Oscar Slater's conviction and sentence were overturned. It was estimated at \$8,000, and sold for \$10,139 (including the buyer's premium). Wikipedia offers a nice entry <<www.tinyurl.com/2frxc325> on Aitchison, who worked with Conan Doyle to free Slater.

Frederick Forsyth died on June 9. He began his writing career as a British foreign correspondent and became a best-selling author after his book *The Day of the Jackal* was published in 1971 and was noted by Sherlockians to be about an attempt to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle, using a rifle smuggled into the country in an aluminum crutch.

Jun 25 #4 The "Sherlock & Daughter" series on the CW has ended its first season celebrating good ratings but without any word on whether it will be renewed. If you haven't seen it, you still can, since it is streaming on Max (formerly HBO Max), along with the interesting Japanese 2018 "Miss Sherlock" series (with English subtitles) and the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film from 2009.

Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop won first place in a USA Today poll of its readers who voted (early and often) for this year for the best independent bookstore <www.tinyurl.com/msknvbrc>.

Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell novel *Knave of Diamonds* (Mar 25 #2) has been released, and her web-site is an excellent example of how an author can promote books. She offers (among other things) a reading-group guide that includes discussion of Irish comfort food and drink, with some useful recipes <www.laurierking.com/books/knave-of-diamonds>.

Laurie also wrote an entertaining piece about "Historical Fiction and the Joy of True Characters Too Wild to Make Up" posted to CrimeReads (June 11) <www.tinyurl.com/39vvbuf8>.

One continues to hear of Sherlock everywhere, including Korea, where a new "Salon de Holmes" series has launched in the ENA channel, and will stream on Genie TV. Gong Mi-ri, who has enjoyed Conan Doyle's stories since high school, is one of four women who team up to foil a villain in the compound where they live; you can watch a teaser with English sub-titles on-line at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x9k2mz4>.

Seldom seen, because it hasn't yet been restored, is Stan Laurel's "The Sleuth" (1925) <www.archive.org/details/BillspragueCollectionTheSleuth>, which features him in Sherlockian costume as Webster Dingle Detective. Some filmographers have confused this film with Arthur Stone's "Sherlock Sleuth" (1925), which seems to be Sherlockian only for its title; there's an excerpt at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9eInQXs4dk>.

"Little Ellis Island" has closed, the Associated Press reported on June 24 <www.tinyurl.com/3e8txfzs>. That's what people called the Roosevelt Hotel (which closed in 2020, and reopened in 2023 to as an immigrant registration center. According to the Washington Post, 237,000 immigrants came to New York since 2023, and 137,000 of them were registered at the Roosevelt (which before it closed was a welcome refuge for many Sherlockians during the January birthday festivities).

About Jack Reacher: "I'm a huge fan of Sherlock Holmes, always was," Lee Child said some years ago, adding that "In a couple of the books I've put in little Conan Doyle-style tributes to Sherlock Holmes, in the same kind of language Holmes would have used." (Jun 08 #6). Recently he said, "It was a very conscious homage on my part. In *Killing Floor* (the first book) I did an explicitly Shlock Holmes thing where Reacher says to Finley the cop, 'I see that you're divorced and you gave up smoking in April.' That was Reacher deducing like Holmes." That's according to Collider (Apr. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/muh4crru>.

Jun 25 #5 *The Misplaced Physician*, by Jeri Westerson (Edinburgh: Severn House, 2025; 207 pp., \$29.99), is the third book in her series about Tim Badger, formerly a member of Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars and now a private detective, and his partner Ben Watson; they're subsidized by Holmes, who is out of the country, and thus must on their own rescue John H. Watson from kidnappers (difficult, but of course they're successful). The author's web-site is at <www.jeriwesterson.com>.

Peter Melonas has been offering his imaginative Sherlockian artwork since 1982, and you can see (and purchase) his artwork on T-shirts at the Tee-Public web-site <www.teepublic.com/t-shirts?query=peter+melonas>.



The Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring the late Betty White. She appeared on an experimental television broadcast in 1939 and went on to stardom in a wide range of series that included comedies, soap operas, and game shows. In 1989 she made a public-service commercial broadcast in 1989 encouraging viewers to read more, suggesting the Canon as a possibility ("solve a mystery with Sherlock Holmes"), and mentioned that as a young girl her favorite books were "Alice in Wonderland" and "Sherlock Holmes". She died at the end of 2022, a few days before her 100th birthday.

Credit to the 80s Hollywood Stars page at Reddit for finding a nice photograph of the Baker Street Irregulars with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson <www.tinyurl.com/5dxpt5cb>.

James Michael Walker's *The Case of the Flying Corpse* (Groton: Glen Rippel, 2016; 318 pp., \$14.95) is subtitled as a Sherlock Holmes mystery, but it's really a William Gillette mystery, since it's Gillette who comes up with a solution. Charles Frohman visits Gillette while construction is underway at the castle, and the story begins with a body is found in the castle's courtyard; Frohman does nicely at being Watson to Gillette's Holmes. The book's billed as a tribute to the centennial of Gillette's moving into his castle in 1919, and there's a sequel:

In Walker's *The Floating Corpse* (2019; 366 pp., \$14.95) it's Frohman's son Collin who visits Gillette, in 1920, and they solve a complicated mystery that involves stolen money, stolen documents, and a series of murders; the author has fun with Gillette being Sherlockian, but the real Frohman never married, and thus had no son.

In plenty of time for next year: PBS-TV's "Masterpiece" offered some nice Sherlockian suggestions for Father's Day <www.tinyurl.com/y4f3jb8a>.

Fancy Lamp is a British company created by Caitlin Derer and Joseph Lattimer, and their series of Collectable Cities figurines includes Sherlock Holmes <www.collectablecities.com/shop/p/sherlock-ii>. Completists should note that it's the second edition that's available now, with Holmes in a purple jacket and lilac trousers; the first edition had Holmes wearing a green jacket and pale green trousers. You can still get Holmes in green on a key ring, pin, and print <www.collectablecities.com>.

Jun 25 #6 "Poor old Buchan!" An interesting letter, written and signed by Conan Doyle, was offered at Swann Galleries on Mar. 7, 2024 <www.tinyurl.com/2dwducju>. Jack Buchan was indeed mentioned (and often) in *Dangerous Work*; he was a member of the crew of the whaler *Hope* during Conan Doyle's service as the ship's doctor. You can read one of the mentions at the web-site <www.tinyurl.com/364p3a7a> of the University of Chicago Press. The book's still in print, and well worth reading.

"Dancing Naked on the Head of a Pin" was the title of an article posted at the Public Domain Review web-site (June 18); there's nothing Sherlockian, but it offers a nicely-illustrated look at an interesting aspect of Victorian pornography <www.tinyurl.com/mrxrb4kr>.

Petrels are mentioned in two of the Canonical tales ("The Naval Treaty" and "The Reigate Squires") and last year the Australian Antarctic Territory issued a mini-sheet showing four petrels, with one of them a Wilson's storm-petrel, which is nicely appropriate: Watson says (in Reig), "You must regret the hour that you took in such a stormy petrel as I am," and Holmes says (in Nava), "You are the stormy petrel of crime, Watson."



Wilson's storm-petrel has its own entry at Wikipedia, where it is called one of the most abundant bird species in the world. It breeds in the Antarctic, but in southern-hemisphere winter migrates north and is common in British waters.

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, edited by Andrew Glazzard (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2024; 362 pp., \$140.00) is the next volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, and includes the text of the book (with Sidney Paget's illustrations), detailed introductions; comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, a brief discussion of the manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia" (the only one whose location is known), and explanatory notes. It's a splendid critical edition of the book, and Glazzard isn't a newcomer to the world of Sherlockian scholarship: his *The Case of Sherlock Holmes: Secrets and Lies in Conan Doyle's Detective Fiction* (2018) is still available from the Edinburgh University Press.

The Edinburgh Press series continues with *The Stark Munro Letters*, edited by James Machin (2025: 327 pp., \$136.00), with similar scholarship and a detailed discussion of the autobiographical aspects of the novel, and attention paid to the manuscript (bequeathed to the British Library by Dame Jean Conan Doyle) and additional manuscript material acquired by the Library when the family archives went to auction in 2004. The book has been out of print for years, and this new edition offers readers a welcome opportunity to learn more about Conan Doyle.

An older generation will remember CliffsNotes, which is still in business as "the original (and the most widely imitated) study guide." One of the imitators is SparkNotes, reported by Jennie Paton, and here's what they do with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/y8ewa5nx>.

Jun 25 #7 Further to the report (May 25 #1) on the Spanish television series based on Arturo Perez-Reverte's novel *El Problema Ficticio*, Don Pollock has noted that an English translation of the mystery is due from Mulholland Books in 2026. And so it is: you can pre-order now <www.tinyurl.com/yb3eje25>, or wait impatiently until Feb. 10. The book stars Benjamin Basil ("a washed-up actor who once played the most famous detective of all time on the silver screen").

Peterson of Dublin continues to offer its wide range of handsome Sherlock Holmes pipes, but they also offer a flavorful Sherlock Holmes tobacco; details at <www.tinyurl.com/3fehw7dt>.

This year we celebrate the centenary of in-flight entertainment: it was in 1925 that "The Lost World" was screened on an Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent. As noted earlier (Dec 17 #5) Alexis Barquin has an excellent entry on "The Lost World Above the World" at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/y7loorlb>. Earlier this year the Abu Dhabi National had a story (Apr. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/5u68khdz> with a photograph showing the projector and projectionists ready for action.

More Sherlockiana from Bob Hess' collection will be on offer at Potter & Potter Auctions <www.potterauctions.com> in their "Entertainment, Toys, & Collectibles" auction on July 10 (lots 269-283).

Jennie Paton has found Sherlock Holmes' recording of "Standing at a Standstill" on-line at <www.vimeo.com/1094278168>. Registered for copyright on Jan. 16, 1967, by James K. Scotland, who was noted as using the pseudonym Sherlock Holmes.

"Mrs. Holmes Taught Sherlock All He Knew: Uncovering the Truth about Victorian Women Detectives" is the title of an on-line lecture by Sara Lodge scheduled by the Buckinghamshire Historical Association on Jan. 21. You can register for the lecture at <www.tinyurl.com/22y37jy6>. Sara Lodge is the author of *The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective*, from the Yale University Press in 2024 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2pfvvnv>. According to the publisher, "Lodge's book takes us into the murky underworld of Victorian society on both sides of the Atlantic, revealing the female detective as both an unacknowledged labourer and a feminist icon."

A report on a company called Unit 221B turned up recently on the Hounds of the Internet mailing list <www.unit221b.com>. Click on "About" and then on "Our Mission" for more information.

52 Weeks--52 Sherlock Holmes Novels, edited by Paul Bishop (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2025; 359 pp., \$19.95), promises "traditional favorites and new discoveries," and offers in-depth reviews of a year's worth of books. All of the reviewers, old hands and newcomers to the Sherlock-ian world, do extremely well at explaining just why they recommend their choices. The editor believes that "one of the primary reasons pastiches are important is that they allow for the continuing evolution of Holmes and his world," and it's hard to imagine any readers of the anthology who fail to encounter something they haven't already read.

Jun 25 #8 Theatrics: as usual, there is plenty of news about upcoming drama. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through July 5, and will then move to the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne, Ont., July 9-20 <www.lighthousetheatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B" is being produced at the St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, Wis., through July 6; web-site at <www.festivaltheatre.org>. It is also due at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 18-Oct. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2xxv3r>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" can be viewed at Theatre West in Scottsbluff, Neb., through July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/hutj735b>. It also is coming up at the Genesian Theatre in Rozelle, N.S.W., Aug. 8-Sept. 13; their web-site is at <www.genesiantheatre.com.au>. And it is scheduled at the Ulmer Auditorium in Bluffton, S.C., Sept. 19 to 28 <www.mayrivertheatre.com>; the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre in Issaquah, Wash., Jan. 20-Feb. 22, 2026, and the Everett Center for the Performing Arts in Everett, Wash., Feb. 28-Mar. 22 <www.villagetheatre.org>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Lydney Town Hall in Lydney, Glos., July 4-6, and at the Larruperz Centre in Ross-on-Wye, Heref., July 11-13 <www.thedeantheatrecompany.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Two's a Crowd Productions) is scheduled at the Stamford Arts Centre in Stamford, Lincs., on July 5 <www.tacprod.co.uk>.

Enrico Lopez-Yañez's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" will be performed at the Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder, Colo., on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/hutj735b>; and at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 4 <www.orsymphony.org>.

"The Case of the Three-Eyed Elephant: A Sherlock Holmes Origin Story" (a new comedy by Laurence Akers, Ryan Starling, and Lewes Roberts) will have its premiere at the Sheringham Little Theatre in Sheringham, Norf., July 10-12 <www.sheringhamlittletheatre.com>.

Thomas W. Olson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" will be performed at the Uvalde Grand Opera House in Uvalde, Tex., July 18-20 <www.uvaldeoperahouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be produced at the Egerton Millennium Hall in Egerton, Lancs., Sept. 5-6 <www.egertonplayers.co.uk>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be produced at the Repertory Theatre Company in Richardson, Tex., Sept. 5-14 <www.rcttheatre.com>; and at the Holliston Town Hall in Holliston, Mass., Nov. 7-15 <www.washingtonstretplayers.org>.

Martin Parsons' "The Sign of Four" will tour in Britain beginning on Sept. 23 <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk>.

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"Reichenbach Revisited" is the title of the next excursion of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The Society's eighth excursion to Switzerland is scheduled for Apr. 30-May 4, 2026, and you'll find details (including the full program) at www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/reichenbach-revisited. Membership in the Society is required, but it's simple to join: just look for the "Join the Society" link at the right at the web-site.

The Deadline web-site reported (July 11) www.tinyurl.com/mr3f9pne that the second season of "Watson" (previously scheduled for this January next year) will instead start on CBS-TV on Oct 13.

An "extremely-rare German 'Landsknecht' dagger, late 16th century" was offered at Olympia Auctions in London on June 25 www.tinyurl.com/mwpp322y and sold for £20,000. It was described as being from the Conan Doyle Collection but actually was owned by Adrian Conan Doyle when he lived at the Château de Lucens in Switzerland and was proud of his large collection of arms and armor.

"Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" is a 50-minute animation released on DVD in 2010, with voices by Michael York (Sherlock Holmes), John Rhys-Davies (Dr Watson), and Malcolm McDowell (Professor Moriarty), and you can watch it (subtitled in Vietnamese) at www.dailymotion.com/video/x8p5ov4.

Thanks to Max Magee for providing a link to an interesting article about "Black Peter" www.tinyurl.com/4e97uk55. Bill Reusch (aka The Chemist) was the author of the article, presented at a meeting of the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing in 2011; he is a professor emeritus in the Dept. of Chemistry at Michigan State University tinyurl.com/mr3sympu.

Dorothy K. Stix ("Martha") died on May 30. She was the daughter-in-law, wife, and mother of Sherlockians, and happily put up with all of their enthusiasms. She was especially helpful to her husband Tom when he was Wiggins (head of the Baker Street Irregulars). There's much more about Dorothy in Sonia Fetherston's *"Wiggins": Tom Stix & His Baker Street Irregulars* (published earlier this year by the BSI Press). She was honored by the BSI as *The Woman* in 1971, and received her Investiture in 1997.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Jessie Amaolo (curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) for the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <https://tinyurl.com/4t6aa5pt>, with discussion of the Collection's digital archives. They're a continuing project, and well worth exploring www.tinyurl.com/mte36rmw.

It's not Sherlockian, but a new PBS-TV series "Civics Made Easy" is well worth watching www.pbs.org/show/civics-made-easy. Older folks will recall being taught Civics in school, and learning how government works (or sometimes doesn't work). Civics is one of many subjects absent from the curriculum in schools today, and it is grand indeed that this series with twelve short episodes is available for a new generation. Recommended.

Jul 25 #2 "How home of Sherlock Holmes Is Centre of Cybercrime Mystery with Scam Packages Being Sent to Baker St. Address Every Day" was the headline on a story in the Sun on May 29. It seems that the Sherlock Holmes Museum is being targeted as a fake returns hub for junk product from Chinese and Indian web retailers. The story (with a video) may still be available at <www.tinyurl.com/52csfdd8>.

The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has James Machin's discussion of the new Edinburgh University Press edition of *The Stark Munro Letters* (which he edited), Jessie Amaolo's exploration of the history of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and Hartley Nathan's report on the shared lives of Conan Doyle and Kipling. Copies of the newsletter can be requested from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G5, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Time for another mention of Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell novel *Knave of Diamonds* (Mar 25 #2): she was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolfer for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast, talking about her novel, the Russell series, and much more <www.tinyurl.com/2jdhwxvw>.

And there's more: BBC Radio 4 broadcast (in 2000) a dramatization of "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" (with Monica Dolan as Mary Russell and James Fox as Sherlock Holmes), and you can listen to all four 30-minute episodes at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=su933GXyDCM>.

The delightful exhibition of "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers at the Book Club of California in San Francisco closed this month, and Byers reports that it will be in storage at the Club Fortsas for a few months, and will open again on Jan 20 for four months at the Glickman Library at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. As noted earlier, there are three nice Sherlockian items in the exhibition: "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of *The Strand Magazine*, Sherlock Holmes' notes for his monograph "On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus", and Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*.

The Grolier Club's spectacular web-page for the exhibition still is available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb>, and well worth exploring. Don't neglect the menu with live links at the left, which will allow you to see close-up views, with commentary, of many of the books that were on display at the Grolier. Reid Byers' remarks during the opening of the exhibition at the Book Club of California are on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/s4he9xef>.

In case you're wondering about the Club Fortsas, it's at 145 rue Lafayette in Paris, and its web-site <www.clubfortsaas.org> is well worth exploring.

Andrew Gulli's *The Strand Magazine* was launched in 1998, and it's now published quarterly. Its web-site at <www.strandmag.com> has many features, including as Mystery Center blog that's archived beginning in March 2013. There's a convenient search engine, offering access to articles, reviews, and much more, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian.

Jul 25 #3 David Foster's *Baker Street: The Curious Case Files of Sherlock Holmes* (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2025; 282 pp., \$55.00) is an excellent colorful and informed exploration of Sherlockian books, film, and television, offering reviews and commentary on the Canon, pastiches, homages, and parodies, and a special section by David Marcum on August Derleth's *Solar Pons*, all accompanied by full-color illustrations showing book covers, dust jackets, advertisements, production stills, lobby cards, and posters, in English and many other languages. The book is available from the publisher <www.geniusbookpublishing.com> discounted to \$33.00.

More film news from India: Jennie Paton has reported "Saralakkho Holmes" released this year, about a young Bengali private detective living in modern-day London, in an adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". You can watch a teaser at <www.imdb.com/video/vi1994770457/?ref=tt_vids_vi_1> in Bengali (with subtitles in English).

There are other Indian films that use "Sherlock" in the title but are not in any way Sherlockian; one of them is "Sherlock Shyam" (originally in Malayalam, but released this year dubbed into Hindi), and you can watch it at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRWRFPBUsi0>. This sort of thing is not at all new: in the early years of the 20th century it was quite common to see the word "Sherlock" in the title of any sort of detective film.

Intrada has celebrated the 40th anniversary of the "Young Sherlock Holmes" film with a newly remastered 3-CD set of Bruce Boughton's music (\$39.99) <www.tinyurl.com/yvzu7da2>. The web-page includes a link to a track list and a trailer.

Sherlock Hemlock is a favorite character on "Sesame Street", although he isn't seen as often as he used to be. The Muppet Wiki offers an excellent web-page for Sherlock Hemlock <www.tinyurl.com/5n6ufcwn>, and Jennie Paton has noted a segment from 1986 in which Elmo, wearing a deerstalker, joins an investigation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CnfDV5HV-g>.

The Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota have been performing radio plays for years, at Sherlockian conferences in Minneapolis and in other venues, and video recordings of ten of their performances can be seen at their YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/2n6n4wh7>.

Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Devon: A Complete Tour Guide and Companion, by Brian W. Pugh, Paul R. Spiring, and Sadru Bhanji (London, MX Publishing, 2010) (Sep 10 #5), has been reissued as an audiobook, read by J.T. McDaniel. An interesting guidebook, carefully researched, and it's about much more than Dartmoor, also discussing Arthur Conan Doyle, George Turnavine Budd, George Newnes, and Bertram Fletcher Robinson. The listing at Amazon offers a link to a sample from the reading.

The luxury hotel Landmark London (in Marylebone Road) is offering a Sherlock Holmes-inspired Investigator Package for families. It's "fun for all ages," according to a review at the Women's Health web-site (July 2); read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/3c8d78f3>.

Jul 25 #4 The Marylebone Hotel's bar has a new cocktail recipe: "An homage to the most famous resident of Baker Street, 'Sherlock' is a modern highball inspired by the sharp intellect, theatrical flair, and Victorian back drop of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary detective. Red-breast 12 brings depth and spice, paired with The King's Ginger, originally created for Edward VII, Holmes' real-life contemporary. Mezcal and Mu-yu Vetiver Gris add smoke and sandalwood complexity, a nod to Holmes' iconic pipe. Topped with a Pinot Noir air and served beneath a smoked cloche for a final flourish of mystery and theatre, 'Sherlock is an elegant, enigmatic serve, where tradition meets intrigue in every sip." The hotel's in Welbeck Street, not at that far from Marylebone Road and Baker Street <www.tinyurl.com/3m45yvw4>.

The Deadline web-site reported (July 16) <www.tinyurl.com/885u8fsx> on a new Scottish-Canadian animation "The Rejects" (still in development); it features "Dr. John Watson, reimagined as a brilliant yet insecure, openly gay, ex-military doctor whose heart gets broken by Sherlock Holmes, prompting him to assemble a new team of overlooked legends including Friar Tuck and Tantor the Elephant to stop a threat even Holmes couldn't handle."

There will be a Sherlockian panel at Bouchercon in New Orleans, on Friday (Sept. 5): "Elementary! The Sherlock Effect" (moderated by Liese Sherwood-Fabre, with panelists Elizabeth Crowens, Kate Hohl, Kathleen Kaska, Leslie S. Klinger, and Nicholas Meyer). Bouchercon (the long-running and always-interesting annual conference for mystery fans) <www.bouchercon.com> will be in Calgary (Cross-Border Crimes) on Oct. 21-25, 2026; Washington, D.C. (Mystery Most Monumental) on Sept. 1-5, 2027; and Indianapolis on Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2028.

David Killick died on July 4. He had a long career in supporting roles in British stage, screen, and television, and he was heard as Lord Colney in "The Judgement of Sherlock Holmes" (a four-episode audio-book released by Big Finish in 2014).

"Khitrovka: The Sign of Four" was a Russian film, released in 2023, and it was issued on Blu-ray (with English sub-titles and added features) as "In the Moscow Slums" earlier this year. It's now also available for purchase or rental (with English subtitles) on Amazon Prime Video. The film is inspired by the story, but without Holmes and Watson; there's more information (and a trailer) at <www.tinyurl.com/5bf748zs>.

The BBC News web-site posted an article (July 13) about a cricket match in 1887 <www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgmw4xl0nj1o> in which Conan Doyle played on one of the teams. The article is especially interesting for a link to an excerpt of a Radio Surrey broadcast of the match.

Singer/song-writer Billie Eilish was hailed by some as "the reigning queen of electropop" when she released her debut album "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" (2019), and one of the songs in the album was "You Should See Me in a Crown" (echoing Andrew Scott's performance as Moriarty in the "Sherlock" television series). The song also was released as a single in 2018, and you can watch her in performance at <www.tinyurl.com/36bya95c>.

Jul 25 #5 "Salon de Holmes" (a new South Korean one-hour television series) is about a young girl who reads detective stories instead of text-books in school, and dreams about becoming a detective. Of course she does, pursuing criminals in her apartment complex. It's not available (yet) with subtitles in English, but in the meantime you can read about it in articles at the ChosunBiz web-site (June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/meesm6zt> and (July 16) <www.tinyurl.com/4afx3ejv>.

Holmes and Watson are on the same team . . . with Jones . . . the team is the Denver Nuggets <[www. https://tinyurl.com/yv8jfv38](https://tinyurl.com/yv8jfv38)>.

What was Mark Gatiss' favorite episode in the "Sherlock" series? To find out, go to <www.tinyurl.com/yyaytu4c> to see what he had to say in an interview on "The Radio Times Writers' Room", reported by Radio Times (July 15). You can watch the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/yppyxahd5>.

There was a "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive used on the Metropolitan Line in London from the early 1920s until it was withdrawn from service in 1962, and a new one was put in service 2018 (Jun 18 #2). An ACE Trains O-gauge model of the original locomotive, produced in 2016, went to auction this month, with an estimate of £180-£240 <www.tinyurl.com/489j537c>. and it sold for £340.

Save the date: the Baker Street Irregulars have scheduled this year's BSI Trust on-line lecture for Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm EDT. The guest speaker will be Susan Dahlinger, on "Marry Him or Murder Him: William Gillette's Sherlock Holmes". Details will be announced soon.

If you missed past BSI Trust lectures (or if you want to see them again), they are now available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/r747ycwt>, from the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind.

Mark Gatiss (who is fondly remembered by fans of "Sherlock") continues to find interesting things to do: his six-episode series "Bookish" has been acquired by PBS-TV <www.tinyurl.com/38wnxf5>. You can watch an interview about the series at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=atOB9W2ELd4>, and the series is available at Daily Motion <www.dailymotion.com/video/x9nlsum>.

There's an interesting interview with Paul Bishop, editor of *52 Weeks--52 Sherlock Holmes Novels* (Jun 25 #7), who talks about himself, and how the book came together, with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/286dmjzr>.

Once upon a time film and television commercials could be much longer than a minute or so. Jennie Paton has found "Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Hillside House" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2sksv34s>; it's an 18-minute British commercial for Panasonic video recorders, apparently made in the 1990s (we'd welcome information about who the actors were). It's not the longest Sherlockian advertising film; the 33-minute "The Case of Fantastical Passbook" was filmed for the Abbey National Building Society in 1979; alas, it's not available on the Internet.

Jul 25 #6 Nicholas Shakespeare's biography *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4) has been followed by Fleming's *Talk of the Devil* (New York: William Morrow, 2025; 304 pp., \$30.00) is a collection of interesting essays, short stories, articles, and letters, about travel and treasure, espionage, writing, and much more, all showing talent above and beyond his James Bond novels. You'll find nothing Doylean or Sherlockian in the book other than passing mentions in Adam Gopnik's Introduction, but you'll be able to see why Fleming called himself a writer rather than an author.

Save the date: The Torists International S.S. will hold their "It's Always 1895: An Exploration of the Life and Work of Vincent Starrett" conference in Chicago on Oct. 23-24, 2026. You can enroll on their mailing list by sending a message to <starret1895@gmail.com>.

Randall Stock continues to update his census of copies of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's classic pastiche *The Unique Hamlet*. Available on-line <www.bestofsherlock.com/unique-hamlet.htm>, the census is a grand example of how to easily edit and share research results with fellow collectors.

Sonia Fetherston continues to add to the collection of Sherlockian-themed greeting cards and postcards that she has donated to the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. There now are more than 1,250 cards in the collection, some of them as old as the late 1800s. The cards will eventually be digitized so that they can be seen on-line, but in the meantime you can search at <<https://umedia.lib.umn.edu>> to see their wide range of other digitized Sherlockiana.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a set four stamps honoring SpongeBob SquarePants, created by Stephen Hillenburg for Nickelodeon in 1999; you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/2ewx3nes>. Jennie Paton discovered a fan video that's marginally Sherlockian <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Niw-csFKx5U>.

Pat Murphy's *The Adventures of Mary Darling* (San Francisco: Tachyon, 2025; 315 pp., \$18.95) brings Holmes and Watson into J. M. Barrie's world; it's the story of what happens when the mother of Wendy, John, and Michael decides to rescue her children from Neverland, and (as the author promises at her web-site) <www.patmurphy.net> "Peter Pan and Sherlock Holmes don't stand a chance against Mary Darling." It's Mary's story (Holmes and Watson are among the many people she encounters, and it's all great fun.

Go to <www.vimeo.com/1099352409> to see Catherine Cooke's guided tour of Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home, now the Stepping Stones School for children with special education needs). The video was made for the "Evening with Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 25 #4) that included a celebration of the completion of MX Publishing's "New Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories" series (52 volumes with more than 1,000 traditional stories) that was edited by David Marcum. The evening, and royalties on the series, have raised more than £100,000 for the school. The series still is available by subscription in cloth or paper binding <www.tinyurl.com/mtxkwt4p>.

Jul 25 #7 Barbara Holdbridge died on June 9. She was one of the founders of Caedmon Records in 1952. It was the first commercially-viable spoken-word record company, and their first recording featured Dylan Thomas reading his own poems, They went on to issue Basil Rathbone reading five Canonical stories, T. S. Eliot reading his "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" and other poems, Pat Carroll reading Walter R. Brooks' "Freddy the Detective", and Nicol Williams (as Holmes) and George Rose (as Watson) in a dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

The set of three Montblanc pens honoring Conan Doyle, offered at PBA Galleries on July 24 (Jun 25 #1) (estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500) sold for \$1375. Four different pens issued in 2021, priced from \$1,150 to \$4,600 (Jul 21 #6), and a video about the set's still on-line <www.tinyurl.com/46kzdjf4>.

A large Sherlockian collectible was available this month: one of the bombs used in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011); papier-mâché about three feet tall <www.tinyurl.com/bd73ekt6>, and it sold for £60.

This year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Aug. 1-15) will offer six Sherlockian performances <www.tinyurl.com/bdfnx7wt>: Nigel Miles-Thomas' one-man performance in "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act", "Sherlock's Secret Challenge: An Outdoor Escape Game to Explore the City", the Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Benjamin Cooper Sullivan's one-man show "The Cadaver Palaver", "A Highly Suspect Murder Mystery: The Death of the Great Detective", and "Baker Street Ladies".

Nicholas Meyer has embarked on a full-scale tour of the United States, to promote his new Sherlock Holmes novel *The Real Thing* (May 25 #1), and his schedule is readily available at <www.nicholas-meyer.com/events>. He has great stories to tell, about the new books and much more.

The Spectator World web-site (July 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yy44dm5> offered an interesting article by Gareth Rubin about his new novel *Holmes and Moriarty* (Sep 24 #5).

Academia <www.academia.edu> was founded in 2008, and invites everyone and anyone to upload academic papers to the web-site, which now has more than 55 million papers. It's easy to search for (and to download) papers that have [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] or anything else in the title or in the paper.

Jennie Paton has reported web-site promotion for "Sherlock Holmes: Night Stalker" (billed as the world's first AI game) <www.tinyurl.com/b485jb5t> to be released later this year (no price stated); you can watch a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zoc5pt--Q3g>.

Jack Anderson's *The Return of Moriarty* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2025; 342 pp., \$29.99) is an imaginative novel set in Switzerland and Bavaria in the summer of 1891, after the battle at the Reichenbach; Holmes is dead, and Moriarty has survived. There's lots of intrigue and many mysteries to be solved, with well-written characters, and a nice surprise at the end.

Jul 25 #8 A goodly number of Sherlockians were happy to attend the open house at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., on July 26, when visitors were able for the last time to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room (before it was packed up and sent to the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis). If you've not visited Denny, Bob Stek had a nice article about the sitting-room at the "Reinventing Home" web-site in 2020 <www.reinventinghome.org/sherlocks-home>. Bob also has written about Sherlock and Mycroft's parentage <www.tinyurl.com/4c3e2xk5>.

Theatrics: Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is being performed at the Yorkshire Playhouse in York, Neb., through Aug. 3 <www.yorkshireplayhouse.com>.

Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves' new "Sherlock Holmes: The Woman in Black" is on at the West Valley Playhouse in Woodland Hills, Calif., through Aug. 3; web-site at <www.wvplayhuos.com>.

Deivan Steele's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Vanishing Hour" is running at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott, Ont., through Aug. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/yur3ubx7>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" can be seen at the Theater at Monmouth in Monmouth, Me., through Aug. 22 <www.theateratmonmouth.org>. It also will be performed at the Concord City Auditorium in Concord, N.H., Feb. 13-15 <www.communityplayersofconcord.org>.

Gary McCormick's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Map to Murder" is due at the Boone Tavern in Berea, Ky.; on Aug. 1 <www.boonetavernhotel.com>; and at the Shelby County Private Library on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/mtfeau9m>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" has been scheduled at the Hanesbrands Theatre in Winston-Salem, N.C., Sept. 5-14 <www.ltofws.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Twin Cities Players Play-house in St Joseph, Mich, Oct. 17-Nov. 2 <www.twincitiesplayers.org>. Also at the 4th Street Theatre in Moberly, Mo., Nov. 7-23 <www.4thstreettheatre.org>.

Penny Saunders' new ballet "Sherlock" will be produced at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre in Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 24-26 <www.grballet.com>.

Ann Chlovechok's "Sherlock Holmes and the Problem of the Two-Faced Specter" is scheduled during the Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cambridge, Ohio, Nov. 7-8 <www.tinyurl.com/z4vptsps>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Greek Chorus" will be performed at the Arapaho Center in Lafayette, Colo., Nov. 7-13 <www.tclstage.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled at the Theatre Knoxville Downtown in Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 8-Dec. 14 <www.theatreknoxville.com>. It's also due at the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Nov. 8-Dec. 21 <www.commonwealtheatre.org>; and at the Williamston Theatre in Williamston, Mich., Nov. 13-Dec. 21 <www.williamstontheatre.org>.

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The Exhibits Development Group's spectacular "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" premiered at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10, 2013, and then toured widely in the U.S., Canada, and Australia (eventually renamed as "Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition"). Now its tour has come to an end, and most of the exhibition is for sale (not included: Warner Bros. artifact props, and select items from the University of Minnesota). If you haven't seen the exhibition (or want to be reminded of what you did see), go to <www.tinyurl.com/3x22phjv>. Their asking price for the exhibition is \$1.8 million.

"Eight of the UK's most impressive private libraries, as seen in the pages of Country Life" was the title of an article retrieved from the magazine's archives and posted at its website on Aug. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/mrckmzhn>. The photographs are magnificent, and so are the libraries.

Naisha Roy has won this year's Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. The prize was established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C., and it is indeed named in honor of the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". There's more information about the prize, and links to all the winning entries, at Lukas Aykroyd's website <www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships>.

Plan ahead: the Parallel Case of St. Louis have announced that their next Holmes in the Heartland conference will be held on July 24-26, 2026. The preliminary announcement is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4jxwswp9>.

The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of stamps honoring the television series "Monty Python's Flying Circus" (1973) and the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" (1973) <www.tinyurl.com/4daay82f>. There's nothing Sherlockian about the stamps, but Michael Palin appeared as Sherlock Holmes in a "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" skit on "Saturday Night Live" on NBC-TV (1979), and John Cleese as Holmes in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" on BBC-1 (1973) and in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" on ITV (1977).

Gareth Rubin's *Holmes and Moriarty* (Sep 24 #5) was published in the U.K. last year, and in the U.S. this year. Now his long article about how he wrote the novel ("it wasn't elementary," he explains) is available in the Spectator World (July 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yy44dm5>.

Claire Andrews' *A Beautiful and Terrible Murder* (New York: Little, Brown, 2025; 410 pp., \$19.99) has Irene Adler, Sherlock Holmes, and James Moriarty (all students at Oxford), a series of brutal murders, and some interesting twists and turns. Irene is a student at Lady Margaret Hall (which admitted women in 1879 but didn't grant degrees) and (disguised as a young man) at Oxford itself, which of course makes things complicated for everyone (stay tuned for a sequel, due next year). Andrews wrote about her new book (and other classics she has reimagined at the CrimeReads web-site on Aug. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/53nxvk4f>.

Aug 25 #2 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the summer issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Matt Berry voiced Sherlock Holmes in one episode during the first season of the CBS-TV series "Watson", and Variety has reported (Jul 30) that Robert Carlyle will play Holmes in a recurring guest-star role in the second season <www.tinyurl.com/eemp6y4p>. According to show-runner Craig Sweeny, "When Watson's best friend and former partner makes as shocking reappearance in his life, Watson is forced to confront their shared past—and a secret that may lie buried within Watson's own body."

The British artist Louis Wain is famous for his drawings of cats, and you will find his postcard portrait of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes at <www.ebay.com/itm/256470198325>. An article at the Country Life web-site this month <www.tinyurl.com/56em9pny> reports in colorful detail on this year's "Louis Wain & the Cat Show" in London.

Sherlockians (and others) have long enjoyed speculating about the scene in "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) in which Leonard Nimoy (as Spock) said, "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." Credit that to Nicholas Meyer, who directed and co-wrote the film, and has explained that the quote from the Canon was deliberate. The speculation, of course, is about whether Spock's ancestor was Arthur Conan Doyle or Sherlock Holmes, and Nick has never said which ancestor it was.

But: the "Star Trek" universe has been expanded over the years in new television series, and David Opie, in an article at the Radio Times web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kpvw5whm> (July 31), reported that the writers of the episode ("A Space Adventure Hour") offer their own solution to the mystery: Ethan Peck (as Spock) says, "As my ancestor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would write, 'The game's afoot.'" The series streams on Paramount+, and the episode is the fourth in the third (current) season.

The Deadline web-site reported (July 30) <www.tinyurl.com/5u33pcaz> that Remarkable Entertainment is developing a reality game-show television competition with the working title "Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock: The Detective Academy", and the series will "test player's powers of deduction and logic as they attempt to solve puzzling crimes from the world of Sherlock Holmes." Remarkable's web-site is at <www.remarkable.tv>.

Our Postal Service is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year (yes: it is one year older than the country), and last year it delivered more than 44 billion pieces of first-class mail; that's the lowest number since 1968 (the peak year was 2001, with more than 103 billion pieces). Annual statistics since 1926 are available at <www.tinyurl.com/4j55v5jj>. And you can credit (or blame) e-mail for those numbers; there are some statistics about e-mail at <www.yaguara.co/how-many-emails-are-sent-per-day>.

Aug 25 #3 The LEGO Sherlock Holmes Book Nook <www.tinyurl.com/bddfe92h> (\$129.99) (Mar 25 #5) is now on store shelves and receiving a lot of publicity on the Internet, but I've not heard from any Sherlockian who has one and is willing to admit how many hours it took to assemble it. There also is a Briksmax lighting kit <www.tinyurl.com/zu8tup3m> (\$59.99) available for people who want to be fancy. Scott Monty and Bruce Wolder have an interview about the Book Nook at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast with LEGO group design master Antica Bracanny and graphic designer Crisy Dymment <www.tinyurl.com/45545pd7>.

The giant rat of Normanby made the news this month: here's an article from the Guardian (Aug. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/msp8t8f7>. The rat (deceased) was 22 inches long, and Normanby is in Yorkshire, many miles from Sumatra.

If you've not read Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (2003), it is available on-line as a PDF, with illustrations and layout by Jouni Koponen, at Gaiman's web-site <www.neilgaiman.com/Cool_Stuff/Short_Stories>, kindly reported by Doug Chapman. Wikipedia has detailed entry about the story <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Study_in_Emerald>; there are spoilers, so read the story first.

David MacGregor adapted his trilogy of Sherlockian plays ("Elusive Ear", "Fallen Soufflé" and "Ghost Machine") into novels, published in English by MX Publishing, and now available in Italian <www.mxpublishing.com>.

The Telly Visions web-site reported (Aug. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/ye28a8kz> that the French television series "Mademoiselle Holmes" will be broadcast on PBS Passport on Sept. 12. The series has completed two seasons on TF1 in France, is set in Paris and stars Lola Dewaere as Charlotte Holmes, the great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes. "Charlie is a timid French police officer living with her grandfather—until an accident awakens in her the deductive brilliance and bold spirit of her famous ancestor."

"What happens when your favorite fictional character starts sending you e-mails?" is a question answered in an appropriately modern way by Muhammad Sabeel at the Geeks web-site on Aug. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/mzadusek>.

The speakers at his year's "Worldwide Doyle" celebration at the Portsmouth Library were Jonathan Cranfield, Clifford Goldfarb, Sheldon Goldfarb, and Burt Wolder; the talks were recorded and now are available at the "Doings of Doyle" channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle>. Recordings from 2023 and 2024 can be seen at the "Created Playlists" link for "Worldwide Doyle".

Registration is open for this year's Baker Street Irregulars' on-line BSI Trust lecture on Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm EDT, when Susan Dahlinger will speak about "Marry Him or Murder Him: William Gillette's Sherlock Holmes". The lecture is free, but registration is required, and you can register now at <www.bsitrust.org/2025/07/register-2025-lecture.html>. If you have a conflict, don't despair: the lecture will be recorded and posted later at the BSI Trust web-site (as lectures from previous years are now).

Aug 25 #4 James Ponti's *The Sherlock Society: Hurricane Heist* (New York: Aladdin, 2025; 305 pp., \$18.99) is the second in his middle-grade (ages 8-12) series about four Florida youngsters who have decided to become detectives and find themselves trying to solve a decades-old case. The book is entertaining, and nicely written, and the author's web-site is at <www.jamesponti.com>. There's a free reading-group guide available at <www.simonandschuster.net>.

Not quite the Agra treasure: an antique Agra rug was offered at Chiswick Auctions in London on June 4 <www.tinyurl.com/4jhh86mf>, estimated at £400-£600. It went unsold when bidding didn't meet the reserve.

Many Sherlockians have visited the Sherlock Holmes Pub in London, and even had a drink or two, or more, and a meal (and if you haven't, you should, to have an opportunity to see the magnificent recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton have been responsible for preserving and maintaining the sitting-room for thirty years and tell some interesting stories about the pub and the sitting-room in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3rkzpxw3>.

The Literary Adventure Society <www.literaryadventuresociety.com> offers a series of interactive audio mystery games, many featuring Sherlock Holmes and some Loveday Brooke. The company has an informative web-site, with a "New & Events" button that links to enthusiastic reviews in the Washington Post and MD Theater Guide.

John P. Knud-Hansen ("This Lascar Scoundrel") died on Aug. 23. He had a long career as a urologist, and shared the leadership of the Denizens of the Bar of Gold in Cambridge, Md. He was awarded his (nicely appropriate) Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 2019.

Sherlockians have long been indebted to Clarkson N. Potter, publisher of William S. Baring-Gould's *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* (1962) and then his *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967) and other Sherlockian books. The company now is an imprint of Penguin Random House, and offers "The Great Sherlock Deck", a set of 60 playing cards <www.tinyurl.com/7un76e8v> designed by Timothy W. Cushing (\$20.00) and praised by Ron Charles for the Washington Post Book Club on Aug. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/4x2sv4fn> (you will need to scroll down).

Cook's travel agency is mentioned in the Canon (in "Lady Fraces Carfax"), and a measure of just how successful the company was is the article at the Country Life web-site this month about Sennowe Park, the imposing mansion built by Thomas Cook's grandson <www.tinyurl.com/3msmdks5>.

The "Elementary" television series, launched on CBS-TV in 2012 (with Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson), was thoroughly popular during its long run, and still has many fans. Marisa Mercurio posted about the series at the CrimeReads web-site on Aug. 14 about the many virtues of the series <www.tinyurl.com/3rkzpxw3>.

Aug 25 #5 Larry Millett, author of several novels that featured Sherlock Holmes solving mysteries in St. Paul, Minn., turned his attention to Shadwell Rafferty, and now has new detectives in *Mysterious Tales of Old Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2025; 283 pp., \$24.95), which offers three novellas, one of them featuring Oscar Wilde, and all full of the history of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"Remapping the London of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a series of six weekly walks (originally described by Charles O. Merriman in the 1970s), arranged by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London beginning on Sept. 20. More information's available at <www.tinyurl.com/4k7z9upp>.

Charing Cross is mentioned often in the Canon, and this month Country Life posted a story <www.tinyurl.com/yc7nbcdm> about the original (and its sisters).

"The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" (a Canadian two-hour radio program, based on the play by Alden Nowland and Walter Learning, broadcast by the CBC in 1978) starred John Neville as Sherlock Holmes, and John Christopher has kindly reported Anthony D.P. Mann's discovery of the recording on-line at <www.archive.org/details/tosca-2/Tosca2.mp3>. Neville also was Holmes on screen in "A Study in Terror" (1965) and on stage in Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (in Canada in 1975).

What other actors have played Holmes on stage, screen, and radio? And for a quadruple play, on stage, screen, radio and television?

The new "Sherlock Holmes: Il Musical", co-authored by Enrico Solito, had a thoroughly successful tour in Italy in 2024 and 2025, and it will be touring again starting in October; details at <www.tinyurl.com/mwt8td98>. You can watch video from the first tour at <www.tinyurl.com/7j6kj4hr>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Night Stalker" is billed as the first Sherlockian computer game driven by AI <www.tinyurl.com/4hxhnnsn>, and a preliminary version was unveiled this month at Gamescom in Cologne, is scheduled for release later this year, and Johanna Goebel has already posted an enthusiastic review at the EarlyGame web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2mf75m7m>.

Todd Mason's "Socialist Jazz" blog has a weekly post of reviews of "Forgotten Books" <www.socialistjazz.blogspot.com>. On Aug. 11, Curtis Evans (aka The Passing Tramp) posted a long and interesting review of John Dickson Carr and Adrian Conan Doyle's *The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* (1954).

Charles Napier Hemy's oil-on-canvas painting of "The Shore at Limehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/yy99twjc> will be offered at Bonhams in London on Sept. 24, estimated at £10,000-£15,000. A similar painting of "The Riverside, Limehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/2u5n7as7> was sold in 2023 for £69,000. The paintings don't show houses in Upper Swandam Lane, as seen from the river (because there was and is no Upper Swandam Lane in London), but they offer a nice view of what the neighborhood looked like much after the time of "The Man with the Twisted Lip".

Aug 25 #6 Painting in watercolor and oils was a hobby begun in the last year of Conan Doyle's life, according to the catalog listing of the Conan Doyle Collection when it was at auction at Christie's in London in 2004. One of the five water-color paintings in lot 131 will be offered on Sept. 18 at International Autograph Auctions Europe in Estepona in Spain, estimated at €1,000-€1,500 <www.tinyurl.com/bdheewvy>.

Steven Doyle reports (in the Sept. issue of the *Illustrious Clients News*) on his recent visit to Reading, Pa., to visit Denny Dobry's recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, and on Denny's copy of John H. Watson's *Fundamentals of the Art of Surgery* (1927). It's the American edition, published by Paul B. Hoeber in New York (the British Library reports that the first edition was published by Heinemann in London in 1926). The author was a qualified doctor, M.M.B.S. (Lond.) F.R.C.S. (Eng.), and his book has been digitized and is conveniently available to read or download at Google Books <www.tinyurl.com/4swh6j8w>. If you're wondering about the initial, this doctor's middle name was Harry.

"Arthur Conan Doyle—The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a two-part radio program scheduled on the BBC World Service in its "World Book Club" series) will be available beginning on Sept. 6. Val McDermid and Mark Jones are featured; details at <www.wspartners.bbc.com/episode/w3ct74s3>.

The first page of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" (only four pages are known to have survived) will be offered at RR Auction on Sept. 20, with an estimate of \$50,000+ <www.tinyurl.com/hcu8j5fa>. Randall Stock has a fine web-page on the manuscript at <www.tinyurl.com/yte4jf8z>. The fourth page of the manuscript was offered at auction last year, but went unsold; Randall's report on that is at <www.tinyurl.com/4twprudy>.

Nicholas Rowe first appeared as Sherlock Holmes on the screen in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and was seen (briefly) in the same role in Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" (2015). Jennie Paton has reported an interesting interview with Rowe at Lance Steen Anthony Nielsen's "Outcasts Creative" channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H-HStdIlg-E>.

Douglas Elliott ("Canadian Pacific Railway") died on Aug. 26. Doug was a Canadian, and an energetic member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, and then moved to Australia, where he continued his Sherlockian pursuits. He wrote *The Curious Incident of the Missing Link: Arthur Conan Doyle and Piltdown Man* (published by the Bootmakers in 1988) and edited *Australia and Sherlock Holmes* for the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 2000.

The 30th-anniversary limited edition of Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (Jul 24 #4) has shipped, and it's handsome indeed, illustrated by Grace Aldrich, signed by the author and artist, and with an additional introduction, an interview with Laurie, and scans of the first five pages of her manuscript, all for \$140.00. You can preview the artwork and order from MidWorld Press at <www.tinyurl.com/26tdfbvt>. And you can watch Laurie's conversation with MidWorld's Travis Dunn at his YouTube channel at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2W6XEgSqUk>.

Aug 25 #7 In theaters: as usual, there is plenty of news about upcoming Productions. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B" is running at the Marquette Theater in New Orleans, La., through Sept. 14 <www.crescentcitytage.com>. And it's due at the Duncan Smith Theater in Holmdel, N.J. Nov. 7-23 <www.holmdelthetrecompany.org>.

Chris Gibbs' "Not Quite Sherlock" is running at DANSpace in Halifax, N.S., through Sept. 6 <www.halifaxfringefestival.ca>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the ..." will be performed at the Side Door Theatre in Wollongong, N.S.W., on Sept. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/2x65szb7>. "Everyone's favorite piece of classic British literature as you've never seen before! ... Probably."

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the May River Theatre in Bluffton, S.C., Sept. 19-28 <www.mayrivertheatre.com>; and at the Palace Playhouse in Georgetown, Tex., Oct. 10-Nov. 9 <www.georgetownpalace.com>.

Fiona Maher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Man Who Believed in Fairies" will be performed at the Malvern Theatre in Malvern, Worc., Oct. 3-4; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mutxa4yz>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Hendersonville Theatre in Hendersonville, N.C., Oct. 4-5 <www.hendersonvilletheatre.org>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Stained Glass Theater in Joplin, Mo., Oct. 9-19 <www.sgtjoplin.square.site>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg in Mechanicsburg, Pa., Oct. 10-26 <www.ltmpa.com>.

Tommy Kelley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century" will be performed at the K Palace Theater in Huachaca, Ariz., Oct. 10-26; web-site at <www.thekpalacetheater.com>.

Tim Kelly's version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Pontotoc Community Theater in Pontotoc, Miss., Oct. 17-19; their web-site is at <www.pontotoccommunitytheater.org>. Kelly, who died in 1998, wrote more than 350 plays; a Tim Kelly Collection has been established at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is due at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Nov. 4-15 <www.repertorynp.co.nz>; and at the Stage West Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 3-28, 2026 <www.stagewest.org>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" (performed by Tim Marriott) will be coming to the U.S., at the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hacketts-town, N.J. Nov. 6-16 <www.tinyurl.com/mr46cfk6>.

Aug 25 #8 And there's more: Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Nov. 8-Dec. 20 <www.commonwealththeatre.org>; at the Engine Room in Bendigo, Vic., Nov. 20-29 <www.synchronicity.org.au>; at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 26-Dec. 27 <www.taproottheatre.org>; and at the Boise Little Theater in Boise, Idaho, Nov. 28-Dec. 20 <www.boiselittletheater.org>.

Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" also is due at the Cumberland Theatre in Cumberland, Md., Dec. 4-21 <www.cumberlandtheatre.com>; at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., Dec. 4-28 <www.vastage.org>; and at the Carnegie Stage in Carnegie, Pa., Dec. 11-21 <www.kinetictheatre.org>. And at the Barn Theatre in Welwyn Gaarden City, Herts., Dec. 12-20 <www.barntheatre.co.uk>. This may be the most-produced Sherlockian play this year.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at The Masquers in Manitowoc, Wis., Nov. 6-9 <www.themasquers.org>; and at the Toland Theatre in La Cross, Wis., Dec. 4-7 <www.uwltheatreanddance.ludus.com>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" will be produced at the Gateway Center for the Arts in DeBary, Fla., Nov. 7-16 <www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org>.

Pat Whymark's new "Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil" will tour in East Anglia, Dec. 10-Jan. 18 <www.commongroundtc.co.uk/xmas-show-25-26>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" will be produced at the 2nd Space Theatre in Fresno, Calif., Jan. 2-Feb. 22 <www.gcplyer.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Stephen Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield, Mass., Jan. 8-Feb. 15 <www.majestictheater.com>.

Bill Van Horn's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" is scheduled at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 13-Feb. 15, 2026; the web-site's at <www.walnutsreettheatre.org>.

"221B: A Sherlock Holmes Opera" (by Glen Cortese and Brian Clay Luedloff) will be performed at the Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra in Schenectady, N.Y., on Jan. 25 <www.sssony.org>.

The Aquila Theatre's new "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will open at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, Va., on Jan. 25, and then go on tour through Apr. 10 <www.aquilatheatre.com>.

Emily Morrison's new musical "Sherlock Holmes" due at the Missoula Children's Theatre in Missoula, Mont., on Feb. 13 <www.mctinc.org>.

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The Red Circle of Washington will celebrate its 75th anniversary on November 15 with two events: the U.S. premiere of "Silent Sherlock" (the British Film Institute's presentation of its high-quality restored, preserved, and digitized versions of three of the 1920s short films that starred Eille Norwood), and an informal dinner at a conveniently nearby restaurant. There's more information at the society's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>, including a link to a long article about Norwood as Holmes that ran in the July 1921 issue of *The Strand Magazine*.

The film was screened at the BSI's London Film Festival last year (Sep 24 #1), and the BFI is now restoring all of the Norwood films under a rights agreement with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group (which acquired the rights when it purchased the Stoll Moss Theatres Group in 2000). The best of the many articles about that screening was in the *Guardian* on Aug. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/bdbmjmtu>, with comment by Roger Johnson (then editor of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*). There's no word yet on the possible release of the newly restored films on DVDs, but one can hope. In the meantime you can listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's 2021 interview with the late Russell Merritt about the Norwood series at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/4y2efnzd>.

When in Belize (formerly known as British Honduras, in Central America): you will be able to visit Challenger Falls, the country's second tallest (at an estimated 800 feet) waterfall, which was recently discovered in the Sittee Forest Reserve and named in honor of Professor Challenger of *The Lost World* <www.belizewithalvin.com/challenger-falls-belize>.

"Curious Competitions: The Most Eccentric Heritage Games" was a non-Sherlockian but thoroughly amusing post <www.tinyurl.com/ytawabrkr> at the web-site of the British Library.

The first translation of a Canonical story into Klingon was "The Blue Carbuncle" (1977) <www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt>. Now there's a second: "A Scandal in Bohemia" (2025), with at least three more stories to come; details, including sample pages, are available at <www.tinyurl.com/yys6w4pr>. "The Red-Headed League" will be next <www.klingon.wiki/En/SherlockHolmes>. One can only hope that someday someone will record something from the Canon in Klingon.

American Theater magazine has posted its list of the most-produced playwrights of the 2025-2026 season <www.tinyurl.com/y248wvtc>, and you will see some familiar names (Kate Hamill, Ken Ludwig, and Jeffrey Hatcher).

SHERLOC is alive and well on Mars, and has helped identify potential biosignatures on the Red Planet. SHERLOC is the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman & Luminescence for Organics & Chemicals instrument on the Perseverance rover, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announcement (Sept. 10) is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/u3a6ye5t>. There's much more about SHERLOC at NASA's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/9bdzdvss>.

Sep 25 #2 What actors (in addition to John Neville) have played Holmes on stage, screen, and radio? And on stage, screen, radio and television? Lenny Picker was first in with the second actor who scored a triple play: William Gillette (on stage, screen, and radio). Basil Rathbone managed a quadruple (stage, screen, radio, and television).

"Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" (2003), a Canadian documentary about Joseph Bell, including interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards and Ely Liebow, is now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm3UhJb7EXk>; kindly reported by Jennie Paton.



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring William F. Buckley Jr. A committed conservative, he wrote more than 50 books and more than 5,600 biweekly columns "On the Right" for the National Review, which he founded in 1955 with an announcement that it "stands athwart history yelling Stop!" He loved language, and "A Scandal in Transylvania" (by Brad Linaweaver, in the conservative magazine New Guard in May 1977) had Buckley and D. Keith Mano in pursuit of Professor Goreviarty.

Further to the report (Aug 25 #3) on the French television series "Made-moiselle Holmes" (which started this month on PBS Passport), there is a trailer (with English subtitles) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mtdc2aam>. PBS Passport is a membership benefit for people who donate to their local PBS television station.

"There was excellent wild-duck shooting in the fens," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Gloria Scott"). The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of stamps that show ten duck species and breeds found throughout the UK. You can see the stamps at <www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/ducks>.

Fans of Laurie R. King, and her books, may wish to subscribe to her posts at Substack (which she describes as a blog-slash-newsletter outlet where people can post anything they think people might want to read). You can subscribe at <www.laurierkingwriter.substack.com>, and there's no charge. As might be expected, she has interesting posts.

Laurie also has a YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing> with some interesting material, including a reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" by Laurie and seven other members of the Baker Street Irregulars.

British playwright Nick Lane's credits include three Sherlockian plays, the most recent being "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" (now on tour in Britain). He was interviewed recently by George Maguire for the Culture Calling web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2sh494vh> (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

Laura F. Keyes performs at "Historic Voices" ("teaching history with live performance") <www.laurafkeyes.com>, and one of the women she portrays is Irene Adler; you can see that performance at the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbLi7Gtckic&t=5s>.

Sep 25 #3 M. Kenneth McQuage ("The Plumstead Marshes") died on Sept. 4.

Ken was a psychologist and an enthusiastic member of Sherlockian societies in Baltimore and Washington. In 1988 he created (and sold) what might well have been the world's first and perhaps only Sherlockian weathervane, modeled after the Hurlstone weathervane (in the Granada version of "The Musgrave Ritual"). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.

Matt Hall often reports at his interesting blog "221B Cooee" on discoveries such as the very first mention of Conan Doyle in the press. The Conan Doyle was not Arthur, but rather his sister Annette, in 1879, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/5cse8kaa>.

Witney Siebold posted a long article to the SlashFilm web-site (Sept 14) <www.tinyurl.com/33su2t64> about Gene Roddenberry's 1977 television film "Spectre", in which Robert Culp and Gig Young played a world-famed American criminologist and his usually tipsy doctor friend. Jennie Paton has found the film at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU_yg13NxiM>, and you can watch the film looking for Canonical echoes.

And there really is a Sherlockian connection. According to Susan J. Beasley (Call of the Hunt #37, 1988) Roddenberry and quite a few of the cast members of the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" series cast were Sherlockians, and Roddenberry wrote a screenplay in which he intended to involve Holmes and Watson, starring Leonard Nimoy as Holmes. Nimoy did not want to do the series, and when the Conan Doyle estate refused permission for the series, Roddenberry changed the names of the lead characters, and made the film as a pilot for a series. It was broadcast in the U.S. on NBC-TV and had a theatrical release in Britain, and that was that.

There was lots of press coverage of the Trumps' trip to Great Britain this month, including video on the Royal Family Channel at YouTube of the visit Queen Camilla and FLOTUS Melania made to inspect the Queen's Dolls House at Windsor Castle <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTKa-MT4UM8>. At 5:46 you can see them looking at Conan Doyle's "How Watson Learned the Trick".

George R. R. Martin, best known for his *A Song of Ice and Fire* series (on which the "Game of Thrones" was based), blogged on Mar. 13, 2013, about books he recommended <www.grrm.livejournal.com/316785.html>; it is nice indeed that one of them is Conan Doyle's *The White Company*.

The Susan Rice Mentorship Board has issued a call for nominations for the 2026 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, given annually to "one outstanding Sherlockian mentor who, like the late Susan Rice, is committed to bringing aspiring Sherlockians into the cause, and encouraging them to find ways to keep green the memory of Sherlock Holmes." The mentor and the mentee need not be members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the winner will be announced during the birthday festivities in New York in January 2026. More information about the criteria and the history of the award can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward>. Nominations, with a brief explanation of how they honor Susan's spirit of mentorship, should be submitted Nov. 10 to <susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com>.

Sep 25 #4 It has been many years since the last discussion (Oct 86 #2) of books whose titles (almost) match Canonical stories. One of them was Jonathn Stagge's Golden Age mystery *The Scarlet Circle* (1943), which was reprinted this year by the Mysterious Press, with a new forward by Otto Penzler <www.tinyurl.com/34eedawn>.

Shigeru Tsuyuguchi died on Apr 28. He had a long career on stage, screen, and television in Japan, and dubbed the voice of Sherlock Holmes when the Granada series was broadcast in Japan.

Further to forecasts of choreographer Penny Saunders' new two-act ballet "Sherlock Holmes" (due in Boise, Idaho., Oct. 10-12; Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 24-26; and Nashville, Tenn., May 1-3), there was a one-hour presentation ("Sherlock Unraveled: An Inquiry, Observation, and the Creative Process") by Ballet Idaho on Sept 19, and it's conveniently available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2vjzzbcf>.

Glen Miranker's splendid "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition has a new and improved web-site <www.sherlockin221objects.org>, with images from all three venues where it was shown, videos, and much more. Recommended.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced a new publication: *Occasional Papers Number One*, edited by Ashley Mayo (130 pp., £14.99/\$18.99). an anthology of articles submitted to the Sherlock Holmes Journal that deserve more space than the SHJ could make available. It has been published via Amazon Print on Demand, so it can be purchased everywhere without prohibitively-expensive shipping costs; it also is available via Kindle, for the modern generation, and those challenged with lack of shelf space. It seems likely that more societies will publish this way, making their books available to a much wider audience, and avoiding concern about print runs, warehousing, and fulfillment.

The Society is continuing its long annual tradition of publishing attractive Christmas cards, and this year's card will feature colorful artwork by Michael Foreman; it's available now (or will be soon) at their web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop-2>.

The University of Minnesota Libraries have issued a call for applications for a new curator of their Sherlock Holmes Collections and Upper Midwest Literary Archives <www.tinyurl.com/y4wcty7p>. The new curator will succeed Tim Johnson, who has been curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections since 1998, and will be retiring soon. The discussion of responsibilities and qualifications is impressive indeed.

The August issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota features Phillip Bergem's warm tribute to Tim Johnson, Tim's farewell "Update from the Collections", John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" memories of Michael Harrison, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Sep 25 #5 The Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia is continuing its "Bibli-
oventures" tour of the Canon (formerly Sherlock Holmes Mondays
and now Sherlock Monthly). All of the programs (including the eight epi-
sodes devoted to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that were formerly avail-
able only to subscribers) can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/349ss53r>. Ed-
ward G. Pettit hosts the series, assisted by a wide variety of knowledge-
able and entertaining Sherlockians.

The second season of "Watson" starts on CBS-TV on Oct. 13, and there's a
teaser at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xTM0LuHubQ&t=30s>. You'll get to see
Robert Carlyle as Sherlock Holmes.

It was 125 years ago that Conan Doyle bowled W. G. Grace. There was a nice
story on Aug. 28 in the Telegraph, which has a paywall, but you can also
read all about it at Yahoo Sports <www.tinyurl.com/yc4vfapr>. There's a
seldom-seen photograph of Conan Doyle in proper cricket whites, and other
contemporary artwork.

Posted to Facebook by Rich Holland <www.tinyurl.com/39sn2r3h>. The spec-
tacular visual pun was just too amusing to pass up. Compliments to Rich.



Pierre Bayard, the author of *Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong* (Sep 08 #7), writes with both style and scholarship. His *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read* (2007) is Sherlockian only for a chapter about Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, but Bayard also pays tribute to Oscar Wilde, who is credited with saying, "I never read a book I must review; it prejudices you so." Bayard doesn't give a source, and it seems that there isn't one; an Internet search suggests that if Wilde did say that he may have read something similar in *Bon-mots of Sydney Smith and R. Brinsley Sheridan* (1893), or perhaps in Georg Christoph Lichtenberg's even earlier *Sudelbücher* (late 1700s). Wilde is one of the 100 top authors cited at the Quote Investigator web-site, and often is credited for things others said.

Charles Napier Hemy's oil-on-canvas painting of "The Shore at Limehouse" <www.tinyurl.com/yy99twjc> (Aug 25 #5) was sold at Bonhams for £17,590 (including the buyer's premium). Arthur Conan Doyle's watercolor painting of an English country cottage <www.tinyurl.com/bdheewvy> (Aug 25 #6) sold at International Autograph Auctions Europe for €9,375 (including the buyer's premium).

Figurama is a Japanese company that specializes in figurines inspired by anime films and television <www.figurama-collectors.com>, and they've announced plans for an attractive (and expensive) tribute to "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" <www.tinyurl.com/mrnkfzt3>. Thanks to Jennie Paton for reporting video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ11N0GF5sg> and lots of artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/bd7h3s67>. The first six episodes of the series were directed by the legendary Hayao Mikazaki, and you can watch the first season at Hulu and at YouTube.

Sep 25 #6 Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is now being performed at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, through Oct. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/52xtmcwj>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is on stage at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Orlando, Fla., through Nov. 2 <www.orlandoshakes.org>. It will also be produced at the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs., Feb. 14-Mar. 14, 2026; their web-site is at <www.newvictheatre.org.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be produced at East Central College in Union, Mo., Oct. 2-5 <www.tinyurl.com/mu85ya33>; and at the Old Church Theatre in New Rockford, N.D., Oct. 3-12 <www.dprca.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Knutzen Family Theatre in Federal Way, Wash., Oct. 3-26 <www.centerstagetheatre.com>; and it will be produced at the Fells Point Corner Theatre in Baltimore, Apr. 24-May 17 <www.fpct.org>.

Peter Royston's "Sherlock Holmes and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow" will be produced at Makers Central in Tarrytown, N.Y., Oct. 10-19; their web-site is at <www.anywheretheatrecompany.com>

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at the Coldwater Cavalier Auditoria in Coldwater, Ohio, Oct. 23-26 <www.facebook.com/ColdwaterHSDrama>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson—Apt. 2B" has been scheduled at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center in Long Beach, Calif., on Oct. 15-Nov. 2 <www.ictlongbeach.org>. Also (in English with traditional and simplified Chinese subtitles) at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, B.C., on Oct. 16-25 <www.gatewaytheatre.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be produced at the Little Theatre in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., Oct. 16-26 <www.nsbplayers.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is scheduled at Oxnard College in Oxnard, Calif., Oct. 16-18 <www.tinyurl.com/4x2ntf2n>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Farmstead Arts Center in Basking Ridge, N.J., Oct. 17-26 <www.farmsteadarts.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be produced at the Helen Hooker Theater in Topeka, Kans., Oct. 17-Nov. 1 <www.topekacivictheatre.com>.

John E. Lee's new "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" will have its world premiere at the Chautauqua Playhouse in Carmichael, Calif., on Oct. 17-Nov. 9 <www.cplayhouse.org>.

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Information about many of the events (formal and informal) planned for the birthday festivities in New York in January 2026 can be found at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.tinyurl.com/fmfbuadh>. Only a few of them are invitation-only, and the birthday festivities continue to be a (very) long weekend that runs from Wednesday through Sunday. A registration form will be posted on Nov. 14. Scott Monty's nicely helpful forecast of BSI and non-BSI events (with valuable advice for all and sundry) is available at <www.bsiweekend.com>.

If you would like to share seasonal souvenirs dinners during the birthday festivities, you can send 220 copies (for the BSI and *The Women*) to Alex Katz (11 Van Beuren Road, Morristown, NJ 07960-7008), and 60 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Michael Bush (426 Myrtle Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-1704); they must be received by Dec. 9. Please avoid sending heavy and/or oddly-shaped items that would be difficult to pack and that might rip the bags.

The Gaslight Gala will be held on Jan. 9, at Annie Moore's. Details about the festivities will be found at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.

Plan well ahead: the BSI's next special conference (similar to "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at Bear Mountain in 2022) is scheduled for July 9-11, 2027, in San Francisco. Come one, come all, and stay tuned for more information.

Print-on-demand works quite well: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's *Occasional Papers Number One* (Sep 25 #4) arrived quickly, and it was nice to avoid expensive shipping. The seven articles include two reprints from other journals, and an impressive discussion of "That Murky Graveyard, the River Thames" by the late Kelvin I. Jones. Easily available from Amazon.

Ashley Mayo, who edited the *Occasional Papers*, also presides over the Society's scrapbook <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook>, a splendid resource for exploring the scholarship in the Sherlock Holmes Journal. He has cross-referenced and indexed more than 1,200 items from the SHJ, and provides the text of the Canon with convenient links to full text from the commentary in the SHJ.

Further to the item (Sep 25 #3) on the call for nominations for the 2026 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, there's an excellent report on Susan and the award at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/5n8wmcnv>.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is included in the (British) National Portrait Gallery's "Writers Revealed" exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/4573hfke> now at the Busan Museum in the Republic of Korea <www.tinyurl.com/28nsm4z7> through Jan. 18. The Gallery's catalog <www.tinyurl.com/mvwy7usa> has entries for 15 portraits of the Conan Doyle family, including Sir Arthur, Denis (and Nina), Adrian (and Anna), and Jean. The exhibition previously was at the Home of the Arts in Paradise, Australia, and in February 2026 it will open at the Shanghai Library in China.

Oct 25 #2 Otto Penzler's *Mysterious Obsession* (first published in 2019) has just been reissued in a fifth printing (New York: Mysterious Press 2025; 163 pp., \$40.00). He tells the story of his splendid collection of mystery and detection, and his career as a collector, book-seller, and publisher, and some of the treasures that were on the shelves of his magnificent library. Holmes and Conan Doyle, and some of Otto's Sherlockian friends, are mentioned from time to time, and, his stories are always great fun <www.tinyurl.com/2hp5seh2>.

It's not Sherlockian (unless you want an excuse to read the three Sherlock Holmes stories in which pearls are mentioned), but you're welcome to watch "The Birth of the Pearl" (1901) <www.tinyurl.com/zxwzwnz3>, filmed only a year after "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" was made. Compliments to the Public Domain Review and the Library of Congress.

Tim Marriott has been touring to enthusiastic reviews since 2020 in Bert Coules' one-act one-man play "Watson: The Final Problem", and you can see his current schedule at <www.smokescreenprods.com>. You can also read the script (Gloucester: Choir Press, 2025; 24 pp., \$14.99/£7.99) to share the fun they have had with the play. Bert's talents will be familiar to those who has enjoyed his dramatization of the entire Canon, and a series of new stories, broadcast by the BBC Radio.

Further to the news (Sep 25 #1) of the screening of "Silent Sherlock" at AFI Silver on Nov. 15, the U.S. premiere of the film will be on Nov. 13 at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival <www.tinyurl.com/cccz5jhf>. And it will be screened at the Electric Palace Cinema in Hastings, East Sussex, on Dec. 21 <www.electricpalacecinema.com/whats-on/silent-sherlock>.

Many Sherlockians have visited the statue of Sherlock Holmes on the sidewalk outside the Baker Street station in London, but very few people have reported visiting the public conveniences across the road and viewing the Sherlockian murals that were (and perhaps still are) inside the loos, nor (apparently) has anyone photographed them. There's no mention of them in a post to the Country Life web-site (Oct. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/472jnh2h> that was headlined "A Bum Deal on a Bog-Standard Property?" but the post is great fun.

Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular in China. There were exhibitions at the Chengdu Museum, Dec. 2024 to Apr. 2025 <www.tinyurl.com/ms6pje77>, with video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=edDU211UDyc>; and at the Shandong Museum in Jinan earlier this year, according to the China Daily (July 22) <www.tinyurl.com/yc745vw3>.

New Scientist magazine has a back-page Feedback feature ("a sideways look at the latest science and technology news"), and Geraldine Beare has noted Johan Gotthardt Olsen's discussion (Sept. 27) of acronyms in which he complimented the creators of SHERLOC and WATSON, now on Mars on the Perseverance rover (Sep 25 #1) and Facebook's regret that Perseverance did not also have on board a Monitor Of Raman Iridescence And Radiation Tomography Yardstick.

Oct 25 #3 James R. Benn's *A Bitter Wind* (New York: Soho Crime, 2025; 370 pp., \$28.95) is the 20th book in his series about Billy Boyle, an Irish-American police detective in Boston who winds up serving in Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters during World War II. The title is a nod to the Canon, but the book is Doylean rather than Sherlockian, and the Doyle is Squadron Officer Jean Conan Doyle, an intelligence officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, with whom Boyle works in a case involving espionage and murder. Jean ended her military career as Air Commandant, the highest rank in the Women's Royal Air Force, and in 1963 she was elevated to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire and became Dame Jean. There is much more about the author and his books at www.jamesrbenn.com.

Further to the forecast (Aug 25 #6) of the BBC World Service's "World Book Club" program "Arthur Conan Doyle: The Hound of the Baskervilles", you can listen to Harriett Gilbert interview Denise Mina and Mark Jones about the story at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct74s3.

Richard R. Rutter ("Mike Scanlan") died on Sept. 20. A co-founder of the Knights of the Gnomon in 1978, he was an enthusiastic member of the Sherlockian community on the west coast, and the world-wide community of the admirers of the long series of books about Oz. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

Penny Saunders' new two-act ballet "Sherlock Holmes" has had its premiere in Boise, Idaho, and there was a nice review (with images) in Pointe magazine on Oct. 10 www.pointemagazine.com/sherlock-ballet/#gsc.tab=0.

Old hands will recall the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (Aug 92 #2). For many years they welcomed customers at 230 Baker Street in London, and issued colorful mail-order catalogs. Justin Shulman happily reports that they're still in business, now on-line, as the Sherlock Holmes Company, at www.sherlockholmes.com.

Wilfrid de Freitas has published a nicely-illustrated sales-list of Sherlockiana and Doyleana from the collection of the late Doug Wrigglesworth www.defreitasbooks.com/general/DW.html.

You're never too young to encounter Sherlock Holmes. *A Merry Little Mystery*, with words by Layla Sutton and pictures by Noël Clark (Sourcebooks Wonderland, 2025; 24 pp., \$9.99) is a board book for children up to three years old, starring Little Sherlock and his pup Watson in a lift-the-flaps Christmas mystery.

The "Masterpiece Mystery" web-site celebrated Banned Books Week (Oct. 5-11) with an article www.tinyurl.com/y98xrk4m about mysteries that have been banned over the years, including *A Study in Scarlet*.

Rachel Corbett's *The Monsters We Make: Murder, Obsession, and the Rise of Criminal Profiling* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2025; 235 pp., \$28.99) begins with a chapter on Conan Doyle and his attempt to identify Jack the Ripper, and continues to modern times and discussion of the successes and failures of what's now called "behavioral analysis" or "predictive policing."

Oct 25 #4 Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed Billy Wilder's film "The Private life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), but here's a chance to see something that didn't make it into the edited version that was shown in theaters and on television: Jennie Paton has found "The Case of the Naked Honeymooners" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/mrxnbr34>.

The Point-à-Callière in Montréal will have an immersive "Sherlock Holmes" exhibition on Nov. 27-Mar. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/3dztuy36>. It will be similar to but not the same as the touring Exhibits Development Group exhibition.

For fans of the "Watson" series on CBS-TV who are now happily watching the second season: the first season is available in a box of four DVDs, with added features (\$31.99). Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/4v9n8v9m> offers the set at a discount (\$25.19).

The Sussex World noted (Oct. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/2f56v2jp> that the Crowborough Beacon Golf Club celebrated its 130th anniversary this month, and the story mentioned that Conan Doyle became a committee member in 1909 and was elected as Captain in 1910, and that Lady Doyle was Ladies Captain in 1911.

"Person to Person" was a 30-minute series broadcast by CBS-TV, hosted by Edward R. Murrow, and on Jan. 11, 1957, his guests included Basil Rathbone and his family. Video seems not to be available on-line, but Howard Ostrom has found a transcript at <www.tinyurl.com/yw6b6dfn>.

Many will remember seeing the German film "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937). It starred Hans Albert, Heinz Rühmann, and is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiVz990y2uY> with subtitles in English. It's also now a musical scheduled at the Harztheater in Halbertadt, Nov. 3-6, and then on tour in Germany <www.tinyurl.com/5y78t9kp>. Jennie Paton has reported a promotional video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjF6Z_S30_k>.

The "Sherlock Holmes" CD issued by Jay Records in 2000, with Patrick Gowen's music for the Granada series that starred Jeremy Brett, is available again as a CD (£12.99) and as a 12" vinyl record (£22.99); their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/2cjma77u>.

Philip Cunningham, who is compiling a census of known copies of "Conferment by Needle", the pamphlet published by Michael Murphy in 1980, with a letter from Vincent Starrett offering T. S. Eliot honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (*sic*), and Eliot's return letter of gratitude and affirmative response. Copies of the census are available on request via e-mail from Philip (pjcl21@comcast.net). and he would be happy to hear from anyone who can add to the census.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles", "Sherlock Holmes versus Dracula", and "Sherlock Holmes's Christmas Casebook" are just three of many plays that the Don't Go into the Cellar company is touring in Britain, all starring Jonathan Goodwin. Details at <www.dontgointothecellar.com>.

Oct 25 #5 KD Sherrinford's *The Whistle of Revenge* (Extasy Books, 2024; 331 pp., \$12.75) is the fourth title in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series; Holmes and Adler are again in Italy, with their two children, masquerading as the Saporis and in peril from Jack Stapleton, who survived the Grimpen Mire and, seeking vengeance, has kidnapped Holmes and Adler's son Nicco. Sherrinford has a colorful Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf>, and you can read more about the author and her books at <www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyh>.

A set of three Montblanc pens honoring Conan Doyle, offered at PBA Galleries on July 24 (Jun 25 #1) (estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500) sold for \$1,375. Another (or perhaps the same) set, estimated at \$1,200-\$1,800, will be offered at PBA Galleries on Nov. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/2p9zmnrcr>.

Clifton House in Peterhead (in Aberdeenshire in Scotland) is on the market with an asking price of £465,000 according to the Aberdeen Press and Journal (Oct. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/37cj9k7k>. Young Arthur Conan Doyle likely visited the house when it was owned by John Gray, captain of the whaling ship *Hope* on which Conan Doyle served as the ship's surgeon in 1880.

Planning by the Parallel Case of St. Louis for their next Holmes in the Heartland conference (July 24-26, 2026) continues, and their list of speakers is up at their web-site <www.shorturl.at/B3onQ>.

Samantha Eggar died on Oct 15. She started acting on the stage in London in 1959 and went on to a long career in films and television; her credits include Miss Mary Raines in the film "The Molly Maguires" (1970) and Mary Watson in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976). Both of the films can be watched at YouTube.

"The butler did it" is a sentence that's popularly attributed to Mary Roberts Rinehart, even though there aren't any criminal butlers in any of her books. The earliest felonious butler seems to have been Brunton (in "The Musgrave Ritual"). Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "The Butler Did it" is not Sherlockian, but it will have its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Jul 17-Aug. 1, 2026 <www.tinyurl.com/mw4h7hp5>.

The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark celebrated its 75th anniversary with a weekend of festivities earlier this year, and you can hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interview Christian Monggaard about how the Danes have appreciated Holmes at the long-running "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/bdcrcmcv>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping): Randall Stock's annual and informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books, movies, DVDs, and more, go on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1. You will also find recommendations of older material, all with helpful explanations of his choices. There's always much more of interest at his web-site, including discussion of manuscripts, Beeton's Christmas Annual, and Sidney Paget; you can click on "Site index/Search" at the upper right to see what's available.

Oct 25 #6 Theatrics: David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is due at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Nov. 4-15; their web-site's at <www.repertorynp.co.nz>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled at the Mod Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Nov. 6-16 <www.tinyurl.com/jpmxkynb>; the Tryon Little Theatre in Tryon, N.C., Nov. 13-23 <www.tinyurl.com/73kv9c63>; and the First Presbyterian Church in Tahlequah, Okla., on Nov. 14-23 <www.tcpok.com>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be performed at the Hoover High School in North Canton, Ohio, Nov. 7-8; web-site at <www.northcantonschools.org/266144_2?articleID=39051>.

Nicholas Ewen's "Sherlock and the Baker's Daughter" has been scheduled at the Brownwood Lyric Theatre in Brownwood, Texas, Nov. 9-12; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/43sm8zv4>.

David Hansen's "Sherlock Holmes Meets the Bully of Baker Street" will be performed at the GracePoint Church in Plant City, Fla., Nov. 13-15; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3knxccc9>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is scheduled at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., Nov. 13-16 <www.tinyurl.com/pys7m46s>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" will be performed at the Pavilion Theatre in Castle Hill, N.S.W., Nov. 14-Dec. 6 <www.paviliontheatre.org.au>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be at the Lyric Stage in Boston, Mass., Nov. 14-Dec. 21 <www.lyricstage.com>; and at the Mesquite Arts Theatre in Mesquite, Texas, Nov. 28-Dec. 14 <www.mesquiteartstheatre.org>. It's also due at the Robert Lee Brault Playhouse in Green Bay, Wis., Dec. 4-14 <www.gbcommunitytheater.com>; and the James Lee Community Center Theatre in Falls Church, Va., Dec. 12-20 <www.providenceplayers.org>. Also at the Lakeview United Church of Christ in Maineville, Ohio, Dec. 12 to 20 <www.lumosplayers.com>; and at the Garfield Center for the Performing Arts in Chestertown, Md., Dec. 4-20, 2026 <www.garfieldcenter.org>.

Mary Jane Hansen's "The Baker Street Adventuress: Sherlock Holmes on the Air" will have its world premiere at the Saratoga Music Hall in Saratoga Spring, N.Y., Nov. 14-23 <www.itheatresarratogra.org>; the adventuress is Edith Meiser, and the play includes one of her programs.

Micah Cover's new "The Last Case of Dr. Watson" will be performed at the Count's Den in Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 14-20 <www.thecountsden.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Terrace Plaza Playhouse in Washington Terrace, Utah, Jan. 9-Feb 07, 2026 <www.terraceplazaplayhouse.com>.

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20817-4401 (301-229-5669) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Thomas R. Hutchinson's script for "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" (1937), the first Sherlock Holmes television broadcast, was published in Lenox R. Lohr's *Television Broadcasting: Production, Economics, Technique* (McGraw Hill, 1940) and reprinted in Peter Haining's *The Mammoth Book of Movie Detectives & Screen Crimes* (Carroll & Graf, 1998); both are available from on-line book dealers. The program was broadcast live by NBC, so no recording is available.

It has been a while since a report of a Sherlockian jigsaw (purists complain about the phrase "jigsaw puzzle"), and this one's thoroughly minor, by White Mountain Puzzles offers a "Café Bookstore" (\$19.99) with a small image of a Sherlockian book <www.tinyurl.com/5ayk8uzt>.

Fans of Sherlock Snoopy will welcome GameMill Entertainment's new computer game "Snoopy & The Great Mystery Club" which was released on Oct. 10. You can watch a trailer for the game at <www.tinyurl.com/yn8ntfwh>.

"First Came the Louvre Heist, Then Came the Memes" was the headline on a story at the NPR web-site (on Oct. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/kkan9b58> that included a photograph of Laurence Deloision (as Arsène Lupin) with Thierry Gilibert (as Sherlock Holmes), members of the Cercle Holmésien de Paris.

Cliff Goldfarb was the first to report a Sherlockian connection to the new Burevestnik nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed cruise missile unveiled by Vladimir Putin last month: Burevestnik is the storm petrel in Russia, and stormy petrels are mentioned in "The Reigate Squires" and "The Naval Treaty".

Scott Monty has updated his "Tips for Making the Most of the BSI Weekend" page at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/2u93veed>. It's recommended for old hands as well as new. The "Big Apple" can be intimidating at times, but it needn't be.

Jennie Paton has reported a "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dorothy" animation, and wondered why Holmes is shown with antlers <www.tinyurl.com/32aczahj>. See below for a possible answer to the question.

The Lilly Library's web-page for on-line exhibitions offers an interesting list of 15 exhibits <www.tinyurl.com/27cftkyv>, and the last (and most interesting one) is "The History of The Baker Street Irregulars Through 221 Objects" <www.tinyurl.com/ydkf94xp>. It's well worth a tour, to see what sort of material can be found in the BSI Trust Archives.

"75 Years of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark" (edited by Jens Byskov Jensen) is the title of the Baker Street Journal's 2025 Christmas Annual, which is available only to those who subscribe to the BSJ. There is still time for you to subscribe for 2025: 5 issues including the Christmas Annual) <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2001/05/01/subscribe-bsj>; \$46.00 to the U.S., and \$60 international, and the deadline is Dec. 5.

Nov 25 #2 Boston. April 8.—After reading Sir Conan Doyle's "The Hounds of the Baskervilles," which tells of a ghostly dog that tears the throat of Sir Hugo Baskerville and leaves him dead on the moor, Marcus J. Long, sixty-five, chopped to pieces all the keys and strings of the piano, smashed a \$1,000 violin and then committed suicide by inhaling illuminating gas." Spotted in the Fort Wayne Daily News, Apr. 8, 1909, by an anonymous contributor to The Stranger's Room at Facebook.

"Eccentric, Awe-Inspiring, and a Home-from-Home for Literary Giants" was the headline on a post to the Country Life web-site about the London Library celebration of its 180 years of history <www.tinyurl.com/38thzxnd>. And yes, there's a mention of "The Illustrious Client".

Prunella Scales died on Oct. 27. Perhaps best known for her role as Sybil Fawcety on television in "Fawlty Towers" (1975/1979), she began her career as an actor on stage in 1951 and went on to star on stage, film, and television. Her credits included Glynis in the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, was a grandfather of William S. Baring-Gould and a character in Laurie R. King's *The Moor* (2007), as well as the author of *The Book of Were-Wolves* (1865). The Public Domain Review has provided a link to the book on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4rfn6n8c>.

Javier A. Gonzalez's *A Study in Chronology: A Study of the Chronology of the Sherlock Holmes Canon* (2023; 456 pp., \$20.00) (available only from Amazon) was discovered by Bruce Harris and reported to the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild last month as "something to celebrate," and is a splendid addition to the literature about Canonical chronology, Gonzalez discusses the conclusions of early chronologists as well as his own, and is knowledgeable and readable.

Jennie Paton wondered why Sherlock Holmes is shown with antlers in an animation <www.tinyurl.com/32aczahj>, and Matthew Elliott suggested that AI was asked to show Sherlock Holmes in a deerstalker.

Thomas A. Dandrew II ("The Naval Treaty") died on Oct. 31. He was a tenth-grade English teacher for almost 40 years, and avid sports fan, founder of Altamont's Agents, and editor of all 61 issues of their newsletter Naval Signals. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.

George Sanger (mentioned in "The Veiled Lodger") had a colorful life and wrote an autobiography *Seventy Years a Showman* (published in 1910 with a long introduction by Kenneth Grahame) that is well worth reading. It is nice that it's conveniently available at the Internet Archive.

Ann Marlowe has reported a Marx Brothers film "Humor Risk" (1921) in which (according to the Internet Movie Data Base) "Harpo played the hero, a detective named Watson." There's a long entry about the long-lost and never-released film at Wikipedia, and one can only hope that it will turn up somewhere, eventually. See also Marxology <www.tinyurl.com/4uvtpf29>.

Nov 25 #3 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the autumn issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Department of intriguing non-Sherlockian book titles: A. M. Muffaz's *The Society of Vegetarian Cannibals* (PS Publishing, 2025).

Search your attic: Adrian Nebbett has discovered Milton Bradley's "Alfred Hitchcock Presents Why" board game (released in 1958, and reissued with different box art in 1961 and in 1967). One of the characters was Shylock Bones (in Sherlockian costume), and you can see an image of the pieces in an article about the game as <www.tinyurl.com/yv8x447y>.

It has been many years since the last mention of Billy Childish and Thee Headcoats (May 97 #3). Don Crane, leader of the British rhythm-and-blues band Downliner Sect, wore a deerstalker (which he called a headcoat) and influenced Billy Childish, whose garage-rock records include "Sound of the Baskervilles" and "My Dear Watson". Their latest album is "The Sherlock Holmes Rhythm 'n' Beat Vernacular" <www.tinyurl.com/4sjvfmxs>, and you can sample one of their songs at the web-site of the Damaged Goods record label <www.tinyurl.com/3e5pkmkc>.

"Dear Holmes" (spotted by Aziz Adam) is a mysteries-by-mail challenge that has been around for a while, favorably reviewed in newspapers and on-line <www.dearholmes.com>.

Propstore's auction on Dec. 7 will include material from BBC One's "Sherlock" television series (with Cumberbatch and Freeman): lot 935 includes eight newspapers, a sign, and a production-made copy of The Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/mp4c5hs5>, estimated at £1500-£3000. The cover of the magazine says that it is the Oct. 1895 issue, and a wrap-around band advertises "The Blue Carbuncle" (the magazine's inside pages, needless to say, are blank). The auction house doesn't say which episode showed the magazine, so the fortunate auction winner will need to watch the series.

News from Crowborough: the local railway station now displays a sign that notes that the town was the home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The sign was unveiled on Oct. 30 <www.tinyurl.com/y9espe22>. The Travel and Tour World web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yuu37tf5> story included an artistic rendering of The Great Detective at the station (but if you read to the end you'll find that the image was created with AI).

Crowborough also made news when the government announced last month that the Crowborough Training Camp would be repurposed to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers. A post to the Conservation Woman web-site on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/4nzd4jse> reported strong local opposition to the plan. The Training Camp is not far from the Beacon Golf Club, where Conan Doyle served as the Club's captain in 1910 (Oct 25 #4).

Nov 25 #4 *Millie of the Manor*, written by Karina Evans and illustrated by Andrea Bell (New York: HarperAlley, 2025; 204 pp., \$15.99), is an imaginative and charming graphic novel for children ages 8-12, about a young girl who enjoys reading Sherlock Holmes stories, suffers from severe social anxiety, and is able to overcome that problem at a murder-mystery birthday party.

A few copies of the 30th-anniversary limited edition of Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (Aug 25 #6), signed and illustrated, and with scans of the first five pages of the manuscript, are still available from Midworld Press (\$140.00) <www.tinyurl.com/nhaept6n>.

The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers Cliff Goldfarb's discussion of postcard sellers Raphael Tuck & Sons, new Sherlockian scholarship, and Jesse Amaolo's news about new additions to the Collection. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2GB, Canada) <cgoldfarb221@gmail.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Cracking the Case" (a new exhibition that opened at the Pointe-à-Callière in Montréal on Nov. 27 and will close on Mar. 8); their web-site is at <www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/detail/sherlock-holmes>. The exhibition is similar to but not the same as the long-running touring "International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition" created by the Exhibits Development Group.

The 46th annual "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 1) offered, as usual, an excellent assortment of Sherlockian presentations. If you missed the festivities, you are welcome to watch the event on-line at <www.youtube.com/live/fp0hkVVRcGk>.

Scott Bond ("The Copper Beeches") died on Nov. 13. He was a talented artist whose work was published widely, and included many years of full-page cartoons in the Baker Street Journal. Scott was an energetic and enthusiastic member of Sherlockian societies in Philadelphia and then Columbus. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983, and the BSI's prestigious Two Shilling Award in 2000.

William Oxe's painting "The Muse or Like for Like" (one of three commissioned for Phil Growick's anthology *The Art of Sherlock Holmes* (published by MX Publishing in 2019) will be offered again at Anglia Car Auctions in Norfolk on Dec. 6, estimated at £12,000-£15,000 <www.tinyurl.com/4c6npx9z>. The painting was offered last year (Dec 24 #1), but went unsold.

Reported: *Murder on the Menu: Recipes from Sleuthing Stars*, edited by Pat- tie Tierney (Feb 25 #3) is now available as a trade paperback from Amazon (286 pp., \$12.99) with recipes from contributors such as actors Steven Fry (Mycroft), John Thaw (Jonathan Small) and Rosalie Williams (Mrs. Hudson); authors Lloyd Biggle Jr., Loren D. Estleman, Daniel D. Victor, Otto Penzler; and many others from the world of Sherlockians.

Nov 25 #5 "Silent Sherlock" (the first three Eille Norwood short films from the 1920s digitally restored by the British Film Institute), was screened in 2024 by the BFI in London, and this month by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival and by the American Film Institute at the AFI Silver theater in Silver Spring, Md. You can see just how spectacular the restoration is in an excerpt available at the BFI's Facebook page <www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1805541223439173>, and there's more information about the restoration project, the films, and Eille Norwood, at <www.redcircledc.org>. The BFI has all 47 films (45 short and 2 long) and restoration work continues; it's likely to be a while before enough films have been restored to warrant release on a commercial DVD.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (the new musical with songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice) has opened at the Birmingham Rep (in the U.K.), and you can see lots of images at <www.tinyurl.com/3e6kcs4x>.

"Fairies" was a 65-minute program broadcast as the "Play of the Week" by BBC-2 on Sept. 27, 1978; it was a dramatization of the Cottingley fairies in 1917, with James Grout appearing as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Jennie Paton has found it on-line at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x9he340>.

Sherlockian connections to Presidents have been in short supply in recent years, with none for George W. Bush, Barak Obama, or Joe Biden. But (forwarded without comment: <<http://www.tinyurl.com/mjcam2sa>>.

The Agra Treasurers' eleventh "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Fairborn, Ohio, Mar. 20-21, 2026; their web-site's at <www.agratreasurers.net> (with links to programs for previous conferences), and registration's now open.

Sherlock Hemlock is familiar to every "Sesame Street" fan, with many videos available on-line, but there also are interesting guests who appear on the series, such as <www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXEYExvoTE8>, kindly noted by Jennie C. Paton. It's from 2014, and there's a formal entry at the Muppet Wiki <www.muppet.fandom.com/wiki/Benedict_Cumberbatch>.

Tim Johnson has officially retired after 27 years as the Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, and 15 years as the E. W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries. You can read their tribute to him at <www.tinyurl.com/hhfthmcb>.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) is scheduled for Apr. 10-12, 2026, in Atlanta, Ga.; registration is open, and there's an informative web-site at <www.221bcon.com>.

Conan Doyle was mentioned only in passing in Keven Kenny's *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires* (1998). Kenny suggested that the starting point in any attempt to rewrite the history of the Molly Maguires "is to treat the surviving evidence with the skepticism it deserves," and he does just that in this interesting book, which now has a 25th-anniversary edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023; 376 pp., \$29.95) with a new and interesting preface by Kenny, who discusses "The Valley of Fear" and much more.

Nov 25 #6 Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Four County Players Mainstage in Barboursville, Va., through Dec. 7 <www.fourcp.org>. It also will be produced at Theatre Arlington in Arlington, Texas, Dec. 5-21 <www.theatrearlington.org>; at the Vortex Theatre in Albuquerque, N.M., Dec. 5-28 <www.vortexabq.org>; and at the Moose Jaw Centre for Arts and Culture in Moose Jaw, Sask., Dec. 12-13--Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063278616574#>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is on at the Stagecrafters Theatre in Philadelphia, Pa., through Dec. 14 <www.thestagecrafters.org>. It's also due at the Actors' Mission in Rock Springs, Wyo., Dec. 18-21; web-site at <www.actorsmission.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is on at the Arcola Theatre in London through Dec. 20 <www.arcolatheatre.com>. It also will be performed at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival in Boise, Ida., June 19-July 11 <www.idahoshakespeare.org>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is due at the Keystone High School Cafetorium in LaGrange, Ohio, Dec. 3-5; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3zrbhdp>.

John Weagly's "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Clowns" will be produced at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12-Jan. 04; their web-site is at <www.citylit.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Granbury Opera House in Granbury, Tex., Jan. 23-Feb. 8. 2026 <www.granburytheatrecompany.org>; and the Murry Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock, Ark., Apr. 22-May 23 <www.murrysdpc.com>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Miss Alice Faulkner" (adapted by T. S. Forsyth) has been scheduled by the Placer Repertory Theatre in Rocklin, Lincoln, Roseville, and Auburn, Calif., Apr. 15 to 25, <www.placerrep.org>.

Penny Saunders' "Sherlock" ballet will be produced at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, Tenn., on May 1-3 <www.tpac.org>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the StageWest Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 3-28, <www.stagewest.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be produced at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival in Center Valley, Pa., July 16-Aug. 1 <www.pashakespeare.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (the new musical with songs written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice) has premiered at the Birmingham Rep and received rave reviews in the British press. One can only hope the show will be produced in the U.S. next year.

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`Tis the season: the most comprehensive season's greetings received here were from the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. "Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day, Yule, Dongzhi, Las Posadas, Omisoka, or another meaningful winter tradition—or simply taking time for rest and reflection—we hope the season brings peace, light, and connection."

Mark Gatiss always is interesting; you can read an in-depth interview with him in *Country Life* <www.tinyurl.com/58ffewce>. For anyone who has just arrived in the Sherlockian world, Gatiss was a co-creator of the BBC One "Sherlock" television series, in which he played a spectacular Mycroft.

The "Watson" television series is popular with CBS-TV viewers (who continue to enjoy hospital and mystery shows). The 10th episode of the second season was broadcast on Dec. 15, when the series went on hiatus, and the last three episodes will air beginning on Mar. 1. Then we'll see if the series is renewed for a third season.

More about "Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (now running at the Birmingham Rep): Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have interviewed Humphrey Ker and David Reed, the writers and stars of the show, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/5e87eym7>.

The British film "The Case of Marcel Duchamp" (1984) is one of the more unusual Sherlockian films (with Guy Rolfe as Holmes, Raymond Francis as Watson, and Rose Sélavy as Duchamp), and Jennie Paton has discovered it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj5Ebaj7EGY>. If you find the film confusing (as may well be the case), you are welcome to read a detailed discussion of it at <www.tinyurl.com/48ytcvtz>, and learn why this is the only film credit for Rose Sélavy at the Internet Movie Data Base,

It's always nice when experts agree with you about a book you recommended: the Washington Post's year-end "50 notable works of non-fiction from 2025" included Rebecca Romney's *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend* (Mar 25 #2).

Hugh Bonneville has now narrated all 54 of the Canonical short stories for BBC Sound <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0k9tzr0>. They're also available at Noiser <www.noiser.com> (May 25 #4), along with other material, including some of the stories in German; just search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle].

The December issue of *Ineffable Twaddle* (the newsletter published by the Sound of the Baskervilles) carried a report on Shannon Wallace's presentation on "The Devil's Foot" at the society's August meeting, and a link to the web-site of the Devil's Foot Beverage Company <www.devilsfootbrew> in Ashville, N.C. The company offers Devil's Foot Root Beer and four varieties of Devil's Foot Ginger Beer, which would seem to be thoroughly appropriate to have available when your society discusses the story.

Dec 25 #2 I've not seen anything about this in the press here, but there is a BBC News story that may be of interest to those writing to and from Denmark <www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3v37plv2edo>. The end of letter deliveries in this digital age in Denmark does suggest that at some point the U.S. Postal Service will start thinking seriously about just how much money it loses delivering a letter from Maine to Hawaii, which is of course much farther than anything travels in Denmark. It's also possible that a much higher percentage of Danes are using the Internet, considering that there are many areas in the U.S. that do not yet have good access to the Internet, and sometimes none at all.

"Holmes & Watson: A Perfect Pair" is Scott Monty's headline on a nice video advertisement <www.tinyurl.com/2v5zww6u> for Ghirardelli chocolate, reported at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast.

Gōshō Aoyama's "Detective Conan" is a massively popular manga in Japan and many other countries (with 270 million copies sold, as well as a long series of animations). Jennie Paton has reported an interesting video about Aoyama and his creation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84AVEo4kX0>.

Sherlock's Bar in Southsea <www.sherlocks-bar.co.uk>, which honors Conan Doyle (who created Sherlock Holmes in Southsea), made the news this month when the Portsmouth News reported (Dec. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/mrxbyvt> that the Portsmouth City Council approved reclassifying Sherlock's from a restaurant to a bar.

Tom Stoppard died on Nov. 29. The famous British playwright's first success was "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" (1966), and he went on to write for stage, screen, radio, and television. He received many awards for his work, including a knighthood (1997) and the Order of Merit (2000). In 1994 he was commissioned by Steven Spielberg to write the script for an animated film version of "Cats" for Spielberg's Amblimation studio, to be released by Universal in 1997, but the film was never produced.

Carolyn Senter presided over <www.sherlock-holmes.com> for many years with her husband Joel, in business as Classic Specialties, selling and publishing a wide variety of Sherlockiana, and she has now put the domain name up for sale (just click on the URL). The asking price is \$5,000 (but Carolyn notes that the price is completely negotiable).

Rob Nunn had reported that the block of rooms for Holmes in the Heartland (the conference planned by the Parallel Case of St. Louis for July 24-26) is filling quickly, and encourages early registration. Details are available at their web-site <www.shorturl.at/B3onQ>.

More on the sad fate of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement style terraces in 1912): the hotel was demolished last year (Jul 24 #2) and now the developer is building apartments and houses on the site. A local Hampshire newspaper recently ran a report (Dec. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/yc5y4btm> with before-and-after images.

Dec 25 #3 "The Curious Case of the Masked Magician" is a new Holmes-and-Watson magic show that will premiere on Jan. 31 at the Mowlem Theatre in Swanage, Dorset, and then tour in Britain throughout 2026. It was created by Peter Clifford and David Hoare (aka The Great Baldini), who star as Holmes and Watson, and directed by John Nicholson, co-creator of the Peepolykus three-person "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2007). There is much more information about the show at <www.masquedmagician.com>, and it sounds like great fun indeed.

Registration's now open for the "And It's Always 1895" conference planned by the Torists International in Chicago on Oct. 23-25 (Jul 25 #6). Their web-site's at <www.anditisalways1895.org>, and you will be able to attend the annual dinner of the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic).

From many years ago: Anthony Newley and Harvey Korman as Holmes and Watson in a skit on the "Carol Burnett Show" (Dec. 23, 1973), reported by Jennie Paton at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9XLAN9X4xo>.

For anyone who has the Pantasy building-brick version of the house at 221B Baker Street (May 24 #3), Jennie Paton has found a YouTube reel from someone who discovered a secret hidden in the depths of the model, explained at <www.youtube.com/shorts/MzarDYpAszo>.

"Silent Sherlock: Three Classic Cases" is now showing in "select cinemas" in the U.K. and Ireland <www.tinyurl.com/yc35bjn9>. They're the three Eille Norwood films from the 1920s digitally restored by the British Film Institute (Nov 25 #5). And the BFI web-site had David Parkinson's fine article on "10 Great Sherlock Holmes Films and TV Adaptations" on Dec 11 at <www.tinyurl.com/55tzum3>.

Road Scholar <www.roadscholar.org> was founded in 1975, and offers a wide variety of in-person and on-line courses, including two of possible interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans; just search for [sherlock].

Lot 935 at Propstore's auction on Dec. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mp4c5hs5>, with the production-made copy of The Strand Magazine used in the Granada series (Nov 25 #3), estimated at £1500-£3000, was bought for £1890 (including the buyer's premium).

Typecasting as Sherlock Holmes: it was published at The Onion's web-site a year ago <www.tinyurl.com/5bxt5j6d>, and only now gets into the newsletter (thanks to a reminder from Dan Stashower).

Variety has published (Dec. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/mtyaar27> "first look" images from the upcoming "Young Sherlock" television series due next year on Prime Video; you can see all of the images at <www.tinyurl.com/7vujun2>. Variety also reported (Dec. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/mr2u6pca> that all eight episodes will be available on Mar. 4 (Guy Ritchie directed the first two episodes, and is executive producer of the series). And there's a teaser at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-NEi8tRC8Q&t=70s>. Note: Prime Video is the new name for Amazon Prime Video (which merged with MGM Studios in 2023).

Dec 25 #4 "There's No One More Obsessive Than Sherlock Holmes Fans. And I Should Know" was the headline on an article by Damian Thompson at The Spectator's web-site on Dec. 13; their web-site has a pay-wall, but fortunately the web-site of the magazine's Australian edition doesn't, and you can read the article at <www.tinyurl.com/6rk2knkk>. Thompson does well at explaining how we play our Grand Game. One should note that the headline in the print edition was "The Game's Afoot: Why Are We Still So Obsessed with Sherlock Holmes?"

"Selections from the Collection of President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter" will be offered at auction in January at Christie's in New York, and one of the lots <www.tinyurl.com/hk85h7mx> is "a collection of sixteen books owned by President Carter during his childhood." One of the books being a reprint edition of some of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The estimate for the lot is \$1,000-\$1,500.

Also at auction next month, at Bruun Rasmussen in Denmark, is a Sherlock watermark detector <www.bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/lots/E395975A9121>, estimated at 600 DKK (about \$95.00). Modern stamp collectors may or may not remember using carbon tetrachloride in a watermark tray; that ended when it was decided that carbon tetrachloride was hazardous. You can see what's done now in a video at <www.tinyurl.com/4xjzewtp>.

An article on "The Adventure of the Sherlock Holmes Artifacts" in the winter 2026 issue of Minnesota Alumni <www.tinyurl.com/38khupc4> celebrates Denny Dobry's donation of his recreation of the sitting-room to the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

The future doesn't lie ahead, it's here right now: the library system in Montgomery County, Md., will soon go cash-less <www.tinyurl.com/2jsbk5sk>. Patrons will be able to use library printers free (15 black-and-white and two color copies a day); additional copies will be charged to library-card accounts that patrons can refresh on-line with credit cards. In addition, ear buds and flash drives will be available free on a limited basis.

The Murder Game: Play, Puzzles & the Golden Age, by John Curran (London: Collins Crime Club, 2025; 458 pp., \$30.00) is a detailed and scholarly examination of the mystery genre that began in the 1920s, when "fair play" became so important to authors and their readers. Due attention is paid to Conan Doyle's expert and innovative story-telling, but the emphasis is on what happened when authors followed (or ignored) the rules set by Ronald Knox and others.

An interesting manuscript item was at auction at eBay this month: a signed quotation from "The Dancing Men" <www.tinyurl.com/3pfk8bjt> that included four words in the story's cipher. It was bought for £820, by someone who obviously believed that it was authentic (a belief not shared by a number of Sherlockians). The seller appears to be an individual, rather than a dealer, located in Poland, who has offered and sold a number of autographs <www.tinyurl.com/b6sumn2w>, explaining that they're from her late grandfather's autograph collection.

Dec 25 #5 "Gold in a Goose's Crop" read the headline on a story in the Ashcroft Journal (Jan. 5, 1901), discovered by Barbara Roden, who edits the newspaper in British Columbia. "A mild sensation has been caused in New Westminster by the discovery of \$12.50 in coarse gold as big as flax seed in the crop of a wild goose, which was killed at Pitt Lake, 28 miles from New Westminster," according to the story, "Many prospectors have started for the scene of the supposed gold placers." Something that will be of interest to Sherlockian scholars interested in "The Blue Car-buncle" and the debate launched by Mildred Sammons (in the Chicago Tribune on Dec. 26, 1946) about whether geese have crops.

Arturo Pérez-Reverte's *The Final Problem* (New York: Mulholland, 2026; 320 pp., \$29.00), finally available in English, is a splendid Sherlockian mystery that features Ormond Basil, a washed-up actor who starred as Sherlock Holmes in 15 Hollywood films and now finds himself forced to solve a classic locked-room mystery, and three murders, on an isolated Greek island in the 1960s. It's all entertaining and intriguing, and recommended.

Sherlockian connections to Presidents have been in short supply in recent years, with none for George W. Bush, Barak Obama, or Joe Biden. But (forwarded without comment: <www.tinyurl.com/3hdhcbth> [Nov 25 #5]. Alas: the URL didn't work for many people. Try <www.tinyurl.com/mjcam2sa>, which is the official report rather than a newspaper story. Or you can just search for [trump dog that hasn't barked].

Gyles Brandreth's short story "Murder at the Palace!" (which was published in the Daily Mail in 2018) has Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde solving a mystery at Buckingham Palace. Now you can listen to him read the story at the Black Country Radio podcast <www.tinyurl.com/239a3z6w>. It's also conveniently available at Spotify <www.tinyurl.com/2eeahj9w> and at Apple Podcasts <www.tinyurl.com/w9uwsepm>. Apparently Stephen Fry narrated the story for The Crime Hub podcast in 2019, but that recording seems not to be available now.

"Missing Sherlock Holmes Dollhouse Returns to U Collection, the Largest of Its Kind in the World" was the headline on a story in the Minneapolis Star Tribune (Dec. 21) <www.tinyurl.com/2jn6fjd2>. Dorothy Rowe Shaw's twelve-room miniature of 221B Baker Street, which sustained serious water damage in 2020; the repairs have taken three years to complete, and the miniature will be back on display in the beginning of 2026.

It's possible that the legal battles over the Sherlock Holmes Museum will never come to an end. "Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Wins Fight to Evict Brother from flm Home in 10-Year Feud" was the headline on a story in the Daily Mirror in 2013 (Feb 23 #1). Now the Sun's headline is "Owner of £20 Million Tourist Attraction Locked in 'Cataclysmic' Court Fight with Sister Over Claims He Owes Her £500,000" <www.tinyurl.com/2zvh6kva>. There was a similar story in the Daily Mail <www.tinyurl.com/5crpfknw>; the Aidiniantz family's legal battles began in 2012, and they have appeared in court more than 100 times and racked up more than a dozen judgments. A final judgment in the current case might come next year.

Dec 25 #6 The first "Great Sherlockian Whimsical Tour" was held in 2005, and now there has been second one: a five-day odyssey through Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, tracking down 39 locations that have hidden ties to the Canon. You can hear Greg Ruby and Steve Mason explain it all in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/824kmxat>.

Mystery author Hank Phillippi Ryan presides over the Crime Time podcast, and recently interviewed Nicholas Meyer <www.tinyurl.com/32x7jep8>. It's always fun when a good writer interviews another good writer.

What might have been: from Radio Wolinsky's "The Probability Archive" at KPFA-FM (Berkeley) on Dec. 21: a 1980s interview with science-fiction film director Jack Arnold <www.tinyurl.com/5evdefvp>. At 63:35 he discusses a remake of "The Lost World" that never went beyond pre-planning. He also directed two episodes of the series "Holmes and Yo-yo" (1976-1977), which featured Richard B. Shull as Detective Alexander Holmes. John Landis, who was involved in Arnold's project, went on to be executive producer on the Australian film of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Lost World" (1999) and 44 episodes of the television series (1999-2001).

From PBS-TV in 1992, kindly forwarded by Jannie Paton: Vincent Twice [not a misprint] introducing a segment of Mysterious Theater that starred Sherlock Hemlock <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EY5kvGaGlE>.

Theater of the Mind (Radio You Can See) broadcast Philip Grecian's "Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (with Philip Grecian as Sherlock Holmes and Dané Shobu as John H. Watson) on KTWU-TV (Topeka) on Feb. 17, 2023 <www.tinyurl.com/3d5ub7se>, Jennie Paton notes. They also broadcast Philip Grecian's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Philip Grecian as Sherlock Holmes) and Cliff Alfrey as Dr. John H. Watson) on Oct. 16, 2011 <www.tinyurl.com/4wb3rx7m>.

There's not much theatrical news, for a change. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" has been scheduled at the Manhattan Arts Center in Manhattan, Kans., Jan. 23-Feb. 1 <www.manhattanarts.org>; and at the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., June 17-26 <www.cortlandrep.org>.

David Crump's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketcases—The Panto!" will premiere at the Roxley Village Hall in Thorpe St. Andrew, Norf., Feb. 5-7

Jarrold Chambers' new "Sherlock Holmes and the Locked Room" will be staged at the Gladstone Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 18-28; their web-site's at <www.thegladstone.ca>.

The Pantaloons will tour their "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" in the U.K., May 9-Aug. 6 <www.thepantaloons.co.uk/holmes>.

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