

There was much to enjoy during the long weekend of birthday festivities in New York in January, especially the Baker Street Irregulars Distinguished Speaker Lecture by Rupert Holmes on "A Study in Stoic: My Highly Irregular Journey to a Baker Street Address", which has been published in the spring issue of the Baker Street Journal. If you're not already a subscriber to the BSJ, you can remedy that lapse at <www.tinyurl.com/82nmd325>. Many of those in the audience at the lecture thought the highlight of the evening was Rupert Holmes singing, for the first time in public, Vincent Starett's classic sonnet "221B" set to music Holmes had composed. It's nice indeed that you can listen to him sing the sonnet, thanks to the link in the 2026 BSI Weekend Report <www.tinyurl.com/5ejt5v9y>.

"Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) was an interesting and entertaining film, and the story of how it came to be made is just as interesting and entertaining. You can read that story in Eva Guimil's post to the El País English-language web-site (Mar. 26) with the headline "Orphans and Crimes: Spielberg's Misunderstood Production Scared Kids but Inspired 'Harry Potter'" <www.tinyurl.com/2k7r6dad>.

A report in The Bookseller (Mar 19) <www.tinyurl.com/yp8ebntc>, noted by Lenny Picker, explains that Pan Fiction has six-figure deal with Robert Hutton for two "utterly charming" mysteries by Robert Hutton. *Extraordinary Correspondence*, due in the summer of 2027, features Sycamore Bell, a fan of Sherlock Holmes, who has been hired by a bank to answer mail sent to a bank at 210-230 Baker Street, and decides to try to solve a mystery. Old hands will recall the six-book series (2009-2018) by Michael Robertson about Reggie Heath, a London barrister with offices at 221B Baker Street, and a lease requiring him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail. Hutton has a web-site at <www.roberthutton.co.uk>.

Forecast for October, from Atria/Simon & Schuster: *Sherlock: Ten New Stories, Ten New Writers, The Game Is Afoot...Again*, with the Conan Doyle Estate listed as the author <www.tinyurl.com/44jtnanp>. With an introduction by Stephen Fry.

The last episode in the second season of the CBS-TV series "Watson" (with Morris Chestnut in the title role) will air on May 3, and CBS has not renewed the series for a third season. The series was reported to be getting the lowest average viewership totals of all scripted CBS series this season.

One of the most iconic images of American cities must be the famous "Hollywood" sign seen by so many visitors to Los Angeles, and the sign has a long history, recounted in an article at the Smithsonian Magazine's web-site (July 13, 2023) <www.tinyurl.com/4cdbfef2>. The history includes the suicide of actress Peg Entwistle, who jumped to her death from the letter "H" in 1932, and the article includes an image of Entwistle with William Gillette, from his final farewell tour, in which she played Alice Faulkner. The image also is seen in her entry at Wikipedia.

Apr 26 #2 Will Thomas' *For Services Rendered* (New York: Minotaur, 2026; 308 pp., \$29.00) continues the long-running series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (who's an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and Thomas Llewelyn (Barker's faithful and long-suffering partner); this time, in 1896, they are threatened by Sebastian Nightwine (who was thought to have been killed by Barker in a duel in the past), and are hired to find and rescue Sun-Yat Sen, an activist who has been captured and held in the Chinese embassy (and goes on to be the first president of the Republic of China, but that was years later). As usual, nicely written and with interesting characters.

"See what AI can do," Jennie Paton writes, offering splendid examples from YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2rnbux5s> <www.tinyurl.com/yut8b74h>.

Jeri Westerson's *The Vampyre Client* (Menifee: Old London Press, 2026; 284 pp., \$16.99) is the fourth 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; mentored by Holmes, they are hired to help a client persuade his country neighbors that he's not a vampyre. Their client is soon murdered, and with enterprising newspaper reporter Ellsie Littleton, they pursue (and of course identify) the culprit. The author's website is at <www.jeriwesterson.com>.



"In more fertile spots the observer would have come to the conclusion that one of those great herds of bisons which graze upon the prairie land was approaching him" (from "A Study in Scarlet"). A new U.S. postage stamp shows a young bull on Grizzly Overlook in Yellowstone National Park, with another bison on a stamp from 1923.

Doré Nash ("The Three Garridebs") died on Mar. 25. An enthusiastic Sherlockian in New York, and particularly interested in Christopher Morley, she (with Jim Cox) presided over the annual Christopher Morley Walk during the January birthday festivities for more than twenty years. She received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2023.

"Enola Holmes 3" (starring Millie Bobby Brown as Enola and Henry Cavill as Sherlock) will debut on Netflix on July 1. The Netflix press release reports that "Adventure chases detective Enola Holmes to Malta, where personal and professional dreams collide on a case more tangled and treacherous than any she has faced before."

A post to The Conversation's web-site on Nov. 16, 2025, about preserving personal archives <www.tinyurl.com/2ayjmdhp>, mentioned that some members of Parliament had tabled a motion in 2004, during Richard Lancelyn Green's campaign to prevent the auction of the Conan Doyle family papers, arguing that the collection should be preserved for research. Thanks to Catherine Cooke's research, we have found that there were two motions filed; you can read them at <www.tinyurl.com/bdhtkvn4> and at <www.tinyurl.com/76hxxkdcj>. They weren't debated, so they're only a minor footnote to the battle over the auction, but nevertheless perhaps of interest to someone someday.

Apr 26 #3 Alexis Barquin continues to add to what's available at his excellent on-line Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, easily found at <www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/wiki/Main_Page>. New additions, made with the assistance of Mark Chadderton, are the publications of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society, which was founded by Christopher Roden in 1989 and was active until 2003. They're to found at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8dmk9>, and are well worth exploring. There's also an archive of the sheet music inspired by Conan Doyle's works, available at <www.tinyurl.com/53taayns>. And much more.

It seems that anything and everything can be controversial now, including the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast. See Erik Deckers' post about the podcast (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/5eudtttd>.

Henry C. Lee died on Mar. 27. He was a noted forensic scientist, and appeared in Sherlockian costume in the British television documentary "How Sherlock Changed the World" (2013), available to those who have access to PBS Passport.

Conan Doyle turns up everywhere. He's now U-20 club captain of the Garryowen rugby union football club in Limerick, Ireland, and a Wikipedia entry at <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conan_Doyle_\(rugby_union\)](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conan_Doyle_(rugby_union))>.

A closer look at Llanvihangel Court (which stars in the "Young Sherlock" television series) will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mupuzj2k>. In case you're wondering, "llanvihangel" means "Michael's church" (and you're on your own learning how to pronounce the name).

"Winter Palace" is now available on PBS Passport and Prime Video, Jennie Paton reports. Henry Pettigrew appears as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in six of the eight episodes of the Swiss television series (Mar 26 #4).

In case you're old enough to remember filmstrips, Oksana Shishkina-Korolenko has kindly reported some from Russia:

"The Dancing Men" illustrated by Grigory Soyashnikov (1989)
<www.tinyurl.com/3hkfy5n5>

"The Speckled Band" illustrated by Kliment Sapegin (1964)
<www.tinyurl.com/2p9zudwk>

"The Red-Headed League" illustrated by Kliment Sapegin (1967)
<www.tinyurl.com/5d3smj9n>

"The Blue Carbuncle" illustrated by Kliment Sapegin (1972)
<www.tinyurl.com/bddjysve>

"The Lost World" illustrated by V. Shevchenko (1968)
<www.tinyurl.com/ycydrfrr>

<www.tinyurl.com/2e7mfcfu>
<www.tinyurl.com/yemkyhaa>.

The Mysterious Bookshop offers a new catalog of Victorian & Edwardian Mystery, Crime, and Suspense Fiction (mostly first editions) with more than 300 volumes and dozens of full-color photographs (\$10.00, refundable with a purchase) <www.tinyurl.com/y79reex2>. Needless to say, Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes are not neglected.

Apr 26 #4 Erin McBrien <www.lib.umn.edu/about/staff/erin-mcbrien>, the new curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, has reported that her favorite story is "A Scandal in Bohemia" and that she has strong opinions on how Irene Adler has been adapted. She is slowly getting to know the collections, and is open to questions via phone or e-mail (click on the link for contact information).

When was Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 published? It was advertised as "Just ready" in the Illustrated London News (Nov. 26, 1887), and a page with the advertisement was auctioned at William George in Bury on Mar. 12 (Feb 26 #1). Mattias Boström has reported that the Annual was stated as "just ready" in advertisements from Nov. 21 to Dec. 2, 1887.

Macavity's back. "CATS: The Jellicle Ball" (now running on Broadway at the Broadhurst theatre, and described as "Broadway meets Runway") is inspired by Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, and features Leiomy as Macavity. There's video at the show's web-site <www.catsthejellicleball.com>.



In case you would like to have blue carbuncles in your garden: Oksana Shishkina-Korolenko has reported packets of seeds available in Russia. The seeds at left appear to be *Viola wittrockiana* (pansy or lady's delight) and the seeds at right are *Erigeron speciosus* (garden fleabane, aspen fleabane, or showy fleabane). Pretend that you're Russian and have fun in your garden.

BBC Radio 4 has broadcast many fine Sherlockian programs, one of them "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988), dramatized by Bert Coules and with Roger Rees as Holmes and Logan Crawford as Watson; Jennie Paton has found the two-hour program at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXpmGyKh_os>.

Henry Marriott Paget, less well-known among Sherlockians than his brothers Sidney and Walter, also was an artist; he illustrated the Silver Library edition of *Micah Clarke* published in 1890 (and many other books), and had one illustration in a chapter of *The Great Boer War* serialized in the *Wide World Magazine* (Feb. 1902). Paget lived for a time in a house designed by Norman Shaw and built for Paget at 1 The Orchard in Chiswick, London. The house is for sale, for £4,950,000, Margaret Nelson has noted, and you can see a realtor's listing for the house at <www.tinyurl.com/yjmvkpdr>. You can also see the Doylean artwork at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia at <www.tinyurl.com/37ezphr6>.

There was an interesting post at the Londonist web-site (Jan. 6, 2017) on "London Facts That Aren't Actually True" <www.tinyurl.com/4vpbc3dx>, and one of them actually is Sherlockian. Details follow on a later page.

The ACD Society's "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project" (presided over by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder) has reached page 13 of their annotated manuscript of the story; the Project's a fine demonstration of making scholarship available on-line <www.acdsociety.com/bjg/13/bjg13a.html>.

Apr 25 #5 The March issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Phillip Bergem's long interview with Denny Dobry about his re-creation of the sitting-room at 221B (now in the Collections), Phil's "100 Years Ago" essay about the Haldeman-Julius "Little Blue Book" series, Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" interview with Julie Rosenblatt about her *Dining with Sherlock Holmes*, and much more news from and about the Collections). Copies of the newsletter are available from Erin McBrien (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <emcbrien@umn.com>.

Scripts for Stage <www.scriptsforstage.co.uk/wp> is an on-line source for scripts, including Anthony Paul Lashley's "I Spy-Sherlock Holmes" and Janet Smith's "Dr. Watson-The Final Letter". You can read the scripts free, but there a charge for downloading or licensing a production.

The Spiritualists, by Kristin O'Donnell Tubb (New York: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, 2026; 409 pp., \$19.99) is a young-adult (ages 12-18) novel, set in New York in 1912, when young Stella Bohdan, barely surviving using her psychic powers, joins a team of gifted mystics in seeking revenge on a real villain; Conan Doyle is a supporting character in a dark story that has a successful conclusion.

The Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary had an exhibition at the National University of Public Service in Budapest on Apr. 1, when Prof. Csongor Herke (of the University of Pécs) gave a lecture on "Sherlock Holmes and Forensic Science". There's video of the exhibition at <www.tinyurl.com/2vwtjmjzx>.

"It was evening before we reached the little town of Tavistock," Dr. Watson wrote (in "Silver Blaze"), adding that "Two gentlemen were awaiting us in the station." When train service at Tavistock ended in the 1960s due to the "Beeching Axe", the station was abandoned, but the station-master stayed on; Paul Spiring has reported a delightful video interview with the station master <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HZMx_orLNt0>. The station eventually was converted into four private residences, and Paul now also reports that one of them is for sale <www.stags.co.uk/properties/21583808/sales>, with an asking price of £335,000.

The No Reply Press limited edition of *A Scandal in Bohemia* (2021), illustrated by Rūta Marija Kuzmickas, is no longer available from the publisher, but it is handsome indeed <www.noreplypress.com/archive/scandal>. But one of the six (signed and lettered) presentation copies is available from Oak Knoll Books for \$4,250 <www.tinyurl.com/3ysufp5t>.

The Inklings Detective Agency, by John R. Kelly (New York: Penguin Random House/Waterbrook, 2026; 340 pp., \$18.00), has the Inklings (a quite informal group of literary enthusiasts associated with J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis at Magdalen College at Oxford University) investigating a series of murders, assisted by Agatha Christie and Dorothy Sayers. It's nicely done, and the book is notable for its brief first chapter, as stunning an introduction to a book as you'll find anywhere else. And yes, the book qualifies for a review in this newsletter.

Apr 25 #6 *Kong: An Original Screenplay: Edgar Wallace*, edited by Stephen Jones (London: PS Publishing, 2025; 260 pp., £17.99), is going to please everyone who enjoys the classic film "King Kong" (1933), which was added to the National Film Registry in 1991. Wallace was in Hollywood, working on a script for the film, when he died in 1932, and Meriam C. Cooper, who directed, and continued to work on the film, said that the final script "hasn't one single idea suggested by Edgar Wallace," but Wallace's script, long lost but now published in *Kong*, proves that the film owes a great deal to Wallace. The book's not really Sherlockian or Doylean, but Jones notes that Wallace, a friend of Nigel Bruce, also wrote the script for the film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1931), and that Willis H. O'Brien, whose special effects were so impressive in "King Kong", previously worked on "The Lost World" (1925). The illustrations, many of them in full color, are grand indeed, and they include concept art as well as posters. The publisher's web-site is at <www.pspublishing.co.uk>.

AbeBooks reports, from time to time, on their most expensive sales. The latest report <www.tinyurl.com/4bzmmhsh>, includes (at #3) the five original photographs of the Cottingley Fairies, which were bought from a dealer for \$28,000.

Prime Video's "Young Sherlock" has been submitted for the 2026 Emmy competition as a comedy. An article posted at the Deadline web-site (Apr. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/t76ab2zf> reports that the debate over creating a "dramedy" category continues. And there will be a second season, according to a Prime Video press release (Apr. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/2vyww8dv>.

Radio Times has reported (Apr. 16) that Hugh Bonneville's narration of the Canon now includes "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (in nine episodes, just as it appeared in *The Strand Magazine*) <www.tinyurl.com/mr47524z>. All of his narrations (and much more) are available at Noiser <www.noiser.com>.

Fans of the PBS-TV series "Wishbone" (1995) will remember the Sherlockian episodes ("The Slobbery Hound" and "A Dogged Expose"), and will welcome a new 90-minute documentary "What's the Story, Wishbone?" that's due to air on PBS stations between May 27 and June 9, and stream on June 10. You can read all about it (and watch a trailer) at a post at the Smithsonian magazine's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/t2kzpxwt>.

J. Redding Ware's *Victorian Dictionary of Slang and Phrase* was first published in 1909 (as *Passing English of the Victorian Era: A Dictionary of Heterodox English, Slang, and Phrase*, and reprinted in 2013; you can borrow and read it free at the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/mrx6tsr6>.

It was intriguing to see Moriarty, N.M., in a post at the World Atlas web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y3zwtj6> on the "6 Best Towns Near Albuquerque for Retirees". The town certainly has changed since the days when the Brothers Three of Moriarty held their annual dinners at the Frontier Saloon in Moriarty. The Frontier Saloon eventually closed and the building housed the Iglesia Cristiana, but that's now closed as well. But it's nice that Google Maps shows a view of the building today <www.tinyurl.com/urnatnmd>.

Apr 26 #7 More on the post at the Londonist web-site about "London Facts That Aren't Actually True" <www.tinyurl.com/4vpbc3dx>. The one that is Sherlockian is about Old London Bridge. John Rennie's more modern London Bridge is indeed now at Lake Havasu in Arizona, and you can see it in the 1976 television film "The Return of the World's Greatest Detective" (with Larry Hagman as Sherlock Holmes), conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=gfCotr7KQts>.

Simpson's in the Strand is open again, and favorably reviewed in the Guardian (Apr. 10) <<https://tinyurl.com/4udzzm6f>>. The chess world also welcomed the news, in The Article (Mar. 28) <www.tinyurl.com/3swvntt4>.

There's a lot of Sherlockian music and dance to be found on the Internet, but nothing as spectacular as the Clarksville Youth Performing Art Association's "Through the Magnifying Glass" (2005) <www.tinyurl.com/3kr3svzc>, kindly reported by Joyce Hobbs.

The late Doug Elliott's book collection is being offered for sale, and a preliminary list (of books by and about Conan Doyle) is available from his widow Dianne <diannewelliott@gmail.com>.

"What explains the timeless appeal of Sherlock Holmes?" Otto Penzler gave his answer to the question, asked by Adrian Ma, on "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio on Mar. 28. You can read (and listen to) the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/2p9pmzf8>.

The first issue of *Trifles: A Quarterly for Devotees of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Darlene Cypser, is now available from Foolscap & Quill (\$9.99) <www.foolscap-quill.com/trifles.html>, with 133 pp. of new essays and reprints from Victorian magazines, and poetry, a quiz, a puzzle, and period illustrations. You can also subscribe for a full year for \$25.00.

For any Sherlockian viniculturists: Jennie Paton has reported a Ukrainian video about Sherlock grapes <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r0-u0Zudv8>. It's nice that they're available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/ufkftens>.

BFI Player <www.player.bfi.org.uk> is a streaming subscription service of the British Film Institute, available to people who are in the U.K. (and to people who know how to set their computers to pretend they are in the U.K.). "Silent Sherlock: Three Classic Cases" (the first three Eille Norwood films restored by the BFI) became available on Apr. 13.

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial has published a nice brochure with Andrew Malec's illustrated article on "Frederic Dorr Steele, Harry T. Clinton, and Collier's Weekly"; it is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/537duu82>. The Memorial's attractive web-site is at <www.fdsteele.org>.

There's more to the annual meeting of the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will hold their annual meeting in Chicago in June (Mar 26 #3). On June 28 Philip Cunningham will talk about "Vincent Starrett: Cataloger, Collector, and Unwilling Seller of Libraries" <www.tinyurl.com/5x6trh85>.

Apr 26 #8 There is plenty of theater news. Kandie Carle's 'Osaki-san, William Gillette's Gentleman Valet' is on at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., through May 3 <www.gillettecastlefriends.org/theater>.

Joel Horwood's new "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre in London, May 2-June 6 <www.openairtheatre.com>.

"Sherlock & Cinders" (by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossey) has been scheduled at the Atlantic Academy in Bideford, Devon., on May 7; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/42mtf4ey>.

Jeff Provost's adaptation of Jerome Coopersmith's "The Other Side" (about Conan Doyle and Houdini) will be performed at the Hurlbut Church in Chautauqua, N.Y., on May 9 <www.friendsofchqttheatre.com/chqplayreaders>. There is an article about the play at the web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/2rkppaw2>.

Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled at the Veritas Christian Academy in Sparta, N.J., May 15-16; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/4fxpfmb2>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" at the Calumet Theatre in Calumet, Mich., May 15-17 <www.calumettheatre.com>.

The Department of Ulterior Motives will perform their new "Sherlock Holmes vs. Arsène Lupin: A Drag Crime Caper" at the Brighton open Air Theatre in Brighton, East Sussex, on May 16 <www.brightonoperaitheatre.co.uk>.

The Norwegian Explorers' Red-Throated League will perform Edith Meiser's radio script for "The Crooked Man" at the Pavek Museum of Electronic Communication in St. Louis Park, Minn. on May 16 <www.pavekmuseum.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Coro in Ulverston, Lancs., May 19-22 <www.thcoro.co.uk>; and at the Bartell Theatre in Madison, Wis., June 8-13 <www.bartelltheatre.org>; at the Reedham Village Hall in Reedham, Norw., June 12-13 <www.tinyurl.com/bddb3mt6>. Also at the Don Bluth Front Row Theatre in Scottsdale, Ariz., July 23-Aug. 29; their web-site's at <www.donbluthfrontrowtheater.com>.

Lexi Wolfe's "Baker Street Ladies" will be performed at the Barnes Green Day Centre in London, May 23-24 <www.tinyurl.com/yv7bd4rv>.

The Linton Amateur Dramatic Association will stage their "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery at Greye Manor" at the Linton Village Hall in Swadlinton, Derbys., June 12-13 <www.lintondrama.com>.

Alex Thomas' new "Sherlock Holmes and the Napoleon of Crime" will be produced at the Oxford Playhouse in Oxford, Oxon., June 25-27; web-site's at <www.oxfordplayhouse.com>.

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