

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 172nd birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 7 to 11, 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/ihose327>. Scott also reports on the weekend at <www.tinyurl.com/3tkf6dec>.

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 the multi-talented Rupert Holmes, who ended his presentation singing, to music he had composed for the occasion, Vincent Starrett's sonnet "221B". His lecture will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.

On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of Lee Shackelford's skit "An Honest Mistake" (with Lee Shackelford as Moriarty and Paul Singleton as Walter Paget). And Burt Wolder received this year's Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes"),

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for drinks and dinner at the Yale Club, Bob Sharfman offered the traditional first toast to Ann Andriacco as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and presentations by Mark Jones on the alternative life of Dr. Watson if he had not left the British Army, and by Andy Fusco on his identification of the real Baskerville Hall.

Fabienne Courouge was announced as the winner of the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the 2025 Baker Street Journal), for her article (in the summer issue) on "Edmond Locard, the Forensic Pioneer Inspired by Sherlock Holmes". You can subscribe to the BSJ (for four issues and the Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd>.

The BSI's Birthday Honours were awarded to Michael Barton ("Baron Von Herling"), Matt Hall ("The Earl of Maynooth"), Linda Hein ("The Hotel National"), Jen Kneeland ("The Haymarket Theatre"), Max Magee ("Cyril Morton"), Rich Krisciunas ("William Morris"), Ashley Mayo ("The Capital and Counties Bank"), Rusty Mason ("John Mason"), George Scheetz ("John Clayton"), Madeline Quinones ("Sir Joshua Reynolds"), PJ Sullivan ("The Ancient Cornish Language"), and Tom Ue ("London University"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Evy Herzog and Denny Dobry.

The dinner ended with the announcement that the Baker Street Irregulars have a new Wiggins. Mike Kean, who has presided over the BSI since 2020, turned the gavel (yes, there is a gavel) over to Steve Doyle, who is only the seventh person to lead the BSI since it was found by Christopher Morley in 1934.

Jan 26 #2 Another Friday-evening event was the Gaslight Gala, at Annie Moore's, with cocktails, conversation, dinner, toasts, songs, and a skit. The Friday festivities ended with drinks and socializing in the lounge at the Yale Club, which has been the headquarters for the BSI's birthday celebration since 2010.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional 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 and the raffle prize was Danna Mancini's splendid hand-crafted model of the Bruce-Partington submarine. And yours truly, who has presided over Dr. Watson's auction since 1990, passed the traditional blue jacket on to the new auctioneer, Scott Monty.

Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the traditional Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday. Now you can plan ahead: the next BSI Annual Dinner will be held on Jan. 15, 2027. There also will be a special BSI conference, open to all, in San Francisco on July 9-11, 2027; stay tuned for more information.

An added feature of the birthday festivities was a performance at the Coffee House Club of Hal Glatzer's "Sherlock Holmes and the Nefarious Baron", which you can see at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzfqLos594U>.

Irregular Chronicles of the Early 'Fifties, by Julie McKuras and Bill Mason (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2025; 360 pp., \$34.95), is a most-welcome (and long-awaited) addition to the BSI's Archival History Series. It's billed as the history of the BSI from 1951 to 1955, but it's far more than that, covering a wide range of Sherlockian activities in those years, in the U.S. and other countries. It's well-researched and well-written, and recommended to everyone who wants to know what our world was like all those years ago.

Also from the BSI Press: *Trenches: The War Service of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg (2025; 274 pp., \$27.95) is a trade-paperback reissue of the BSI Manuscript Series volume devoted to "His Last Bow" (Jan 18 #2), offering a facsimile of the fourteen surviving pages of the manuscript, an annotated transcript, and commentary on the manuscript, the story, and the world in which Holmes lived when he was involved in the case. Both books can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>.

First prize for the title of the book most likely to make readers of this newsletter wonder why I'm reviewing it surely goes to *Regulation & Imagination: Perspectives on Highway Robbery* (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2025; 179 pp., \$50.00). That's the cover title; the title page reveals that the perspectives are legal, historical, and literary, and that the book features the autograph manuscript of Conan Doyle's "One Crowded Hour". You will find a facsimile and annotated transcription of the manuscript, and articles about the manuscript, the story, the world in which it was written, and much more. Recommended, and you're welcome to order the book at <www.greenbag.org>.

Jan 26 #3 *The Jewel in the Canon: Sherlockian Reflections on India*, edited by Markus Geisser and Jayantika Ganguly (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2025; 82 pp., £20.00), is a full-color celebration of the Society's pilgrimage to India last year, with songs, essays, and scholarly articles from authors worldwide.

Also from the Society: H el ene Vrot's *A Study in Styles: Wardrobe Guidance for 1895* (2025; 70 pp., £17.00) is a detailed guide, from unmentionables to outerwear, and to proper behavior, for participants in the Society's costumed outings, and for anyone who wants to know (and see) how people were dressed in (and near) that magic year. Both of the books (and much more) are available from the Society <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

On the Shoulders of Giants: Great Sherlockians Remembered, was edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2025; 201 pp., \$26.95) and lives up to its subtitle: there are essays about 21 American Sherlockians, many of them well known and some not so famous, but all of them deserve to be remembered for their contributions to our Grand Game. Gasogene's web-site's at <www.wessexpress.com>.

It's long out of print, but Ron Miller's *Mystery!: A Celebration: Stalking Public Television's Greatest Sleuths* (1996) is readily available from online dealers, and a grand reminder of how much fun the long-running series has been since it started in 1980. There's a chapter on Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" (of course), discussion of Edward Gorey and how his artwork was animated, an introduction by P. D. James, and much more.

Add the ACD Society to the list of Sherlockian (and in this case Doylean) societies that make recordings of their meetings readily available on the Internet; just go to <www.youtube.com> and search for [acd society]. Five Miles from Anywhere also posts its meeting to YouTube.

The Literary Agents also make recordings of their Zoom meetings available; go to <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UqbeblJ-7kQ>> to see their meeting during the birthday festivities this month. The ACD Society's live meeting is at <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SORQ3ojewdM>>.

The Mrs. Hudson Mysteries: Three Short Plays, by Richard Moon (2024; 114 pp., \$11.00 at Amazon), offers scripts for amusing one-act plays in which it's Mrs. Hudson who solves mysteries. You can read the scripts on-line at <www.peformableplays.com/theplays> (you should search for Richard Moon as the playwright); there's also a radio version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Search for Silver Blaze". Moon's plays can be licensed from Lazy Bee Scripts at <www.lazybeescripts.com>.

Jacquelynn Morris ("The Lion's Mane") died on Jan. 15. She was the founder of the Scintillation of Scions (held annually in Maryland), a member of many Sherlockian societies, and a contributor to our literature. There's a grand interview with Jacquelynn at Rob Nunn's "Interesting Though Elementary" blog <www.tinyurl.com/3rbtj78z>, and another at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/mtb4nrkh>.

Jan 26 #4 Richard D. Altick's *Victorian Studies in Scarlet* (1970) focuses on fact rather than fiction, but it's well worth reading, if only for the footnote (on p.64) that mentions a copy of the record of the trial of the murderer William Corder, on display in the Moyse's Hall Museum in Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk, bound in his skin, making Corder 'one of the select company of murderers who were hanged, drawn, and quartered.'

If you didn't hear Neil Brand's 90-minute dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Mark Gatiss as Holmes and Sanjeev Bhaskar as Watson) on BBC Radio 3 in 2023, it's conveniently available at YouTube, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=JLrw8qr39J8>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Cracking the Case" (the new exhibition at the Pointe-à-Callière in Montréal) (Nov 25 #4) is similar to, but not the same as, the long-running touring "International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition" created by the Exhibits Development Group. It has had some good publicity, including a story (with video) in the Montréal City News <www.tinyurl.com/3wtpnt8n>. The exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/ph6xjsva>.

Marcus Gilbert died on Jan. 11. He began acting on stage in Britain, and went on to a long career in films and television; his credits included Anton Von Felseck in "Sherlock Holmes and the Masks of Death" (1984). There is more about him at a fan-site <www.facebook.com/MarcusGilbertFansite>.

Charlie Rose interviewed Sir Ian McKellen on PBS-TV in 2015 about his film "Mr. Holmes" and much more <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCQb4dRPFhM>. Thanks to Jennie Paton for finding a recording.

Sorry about that: Hugh Bonneville has not narrated all of the short stories (Dec 25 #1); he has narrated 27 stories, each of them in two or three parts, available at (free) BBC Sound <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0k9tzr0>, his own web-site <www.hughbonneville.com>, and other podcasts.

"Redox-Driven Mineral and Organic Associations in Jezero Crater, Mars" was published in *Nature* (Sept. 10, 2025 <www.tinyurl.com/2upyby8u> with news of discoveries by SHERLOC and WATSON on the Red Planet.

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).

The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's discussion of the various scripts and performances of Conan Doyle's play "The Fires of Fate", Clifford Goldfarb's history of the various rooms in which the Collection has been housed, and news from and about the Collection. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Cliff Goldfarb at the Toronto Public Library (789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb221@gmail.com>.

Jan 26 #5 Simpson's in the Strand, which closed in 2020, is scheduled to reopen in February, now owned by the Jermey King Restaurants chain, and its web-site <www.jeremykingrestaurants.com/simpsons> is spectacular. Holmes and Watson dined at Simpson's (see "The Dying Detective" and "The Illustrious Client"), and so have many Sherlockians. There's much more about Simpson's at <www.simpsonsinthestrand.co.uk>.

Marian Diamond died on Jan. 5. She appeared on radio, screen, and television in Britain. and credits included Julia Stoner in Douglas Wilmer's "The Speckled Band" (1964), and Miss Mary Bradshaw in "The New Catacomb" (1967) in a BBC-2 series of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories.

Watson mentions the glades of the New Forest in ("The Resident Patient"), but there's more to see in the neighborhood, according to a story in the Bournemouth Daily Echo (Oct. 12, 2025) <www.tinyurl.com/2kf2apzj>. Conan Doyle stayed at the Montagu Arms Hotel when he was researching "The White Company", and you still can stay at the hotel <www.montaguarmshotel.co.uk> when you visit Beaulieu Abbey (which is featured in the novel) and the All the All Saints' Church in Minstead (where Sir Arthur and his wife are buried).

The December issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Michael V. Eckman's "100 Years Ago" article about Ronald A. Knox's *The Viaduct Murder*, John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" report about Walter Klinefelter's *Sherlock Holmes in Portrait and Profile*, and news from and about the collections. A copy of the newsletter is available from Lisa Von Drasek (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <lvondras@umn.edu>.

The Holmes Hotel in Marylebone continues to celebrate Sherlock Holmes, and to receive good reviews <www.tinyurl.com/bfvpfpnj>.

The Burnley Express (Jan. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/stujkf4k> had an article on how Sherlock, Shakespeare, and the Shire are now on display at the world's oldest English-speaking museum. The Shire is Lancashire, and the museum's Stonyhurst College, where Conan Doyle once was a pupil. You can watch a short Stonyhurst video about Conan Doyle and Holmes and Moriarty at Facebook <www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1893808384550605>.

The "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park, which opened in 2024 (Mar 24 #3), offered a Sherlock Holmes murder mystery <www.immersivefort.com>, but it has encountered financial difficulties and is scheduled to close in February <www.tinyurl.com/39tahtks>.

There's news from the Andaman Islands, where Port Blair (mentioned twice in "The Sign of the Four") was officially renamed by the Indian government as Sri Vijaya Puram in 2024, to symbolize (the government said) "the victory achieved in our freedom struggle." Now, according to GEO ExPro (Oct. 21, 2025) <www.tinyurl.com/57x3jtv>, Oil India has reported a discovery of natural gas just to the east of the Andamans. There's more information about the discovery, and future prospects, in an article in the November issue of the AAPG Explorer <www.tinyurl.com/3vdt9nhx>.

Jan 26 #6 Some possibilities for presents next Christmas: Derrick Belanger's *Sherlock Holmes: Crimes for Christmas* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2024; 248 pp., \$19.95) and *Sherlock Holmes: Holiday Whodunits* (2025; 200 pp., \$19.95) offer traditional pastiches presented in parts (so readers can try to solve the mysteries before everything's explained) plus reprints of two longer pastiches. The publisher was founded ten years ago, and its web-site <www.belangerbooks.com> offers a blog as well as details on many other Sherlockian books.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have a new and colorful web-site, at <www.ashsherlockian.org>.

Bill Seil has noted a report in the Seattle Times about a new bookish bar in Seattle. The Ink Drinker is owned by Shelle Yusuf, who "wanted a space where I wouldn't feel like I stood out if I was reading alone at a bar." She was inspired by the Diogenes Club that she read about in the Sherlock Holmes stories she devoured at age 11. But it's not quite the same as the Diogenes Club although there are quiet reading hours (women are welcome at the restaurant) <www.theinkdrinker.com>.

Elon Musk's chatbot Grok has received a lot of publicity recently because it has been used to undress images of people. You can see what Grokipedia says about Sherlock Holmes <www.grokipedia.com/page/Sherlock_Holmes>, and see what Wikipedia says at <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes>. It also is interesting to see what Wikipedia says about Grokipedia, and what Grokipedia has to say about Wikipedia.

The Exhibits Development Group has announced that their "Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition", now on display at the Point-à-Callière in Montréal through Mar. 8 (Jan 26 #4) will next tour in Europe. Stay tuned for details.

Frank Dunlop died on Jan. 4. He trained at the Old Vic School and started his own young people's theater in 1954, and had a long career in British theater, as the founding director of the Young Vic in 1969 and director of the Edinburgh international festival from 1983 to 1991. He also directed the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gilette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974.

"Venezuela: As the US Eyes the Guiana Shield's Minerals, Can a Peak in It Which Inspired Sci-Fi Remain Unscathed?" was the headline on a post to the Down To Earth web-site (Jan. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/yc2ukdvz> about Mount Roraima and "The Lost World".

Many Sherlockians enjoy books and stories written by Rex Stout, including what he had to say about Nero Wolfe (whom some Sherlockians believe inherited his father's detective prowess and his uncle's gargantuan physique). Ira Brad Matetsky is the Werowance of the Wolfe Pack, and Ross E. Davies is the editor of journal, *The Gazette*. To join the society, go to their web-site <www.nerowolfe.org>, where you can see video of Rex Stout on the Dick Cavett Show in 1969. In case you are wondering who that is sitting next to Rex Stout, it's Eartha Kitt.

Jan 26 #7 The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2025 celebrates "Sherlock Holmes in Motion" with 86 pages of pastiches, poems, essays, and a puzzle, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem. \$15.00 postpaid (checks payable to the Norwegian Explorers can be sent to Phil at 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304-1820; or you can ask about PayPal <pgbergem@gmail.com>. And thanks to modern technology it's also available free as a PDF download <www.norwegianexplorers.org/publications.html>.

One of the interesting aspects of modern times are periodicals published only on-line, as is the case with Fabienne Courouge's La Gazette du 221B, which she started in Feb. 2018; current and past issues are available in French (and English) at <www.gazette221b.com>.

A set of six medals awarded to Capt. J. C. Watson during World War I will be at auction in London on Feb. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/mc95pm52>. He was a lawyer both before and after the war, and in July 1928, supported by Conan Doyle, Watson acted as counsel for Oscar Slater in his successful appeal against Slater's conviction for murder.

Rachel McAdams, who starred as Irene Adler in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Jan. 20. The star is at 6933 Hollywood Boulevard, and her acceptance speech is conveniently available on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=pxZwQ3FP8TE>. Sorry; she didn't mention the films.

...but I digress: *The Musings of a Sherlockian Motormouth*, by Bob Sharfman (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2025; 198 pp. \$39.95), is a collection of his previously-published articles and personal essays, modestly described as "random thoughts on Canonical subjects," nicely combining scholarship and humor. The publisher's web-site is at <www.belangerbooks.com>. Bob was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/2rpexjbd>.

The Borthwick Institute for Archives at the University of York now has the archives of the late Terrance Dicks <www.tinyurl.com/7swrsftw>. He wrote a series of ten *The Baker Street Irregulars* books (1978-1987), and had a long association with the "Doctor Who" television series, novelizing "The Talons of Weng-Chiang". He also was script editor for Tom Baker's mini-series "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982).

From 1992: Bruce Southworth (president of the Norwegian Explorers) talked with Mark McPherson about his one-man tour when he performed as Arthur Conan Doyle, and much more. The 29-minute interview is available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=PG_Haa2oUMM>.

Radio Times has reported (Jan.26) <www.tinyurl.com/y4ktmshz> that Tom Baker will play Sherlock Holmes (with John Leeson as Watson) in "Sir Sherlock: The Red Letter Day" (an audio drama due from AUK Studios). There's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/mpva35rs>. The cast also includes Nicholas Rowe; Baker and Rowe have both played Holmes in the past; how often has it happened that two actors who have played Holmes then acted together?

Jan 26 #8 There was an interesting post about "Reviving Cognac" at the London Review of Books blog on Jan. 15 It seems that cognac sales have been in decline since 2022, particularly in the U.S. and China (the two biggest markets); Na Oyo A. Kwate suggested that "the cognac industry could fall back on an old marketing ploy: claiming it's medicine," continuing with a detailed account <www.tinyurl.com/458nm7tc> of the many mentions of brandy in the Canon.

Paul Miller (aka the Shingle of Southsea) offers a video on "The Creation of the Topstalker (Censored Version)", conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pm4MchP-mXA>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Liberty Theatre in North Bend, Ore., through Feb. 8 <www.thelibertytheatre.org>. It also is scheduled at the Hale Centre Theatre in Sandy, Utah., Aug. 17-Nov.14; web-site at <www.hct.org>.

Jonathan Ross' new "Sherlock Holmes: Cupid's Revenge" will be produced at FHG Productions in Kingsport, Tenn., Feb. 6-15 <www.fhgproductions.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apr. 2B" is scheduled at the Snowy Owl Theater in Leavenworth, Wash., Feb. 13-22 <www.wrogueassembly.org>.

Tim Marriott's one-man show "Watson: The Final Problem" continues on tour in Britain, fur next at the Old Joint Theatre in Birmingham, West Midlands <www.smokescreenprods.com>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled at the Dynamics Community Theater in Tallmadge, Ohio, Mar. 6-7 <www.dynamicshater.org>; and the Columbus Performing Arts Center in Columbus, Ohio, May 7-17 <www.tinyurl.com/2zasejn5>.

Ian McWethy's "Too Many Detectives at the Murder Mansion" will be produced at the First United Methodist Church in Pinellas Park, Fla., on Mar. 6-8 [Beyond the Wings Theater] <www.beyondthewingstheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be produced at the Pit & Balcony Theatre in Saginaw, Mich., Apr. 10-19 <www.pitandbalconytheatre.com>; and at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey in Madison, N.J., July 11-Aug. 1 <www.shakespearenj.org>.

Mark Hayward's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled to tour Britain, May 9-Aug. 6, by the Pantaloons Theatre Company <www.thepantaloons.co.uk/holmes>.

Stewart Howson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sting of the Scorpion" (combining "The Tiger of San Pedro" and "The Copper Beeches") will be produced at the Queen's Hall Arts Centre in Hexham, Northumb., on May 21; web-site at <www.queenshall.co.uk>.

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

"Magic, Meaning, and Discovery in Handwritten Materials" was the title of a lecture by Glen Miranker, who talked about some of the treasures in his collection at the Grolier Club in New York on Jan. 20, and you can watch a recording of the lecture (without the technical problems encountered that evening) at www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeraQfpa_to and see some of the discoveries he has made in the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four".

When was Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 published? Well, it was advertised as "Just ready" in the Illustrated London News (Nov. 26, 1887), and a page with the advertisement will be auctioned at William George in Bury on Mar. 12 www.tinyurl.com/yck4kkjb with an opening bid of £15.

There is still time to enter the competition for this year's Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. Established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C., it is 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 Aycroyd's web-site www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships.

"Barker and Llewellyn Novels by Will Thomas" www.tinyurl.com/35j8p3xx is a Facebook page for fans of Will's novels, recently described as "Sherlock adjacent." Cyrus Barker is a private enquiry agent (thought by many to be an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman"). The latest novel was *Season of Death* (Feb 24 #7), and the "Book Series in Order" web-site www.bookseriesinorder.com/will-thomas has a detailed discussion of the series.

You can pretend you're Michael Caine: a Sherlockian costume worn by Roger Kincaid in the film "Without a Clue" (1988) will be offered at Propstore on Mar. 27 www.tinyurl.com/bdfzkzfr, estimated at \$2,000-\$4,000.

There was a great of press coverage at the end of January about the discovery of a long-lost portrait of Robert Burns that is now on display in Edinburgh www.blackiehouse.org/the-lost-portrait. You'll find mention of Conan Doyle, and an article published in the International Psychic Gazette (Nov. 1926).

The Archives of Sherlock Holmes: Volume I, written and illustrated by Ben Congdon (Leander: Ben Congdon Fine Art, 2025; 157 pp., \$14.99), has three of the unrecorded cases, told in traditional style. You can see some of his artwork at his web-site www.bcongdon.com.

Rupert Holmes was the guest speaker at the Baker Street Irregulars' Thursday-evening lecture during the birthday festivities last month, and if you would like to see what he has been up to recently, he is credited for the adaptation of "Pirates! The Penzance Musical" (on Broadway from April to July last year). You can see a trailer (and listen to the original cast album) at www.tinyurl.com/mnphtwd5.

Feb 26 #2 Vincent Starrett, who contributed so much to the Sherlockian world, has three screen credits (as a writer), and one of them is of particular interest. His story "Recipe for Murder" (in Redbook magazine, Nov. 1934) was quickly published as a book, *The Great Hotel Murder* (1935), and just as quickly adapted into a film the same year. Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog offers three chapters about this, including Starrett's bewildered comment on the film <www.tinyurl.com/35wcjr56> (click on "newer" at the end of the first and second chapters). Ray does not mention the references to Sherlock Holmes in the film, which is conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=781rDazqgNM>. The Sherlockian dialogue is in the screenplay, but not in Starrett's novel.

A bit more about Simpson's in the Strand (Jan 26 #5): Samuel Reiss' Grand Cigar Divan opened in 1828, and soon was recognized as the home of chess in England. John Simpson expanded the premises 1848, adding a restaurant and a new name: Simpson's Grand Divan Tavern. Simpson's had its own chess sets, and Don Izban has reported that the U.S. Chess Federation now offers a replica set called The Strand Series <www.tinyurl.com/yda727mt> for only \$699.00.

The first chatbot is not only older than this newsletter, but quite likely older than many, if not most, of its readers. ELIZA was released in 1966, and if you're interested in history you can read (or listen to) an interview with a modern chatbot at the Journal of the American Medical Association's web-site (Jan. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/yrrj2wpf>.

Dwight Garner's *Read Me: A Century of Classic American Book Advertisements* (New York: Ecco/HarperCollins, 2009) is an interesting (and entertaining) look at how publishers have advertised books, including "A WORD FROM DR. WATSON; COLLEAGUE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES" explaining why people ought to want to read the George H. Doran 1917 edition of *His Last Bow*. It's just Watson's preface to the book, but it is certainly an imaginative advertisement. And Dave Eggers' foreword to Garner's book is well worth the price of admission (plenty of copies available from on-line dealers).

Jennie Paton has reported "Die Liga der Rothaaringen" (with Erich Schellow and Paul Edwin Reich as Holmes and Watson), broadcast by ARD in Germany in 1967, at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XXLcj7Vw6Po>. It's nice indeed that modern technology allows people to use "settings" to translate German subtitles into English.

Alexander Orlov has reported "The Hound of the Baskervilles" staged as a musical comedy in Russia <www.muzkom22.ru/spectacles/id/151699>. You can watch a bit of video at <www.ok.ru/video/7356718975659> and the finale at <www.vk.com/video-228360395_456314578>.

There's still considerable interest in Sherlock Holmes: the Deadline website reported (Feb. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/48akf6y3> that the second trailer for the "Young Sherlock" series scored a Prime Video record of 223 million views during the first week it was available on-line. The series, which is directed by Guy Ritchie and is based on the series of books by Andrew Lane, debuts on Prime Video on Mar. 4.

Feb 26 #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.

In the summer of 2021, the society published a nice collection of Charles M. Schulz's "Peanuts" comic strips with Sherlockian themes, still conveniently on-line in the Spotlight archive at the society's web-site.

The Brick Fanatics web-site reported (Feb. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/5ywwzaw9e> that the LEGO Sherlock Holmes Book Nook (Aug 25 #3) will be retired in December.

"For Competition 3431, you were invited to submit a passage in which Sherlock Holmes solves one of the great mysteries of our time," according to James Walton in the Spectator (Jan. 10), and you can read the winning entries at the magazine's Australian web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mprafd2e>.

"The Birth of the Travel Guide" was a recent post at the web-site of the (British) National Archives <www.tinyurl.com/bdcjtwrh>. There's discussion of Bradshaw and Cook (both mentioned in the Canon) and much more.

My compliments to everyone who realized that the "invitation" you received from me this month was suspicious, because it certainly was. Someone managed to hack into my address book, created a fake Paperless Post message, and sent malware to all my e-mail contacts. It's the first successful attack of this sort since I started using e-mail for the newsletter in Oct. 1993; I've no idea how they got through my anti-virus defenses. Beware of anyone who says only "open this," and check before downloading anything.

"Will you do what your father did? No, I am going to work." Written by Conan Doyle on a piece of notepaper with the heading "Notes on Children", one of the items on display in the "Loops, Swoops, and Curliques: A Legacy of Handwritten History" exhibition at the Toronto Reference Library, running through May 10.

Alex Hutchinson's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at the Toronto Reference Library on "Conan Doyle's Lost World: Filling in the Blank Spaces on the Map" (May 25 #1) is now on-line <www.tinyurl.com/bzbf2eta>. The introduction begins at 19:45, and the lecture at 24:00.

News from Edinburgh: "The Sir Conan Doyle room was, of course, named after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and features one king-size bedroom, a spacious living room with sofa bed and piano, dining table, marble bathroom, and historic Edinburgh city views," according to the Edinburgh Live web-site on Feb. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/s7z36dn3>, "In the low season, this room would set you back anywhere from £1,200 a night. In the busy season the price jumps up to anywhere from £2,500 a night." The hotel's The Caledonian, which is now a Hilton <www.tinyurl.com/4nr8t25m>.

Feb 26 #4 The Country Life web-site reported (Feb. 11) that the home of the late Rolling Stones drummer Charlie Watts, in rural Devon, is for sale for £2.75 million. The story includes an image of Watts' library, where he kept his collection of rare books. The collection, which was sold at auction at Christie's in London (Oct 23 #1) included a copy of the first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* signed by Conan Doyle and inscribed "I perambulated Dartmoor before I wrote this book." It sold for £214,200 [\$226,555] (including the buyer's premium), setting a record for a printed book from the Canon.

Jonathan Orr-Stav's *Sherlock Holmes and the Mistress of History* (Qualum, 2025; 83 pp., \$5.99) has Holmes and Watson traveling to Egypt and the Sinai in 1911, pursuing an ancient inscription. They encounter noted Egyptologists Flinders Petrie and Alan Gardiner, and at last find the inscription, which sheds light on the development of the world's first alphabet.

From the early 1900s: the Farnham Herald reported (Feb. 14) on the discovery of a book of photographs <www.tinyurl.com/4d87yvxf> with one showing Conan Doyle as a cricketer with the Hampshire Hogs. The web-site of the Hampshire Hogs Cricket Club <www.club.hampshirehogs.org.uk> doesn't mention Conan Doyle, or explain how the club, founded in 1887, got its name, but Hampshire pigs are important enough to warrant an entry at Wikipedia. The club's web-site does mention other cricket clubs such as the Somerset Stragglers, the Devon Dumplings, the Sussex Martletts, and the Wiltshire Queries.

"These idiots, in my opinion, have simply read too much Conan Doyle," said Russian television figure Vladimir Solovyov, commenting on forensic conclusions that Alexei Navalny was murdered with a South American dart-frog poison in a gulag prison two years ago. "This is like the Sherlock Holmes stories," Solovyov added.

Robert Duvall died on Feb. 15. He began his acting career in television in 1960 and made his last film in 2022. A consummate actor, he said that his favorite role was as the lawman-turned-cowboy Gus McCrae in the 1989 television series "Lonesome Dove", and he received high praise from Sherlockians for playing Watson as far more than a mere sidekick in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976). Scott Monty has posted a very nice tribute to Duvall at <www.tinyurl.com/4s7jtwj3>.

"Step into the world of veterinary diagnostics with Detective Canis Holmes and Felina Watson. Through a series of intriguing clinical cases, uncover hidden parasites, silent hitchhikers, and unexpected indoor threats." On Mar. 3, in an online lecture <www.tinyurl.com/e5ct8fht>, kindly reported by Sonia Fetherston.

David Haig's new play "Magic" will have its world premiere in Chichester this spring, starring David Haig as Arthur Conan Doyle, Hadley Fraser as Harry Houdini, Jenna Augen as Bess Houdini, and Claire Price as Jean Conan Doyle) <www.cft.org.uk/events/magic>. John Bulleid is credited as the illusion designer, so audiences will get to see Houdini perform.

Feb 26 #5 There still are some who believe that it was Conan Doyle who helped Dorando Pietri across the finish line in the Marathon during the Olympic Games in London in 1908, because a photograph showed a man with a mustache and a straw boater who resembled Conan Doyle, with Dorando <www.tinyurl.com/2vmrknbf>. Cliff Goldfarb and Peter Lovesey were able to identify the man as Jack Andrew, an Olympics official (Dec 02 #6). A different photograph <www.tinyurl.com/ymkyeh4w> was offered at RR Auction this month, and it sold for \$346, to Cliff, who's happy to add it to his modest 1908 Marathon collection.

Reported: an excerpt from "The Maracot Deep" in Prema Arasu's *The Book of Sea Monsters: Leviathans of Literature* (Bloomsbury, 2025).

The Tavistock Times Gazette reported (Feb. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/2rj4kfyZ> that 50-acre Swincombe Valley, near Princetown, will be protected under a plan by the Dartmoor Preservation Association. The nearby Fox Tor Mire, believed by many to have been the inspiration of the Grimpen Mire in "The Hound of the Baskervilles", is a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Charles Harold St. John Hamilton was a prolific English writer whose specialty was long-running series of boys' public-school stories. His Sherlockian parodies (written under his pen-name Peter Todd from 1915 to 1961) featured Herlock Sholmes and Dr. Jotson, but Hamilton's best-known for his Billy Bunter series, which he wrote as Frank Richards, starring Billy Bunter at Greyfriars School. Roger Johnson has kindly noted that *Billy Bunter's First Case* (1953) is Sherlockian, and conveniently available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/5n7f7kbh>, as well as from used-book dealers.

Planning for the next Holmes in the Heartland conference (July 24-26) continues. For their after-dinner entertainment Max Magee (who presides over the James Phillimore Society for Sherlockian magicians) will conduct a seance during which Conan Doyle will answer questions. See their web-site <www.shorturl.at/B3onQ> for more information about the conference.

An interesting letter written by Conan Doyle during his 1894 lecture tour in the U.S., was offered at Goldberg Auctioneers on Feb. 25. Writing from his hotel in Detroit, likely to his tour manager J. B. Pond, Conan Doyle said that "I realize that the depression has by no means passed away and that the number of people who can be counted on is limited. Now as Chicago is the very heart of the depression, it seems to me a little doubtful whether the second lecture would be good policy. That is my feeling but you are the best judge." The "Panic of 1893" rates an entry at Wikipedia; Conan Doyle had lectured in Chicago on Oct. 12, and did lecture again on Oct. 26. The letter <www.tinyurl.com/mjuzpp2b>, estimated at \$900-\$1,500, sold for \$1,000 (plus 25% buyer's premium).

"My spearsman is foaming at the leash or straining at the pod, and since he is a Bantu and has worked for Conan Doyle, the deaths he inflicts are excruciatingly painful." F. Scott Fitzgerald, in a letter to Gilbert and Amanda Seldes, offered at Heritage Auctions on Feb. 26 with an opening bid of \$6,000 <www.tinyurl.com/2aa2tmmk>. Bidding didn't reach the reserve, and the letter's now available for \$9,375 (including the buyer's premium).

Feb 26 #6 "We can partly thank Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for popularizing the Winter Olympics' newest sport," according to an article in The Guardian (Feb. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/bdefesaz>. That newest sport is ski mountaineering (skimo), which is what Conan Doyle wrote about in 1894, when he made a "perilous 15-mile journey across the 8,000-foot high Maiefelder Furka Pass" that involved skiing and mountaineering. If that link doesn't work for you, try <www.tinyurl.com/3yv4593f>.

If you would like to see some or even all of the often weird and wonderful names people have chosen for Sherlockian societies, there's a list of almost a thousand societies available at the web-site of the Beacon Society <www.tinyurl.com/57phtfh7>; scroll down to "click here to view societies".

A copy of the first edition of *The Lost World*, inscribed in 1913 "From the Author's Mother" <www.tinyurl.com/msrhay6c>, was offered at Quire Auctions on Feb. 25, estimated at £200-£300, it sold for £150 (plus 17% buyer's premium).

221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes), scheduled on Apr. 10-12 in Atlanta, Ga., has posted its schedule of panels (click on the title of the panel for a bit more information <www.221bcon.com/schedule>.

Some theatrical news: Peter Colley's "The Real Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Castor Little Theatre in Castor, Alb., through Mar. 8; web-site at <www.castorlittletheatre.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is on at the Blackfriars Playhouse in Staunton, Va., through May 17; web-site at <www.americanshakespearecenter.com>.

The Livewire Theatre Company will perform their new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Thirsk Racecourse in N. Yorks., Mar. 5-7; web-site at <www.tickettailor.com/events/livewiretheatrecompany/2053755>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be produced at the Brockville Arts Centre in Brockville, Ont., Mar. 6-7 <www.tinyurl.com/y4tjdu9j>, and at the Aldridge Theatre in Farnham, Surrey, Mar. 19-21 <www.tinyurl.com/5333rcs3>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" will be produced at the Island Theater in Fleming Island, Fla., Mar. 20-29; web-site at <www.theislandtheater.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" has been scheduled at the Briston Opera House in Bristol, Ind., Apr. 10-19 <www.elkhartcivictheat5re.org>.

Christophe M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be produced at the Mud Creek Barn Theater in Indianapolis, Ind., Apr. 17-25 <www.mudcreekplayers.org>.

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

All eight episodes of the "Young Sherlock" series streamed on Prime Video on Mar. 4, inspired by (but not based on) the series of books written by Andrew Lane. Co-developed by Guy Ritchie, who was executive producer for the first seven episodes and director of the first two, with Hero Fiennes Tiffin as Holmes, it has received favorable reviews, including one in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 3) headlined "A Young Detective Still Plays It Cool." At the paper's web-site the headline read "In 'Young Sherlock,' He's a Gen Z Heartthrob" (perhaps reflecting a perceived difference in who reads what where). Sherlockians by now will have binged the series, or watched one or more episodes and given up, or refused to watch it at all. If you have put off watching the series because you didn't want sign up for Prime Video, Jennie Paton found the series at <www.dailymotion.com/user/britcom1>.

Another interesting review of "Young Sherlock" (in the March issue of Esquire) <www.tinyurl.com/4ych2jtv> ignored both the acting and the story, and focused on "How Sherlock Holmes Became an Unlikely Style Icon" (not at all surprising for a magazine whose editor-in-chief once wrote that "with the understanding that although there is a lot more to a man than what he wears, dressing well and looking good can make a significant difference in his life").

And Variety (Mar. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/ybd9uxxh> had an interesting interview with series show-runner Matthew Parkhill; it's full of spoilers, and has some hints about a second season. Finally, if you're wondering where the series was filmed, the TravelPirates web-site has all sort of information <www.tinyurl.com/mrwvf74w>.

Jennie Paton has reported an interesting interview with Dennis Muren, who was the visual effects supervisor for Industrial Light & Magic on the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1984) <www.tinyurl.com/4dyzr4y>. The film featured the stained-glass knight, the first fully-digital character ever to be depicted in a feature film.

A Sidney Paget watercolor-on-paper landscape went to auction at Griffin's in Warwick on Mar. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/29km85pt>. Estimated at £40-£60, it sold for £40 (plus the buyer's premium).

David Gigauri's *The Mdivani Saga* ((Market Harborough: Book Guild, 2024; 341 pp., \$24.00) is a detailed account of the lives of the five Mdivanis; the three brothers (Serge, David, and Alexis) were widely regarded as "the marrying Mdivanis," but their sister Nina is of more interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans, for her marriage to Sir Arthur's son Denis and for her attempt to control the Conan Doyle copyrights. Gigauri has had access to the family papers at the University of Georgia, and to Nina's unpublished memoirs, in the Richard Lancelyn Green Bequest at Portsmouth (Richard also owned the pendant that Nina received from the Baker Street Irregulars as *The Woman in 1975*). You can read the first 83 pages of the book on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/52w9pmhm>, and there's a video about the Mdivanis at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMTTBAVM0uY>.

Mar 26 #2 In 1971, Peter Cushing recorded one-hour readings from *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* for the Royal National Institute for the Blind, for loan only to the blind or visually handicapped, and in 2011 the readings were released by Cosmic Hobo Productions on three CDs, with sleeve notes by David Stuart Davies. Jennie Paton has found "The Solitary Cyclist" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q81iXuVF12s>; three more stories are available <www.youtube.com/@igrok__1>, and more may be uploaded in the future.

Jacques Futrelle was a well-regarded mystery writer, famous for his series of stories about Professor Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen (also known as The Thinking Machine). Futrelle also wrote a Sherlockian pastiche ("The Great Suit Case Mystery") in which he offered a fictional solution to a murder mystery then baffling the Boston police; the story, published in the *Boston American* (Oct. 5-8, 1905) was reprinted in by Freddie Seymour and Bettina Kyper (May 98 #2). Now Adrian Nebbett has found an earlier (and similar) pastiche ("A Drop of Blood") in the *Boston American* (Jan. 29, 1905), conveniently available at the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/48j7rb3u>. The story is on p. 48, and you can zoom in to read it on-line.

Again, with thanks to Adrian, "The Great Suit Case Mystery" is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/yw7rnjkh> (p. 9), <www.tinyurl.com/ywh3jvr6> (p. 6), <www.tinyurl.com/32resj7d> (p. 9), and <www.tinyurl.com/uyd852wr> (p. 28).

Adrian also has found George Randolph Chester's "The Adventures of J. Rufus Wallingford: Detective Blackie" in the *Boston American* (Nov. 28, 1915) <www.tinyurl.com/3r5v7pfm>. This was promotion for one of a series of 14 two-reel films that starred Max Figman as Blackie Daw, who in this outing registers at a hotel as Mr. S. Holmes. If you would like to more about J. Rufus Wallingford, see Albert Borowitz's "The Rises and Falls of J. Rufus Wallingford" in *The Armchair Detective* (winter 1979), which is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3rwh2p93>.

Arunabha Sengupta, in an article in *Cricket Country* (May 4, 2014) put together a Sherlock Holmes XI cricket team consisting of players with names of characters in the stories <www.tinyurl.com/mwdusd8e>. Now Jennie Paton has reported a real Sherlock XI, and you can watch them play against the Elite Cricket Club in a match at the Karthikeya Cricket Ground in Hyderabad (in India) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Vlkks81N3w>.

Dan Smith posted an interesting discussion of "The Mathematical Crimes of the 'Young Sherlock Holmes' series" at The Conversation web-site (Mar. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/2eadux6w>. It's a fine example of commentary by someone who knows more about something than the writers and producers.

Lillian Bethel Greenwood died on Jan. 2, 2025. She was an award-winning author who spoke at a Sherlockian conference in Montréal in 1990, and her books included three well-regarded pastiches: *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Raleigh Conspiracy* (1986), *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Sabina Hall* (1988), and *Sherlock Holmes and the Thistle of Scotland* (1989).

Mar 26 #3 The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will hold their annual meeting in Chicago in June, and there will be a tour "Showcasing the Doyleana Collection at the Newberry" at 1:00 pm on June 26. The society's web-site is at <www.scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians> and their e-mail address is <sublibrarians.scion@gmail.com>. Their web-site includes a link to an interesting list of "Library Collections Related to Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle".

Charlotte Ivers' suggested, in her review of "Young Sherlock" in The Sunday Times (Mar. 7), "One day in the not-too-distant future, when Britain is nothing but a bleak post-industrial wasteland, only two industries will remain: Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes. All manufacturing having packed up, our economy will rely on the export of these two intellectual property juggernauts to Japanese teenagers and Minnesotan housewives." She went on to say that "The Holmes phenomenon is a particular economic opportunity in that it lends itself to Britain's natural area of comparative advantage: period dramas marked by good posture, homoerotic tension, and the frequent removal and redonning of hats." <www.tinyurl.com/3cuf7er8>.

Cozy mysteries with pun titles continue to be a popular subgenre. Donna Andrews' series of bird-themed titles included *The Hen of the Baskervilles* (Jul 13 #3), and Maya Corrigan's series of food-themed titles includes her *Bake Offed* (New York: Kensington, 2022; 296 pp., \$9.99) features Val Densiston and her Sherlock-Holmes-enthusiast Bram Muir, as well as a murder at the Maryland Mystery Fan Fest (undoubtedly inspired by Malice Domestic).

The Times Past web-site <www.timespast.ning.com> specializes in Old Time Radio, Nostalgia, and the Spoken Word, and there's a new Audiobooks button for a free archive that's well worth searching for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle]. It's the same with the new Music button.

Elizabeth Crowens' *Round up the Unusual Suspects* (Olney: Level Best, 2026; 291 pp., \$17.95) is the third in her series about private detectives Babs Norman and Guy Brandt, now in Hollywood in 1942, trying to find a murderer during the filming of "Casablanca"; their wolfhound (Sir Henry of the Baskervilles) is the only Sherlockian aspect of this book, but you'll learn a lot about how hard it was to make the film. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

Geraldine Beare has noted an imaginative advertising campaign by the Great Western Railway that includes a map that shows "The Line to Legend Land". Their Legend Land is southwestern England, and the artwork includes a ferocious Hound of the Baskervilles. You can see the map (and the Hound) in a recent article about the campaign; go to <www.tinyurl.com/55n9xtsn> and scroll down.

Shortform ("the world's largest summary library") <www.shortform.com> offers a list of the "100 best Sherlock Holmes books of all time," based on recommendations from Michael Dirda, Alan Kay, Douglas Starr, and six other experts <www.tinyurl.com/ywdvd6ae>, with links to buy the books at Amazon. It's a subscription service, perhaps a very modern version of CliffsNotes.

Mar 26 #4 The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes, with Steve Steinbock's reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books; Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column about Frederick Wensley, who had a 40-year career at Scotland Yard and in his memoirs complained about Holmes' opinion of the Yard; editorial happy birthday wishes by Jackie Sherbow; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Final Problem"; and pastiches by Michael Mallory, Andrew Armstrong, David Fryer, and Kate Hohl. Kate Hohl's piece is more than just a pastiche, and recommended.

Pierre Nordon died on July 17, 2024. He was a French scholar, author of *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: l'homme et l'œuvre* (1964), translated into English and published in Britain (1966) and the U.S. (1967). He had access to the family papers, and had help from Adrian Conan Doyle (and there's more information in the French edition than in the translation).

Some news from Laurie R. King: her next novel will feature Raquel Laing in *Those Who Are Gone* (due from Bantam on Sept. 8), and (more important) you can expect *Mary Russell's Ghost and Other Stories* next year.

More from the Boston American (Oct. 12, 1923) <www.tinyurl.com/3xc6vwne>, reported by Howard Ostrom: Felix (the Cat) and Hurlock Sholmes Detective, in a Sunday comic created by Pat Sullivan. You can also watch Felix the Cat in the 8-minute animated "Sure-Locked Homes" (1928), available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4bVCyXfSTfM>.

When in Serbia: you can visit the Sherlock Caffe Bar in Niš (kindly noted by Jennie Paton) <www.sherlock-caffe-bar.whereee.com>.

Indian film-makers continue to be inspired by "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The latest version is the Bengali "Saralakkho Holmes" (2025); see the trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/422xt2t3>. And you can see the en-tire film (with subtitles) at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x9prfqa>.

In Oxford on May 2, at the Schwartzman Centre for the Humanities: a conversation with Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger about "Sherlock Holmes and the Creatures of Oxford" <www.tinyurl.com/yhzc82zk>.

Registration's still open for the "And It Is Always 1895" conference honoring Vincent Starrett planned by the Torists International in Chicago on Oct. 23-25. Their web-site's at <www.anditisalways1895.org>. The conference's organizers, Jonathan Shimberg and Linda Crohn, were interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3mjaat4m>.

Jennie Paton has reported video of the Baskerville Moors golf course, in North Yorkshire (rather than Devon); read the detailed description before packing your suitcases and clubs <www.youtube.com/watch?v=INSsM9ND3b4>.

"Winter Palace" is a Swiss television series with eight 45-minute episodes (there's a trailer at its official web-site) <www.oble.tv/winter-palace>. Screened in Switzerland in 2024, it was streamed in Switzerland and Australia (but not in the U.S.) in 2025; the series was co-produced by Netflix, so it's more than likely it will be streamed here. Henry Pettigrew appears as Sir Conan Doyle in six of the eight episodes.

Mar 26 #5 Len Deighton died on Mar.15. His first novel *The Ipcress File* (1962) was a best-seller, and was followed by a long series of successful spy novels, some of which included Sherlockian or Doylean allusions. He wrote an introduction to an edition of *The Valley of Fear* that was published in 1974, and another for the facsimile edition of the manuscript of *The Priory School* published by the Santa Teresa Press in 1975, and his pastiche "Sherlock Holmes and the Titanic Swindle" was included in Peter Lovesey's anthology *The Verdict of Us All: Stories by the Detection Club* (2006).

Barbara Peters has presided over the Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz., since 1989 <www.poisonedpen.com>, and does much more than just sell books. Go to her web-site and then to "Event Videos & Podcasts" and then search for [sherlock] for access to her long list of interviews with Sherlockian authors.

A page from the Illustrated London News (Nov. 26, 1887), advertising Beeton's Christmas Annual at "just ready" was at auction William George in Bury on Mar. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/yck4kkjb> with an opening bid of £15; it sold for £110 (plus the buyer's premium) to a happy collector who also owns a copy of the Annual, and now has a better idea of exactly when in 1887 it was published.

Further to the mention (Feb 26 #2) of Erich Schellow's "Die Liga der Rothaaringen" (with Erich Schellow as Holmes (broadcast in Germany in 1967, at YouTube, Greg Darak reports that you can see more of the programs with a search for [erich schellow sherlock Holmes]).

The Folio Society published *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1987, with an introduction by Julian Symons and cover art and six linocut illustrations by British graphic artist Edward Bawden. Three lots of signed prints were offered at Forum Auctions in London on Mar. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/muyfm538>; one lot, with seven prints that included the cover art, went for £800 (plus the buyer's premium), and the other lots, without the cover art, were sold for £600 (same).

Was Conan Doyle a Victorian super-influencer? Yes, according to a post at the web-site of the Economic Times (Mar. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/mrd4aeuw>.

The Londonist web-site reported (Feb. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/4t2yhxxx> that Simpson's in the Strand was to have a "soft launch" on Mar. 3, with a formal opening set for Mar. 30. Another nicely-illustrated report is at the Elle Décor web-site (Mar. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/34u4aa35>.

Watson's Tin Box has revived its annual journal *Irene's Cabinet*, now edited by Liane Luini. The new issue's cover art shows Carla Coupe's imaginative Arthur Conan Doyle Egg (which won an ACD Society award this year) and the contents include Matt Hall's colorful article about "Simon Goodenough's Sherlockian Murder Dossiers" (Matt was able to track down and interview Goodenough). 40 pp., \$10.00 (black and white) \$15.00 color); ask Liane <toflaki@msn.com> if copies still are available.

Mar 26 #6 Further to the item (Oct 25 #1) about the (British) National Portrait Gallery's "Writers Revealed" exhibition that is now at the Shanghai Museum in China through July 13: the items on display include the original artwork for Bernard Partridge's portrait of Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/mtcudvhf>, and the manuscript of "The Veiled Lodger" <www.tinyurl.com/2zsszknr>.

"Touha Sherlocka Holmese" ["The Longing of Sherlock Holmes"] was a Czech film, released in 1972, and Jennie Paton has reported it available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9hwcttqsGk>. YouTube settings can be used to auto-translate the Czech subtitles into English (and many other languages).

Just in case you didn't see the Oscars ceremony (or did, and weren't paying attention), there was a mention of Basil Rathbone. You can watch the mention (and read all about it) at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/4dzap2wr>.

Geoffrey Stavert, in his *A Study in Southsea* (1887), reported that in 1896 Conan Doyle bought a "smart villa" called South View Lodge for £1,800. He never lived in the house, but instead rented it out, and in 1919 sold it for £1,900. It's now for sale <www.tinyurl.com/yr9fenb2>, and the agent is asking for "offers in excess of £950,000."

Variety reported (Mar. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yrrfde6x> on an interview with Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue at the Series Mania festival. They discussed their upcoming series "Number 10" and had some interesting things to say about "Sherlock".

Amnon Kabatchnik has specialized for years in detailed reference guides to mystery and detection plays, and his new *Bloody Broadway: Plays of Menace, Murder, and Mystery, Vol. 1, 1900-1930* (Orlando: BearManor, 2025; 446 pp., \$45.00) offers a discussion of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1899) in the introduction and full reports on 80 plays that include E. W. Hornung and Eugene Presbury's "Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman" (1903) and Maurice Leblanc and Francis de Croisset's "Arsène Lupin" (1908). We'll need to wait for future volumes read about more directly-Sherlockian plays.

The University of Chichester announced (Mar. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/44nh52ch> that it is partnering with Portsmouth Museums and Portsmouth Libraries and Archives to research the Conan Doyle Collection assembled by Richard Lancelyn Green.

Ferdinand Mount will have a long and interesting review, in the London Review of Books (Apr. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/yf2r2wxw> (things often appear online before they are seen ink-on-paper), of E. W. Hornung's *Raffles, Gentleman Thief* and Ollie Randall's *Writer in Whites: How a Group of Literary Cricketers Changed English Culture*. The piece is not really a review, but rather an informative and entertaining essay about Raffles and Hornung and Conan Doyle, and Oscar Wilde and Rudyard Kipling and Virginia Woolf, and, of course, cricket.

Mar 26 #7 It has been quite a while since Sherlockians heard a song from the musical work-in-progress inspired by Lyndsay Faye's novel *Dust and Shadow* (at the Saturday reception during the birthday festivities in New York in 2011). Now, at long last, "Dust and Shadow: The Unraveling of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Syracuse Stage in Syracuse, N.Y., June 2-20, 2027; details at <www.syracusestage.org/2627>.

Theatrical news: Innes Lloyd's new "Holmes Unbound: The Lost Casebook of Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Impro Melbourne Theatre in Melbourne, Vic., through Apr. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/4kxz9rsa>. There's an excellent article about the show at The Scoop's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/548dc49w>.

Elle Michael River's new comedy "Oh Sh*t, Sherlock" [their asterisk] is on stage at the October Ensemble Theatre in Ocean Grove, N.J., through Apr. 12; their web-site's at <www.octoberensemble.com>; "A different Sherlock every night! The twist? The actor playing Sherlock has never seen the script or attended a rehearsal."

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at The Stage Austin in Austin, Tex., through Apr. 12 <www.thestageaustin.com>.

Casey Carle's new "Conundrum on the Connecticut: The Mystery of the Aunt Polly: A Curiosity in Two Comedic Acts" will be staged at the Grange Hall in East Haddam, Conn., at 7:00 pm on Apr. 4; admission free.

Tad Aviezer's "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" will be produced at the Van Cortlandt House Museum in the Bronx, N.Y., on Apr. 11-15 <www.vchm.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is due at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., on Apr. 17-May 10 <www.bakerstreetwest.com>; and at the Ruth Caplin Theatre in Charlottesville, Va., June 20-28 <www.virginiaatheatrefestival.org>. It also is scheduled at the Boerne Community Theatre in Boerne, Texas, Nov. 6-15 <www.boernetheatre.org>.

Brian Clemens' "Holmes and the Ripper" will be produced at the Dylan Thomas Theatre in Swansea, Wales, Apr. 22-25 <www.dylanthomastheatre.org.uk>.

David Haig's "Magic" will be produced at the Festival Theatre in Chichester, West Sussex, Apr. 24-May 16 <www.cft.org.uk>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be produced at the Martial-Caron Theatre in Winnipeg, MB, May 7-10 <www.hoodanddagger.ca>; it's also due at the Port Angeles Community Players in Port Angeles, Wash., May 29-June 19 <www.pacommunityplayers.org>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at the New Berlin West Performing Arts Center in New Berlin, Wis., May 8-10 <www.tinyurl.com/55d94ywu>.

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

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/y3zwatj6> 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>.

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

The long-lost German silent film "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), with Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes, found in 2009 and carefully restored, is now available at the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/3t6hb9d8>, and on Blu-ray/DVD from Flicker Alley <www.tinyurl.com/394aptub>. It also has been reviewed in detail at the Spectrum Culture web-site, with due attention to director Richard Oswald as well as the film <www.tinyurl.com/sdtsa4ze>.

Sherlock was a winner, on Mar. 31, at the Vaal Race Course in South Africa <www.youtube.com/watch?v=zot8EjUEzL4>. Sherlock is a three-year-old bay colt, by What a Winner out of Slinky the Cat, and you can see his form at <www.racingtv.com/profiles/horse/sherlock-holmes-south-africa>.

People actively collect theater posters: a lot with two posters for the Gillette play <www.tinyurl.com/3knm5zru> sold for £2,200 at Forum Auctions in London on Mar. 26, and another lot with a spectacular full-color poster <www.tinyurl.com/4u9une9v> went for £2,600 (both plus buyer's premium).

Reported by Jim Vogelsang: "Fugue State 1986" (2025), an 8-episode Colombian Netflix series, includes mentions of Conan Doyle in a couple of episodes (a student thinks that Conan Doyle was Jack the Ripper); it's a dark series, following true events that involved Vietnam War veteran Campo Elías Delgado, who committed a mass shooting in Bogotá. There's a trailer at the Netflix web-site <www.netflix.com/title/81726649>.

A signed copy of the first British edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* <www.tinyurl.com/9cr6c2h6> was sold at Swann Auction Galleries on Apr. 23 for \$16,510 (including the buyer's premium); a high price indeed, considering that that's not how the author signed his name.

Andrew Finkel will present the next Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, at the Toronto Reference Library on Oct. 24, speaking about "The Sultan and the Detective: Sherlock Holmes' Curious Adventures in the Ottoman Empire" <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>. The web-site also offers links to YouTube recordings of past lectures, 2022-2025.

Alexander Orlov has reported that on Apr. 30 the VTB Bank in Russia began presenting an adaptation of "The Sign of the Four" on Russian television, with Artyom Tkachenko as Holmes and Stanislav Beliaev as Watson. There is more about the broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/mpnnhph5>, and you can watch a trailer at <www.vkvideo.ru/video-22749457_456241747>, and the full one-minute commercial at <www.tinyurl.com/mtp66dht>. Google Translate will be of assistance if you're not fluent in Russian.

"No sheep, Sherlock!" <www.youtube.com/shorts/PYOq5FgyUUY> is a one-minute promo for the new film "The Sheep Detectives", which arrived in theaters on May 8. The film is adapted from Leonie Swann's novel *Three Bags Full: The Sheep Detectives* (2005); neither the book nor the film is Sherlockian, but the video certainly is. You can watch the film's official trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfNLApPCa8E>.

May 26 #2 The Berg Collection at the N.Y. Public Library has manuscripts of three Sherlock Holmes stories ("The Blanched Soldier", "The Devil's Foot", and "The Norwood Builder") and a working copy of the second actor of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes", all scanned and available at the Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ye242mn8>. The Collection also has the manuscript of "The Lost World" (not available on-line). The three Canonical stories also are available in facsimile, with annotations and excellent scholarship, in the Manuscript Series published by the Bakar Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/manuscript>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of the Cape Fear (in Wilmington, N.C.) offers a recording of Herbert Greenhough Smith's interview with Mrs. Hudson, on-line at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/573d98cj>.

The Exhibits Development Group has announced that their "Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition", recently on display at the Point-à-Callière in Montréal (Jan 26 #4), will be seen next in Prague, July 17 through Jan. 10, 2027, at the Gallery Bilá Labut'. Visitors to Prague may also want to contact the Česká společnost Sherlocka Holmese <www.spolecnost-sh.webnode.cz> (that's the Czech Sherlock Holmes Society).

If you would like to own the exhibition, it's for sale at the culturenut website <www.tinyurl.com/2vwfusw2> with an asking price of \$1,800,000.

Charles Blanksteen's *Sherlock Holmes: The Ripper Dilemma* (Manchester: Belanger, 2023; 248 pp., \$19.95) has Holmes and Watson in pursuit of Jack the Ripper in 1888 (and successful) and then dealing with the Cleveland Street Scandal in 1889 (which turns out to have been connected with the Ripper), in an interesting addition to the Jack the Ripper genre.

And a side note, so to speak: I thought that the electronic journal Ripperologist (Dec 17 #3) had stopped publishing, but it turns out that I had just fallen off their mailing list. It is still going strong, and free, with back issues available at its web-site; it's grand reading for anyone interested in Jack the Ripper <www.ripperologist.co.uk>.

The second volume of Charles Blanksteen's trilogy is *Sherlock Holmes: The Seamstress and the Colonel* (2025; 254 pp., \$19.95), which is set after the battle at the Reichenbach, with Holmes in disguise, hiding from and then in pursuit of Colonel Moran in Paris and then in London. There's lots of local color in Paris, with due attention paid to the city's *maisons closes* (the regulated brothels) and similar establishments in London. The novels must be read in order, since they're really chapters in a longer story.

Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and a Woman (2026; 227 pp., \$19.95) is the third volume in the trilogy, continuing the battle between Holmes and Moran, who in 1895 is in Germany, employed by the Kaiser at his hunting lodge in Grunewald, and then in Berlin, Paris, and London, still at work as an assassin; Holmes is victorious, of course. It should be noted that there is another continuing character in the trilogy (sorry: no spoiler here). The publisher's web-site is at <www.belangerbooks.com>.

May 26 #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.

Plan ahead: 221B Con will be held at the Atlanta Airport Marriott on Apr. 9-11, 2027. You can read about this year's event in *Watson's Journal*, and register for next year, at <www.221bcon.com/watsons-journal>.

Gavin Milnethorpe's interview with clarinetist Alan Barnes for *The Syncopated Times* web-site (Apr. 29) <www.tinyurl.com/2hjkh72u> includes discussion of the music Barnes wrote for his album "The Sherlock Holmes Suite". You can listen to some of the music at <www.tinyurl.com/ynhwyvpb>.

"Saturday Night Theatre" was a long-running series on the BBC Home Service and then on BBC Radio 4, and the *Times Past* web-site offers a list of all of the broadcasts <www.timespast.ning.com/saturday-night-theatre> that you search for [sherlock] and [doyle]. You can then scroll down and click on "LINK" to listen to any or all of the programs.

The Mystery Writers of America have established a Hall of Fame that will recognize authors who are no longer alive, and thus not eligible for the MWA's Grand Master Award. The first entrants, as reported in *Publishers Weekly* (May 4) <www.tinyurl.com/3wshpabw>, included (needless to say) Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. And Donna Andrews, author of *The Hen of the Baskervilles* (Jul 13 #3) and editor of the anthology *School of Hard Knox* (Oct 23 #2) received an MWA Grand Master Award.

The second season of the CBS-TV series "Watson" (starring Morris Chestnut in the title role) ended with a twist that hinted at what might happen in a third season, but the network did not renew the series. Craig Sweeny, the series showrunner, was interviewed at the *Deadline* web-site on May 3 <www.tinyurl.com/2ja9vkxf>, and gave some details on what might have happened in a third season.

The Cretaceous tetrapod *Irritator challenger* was first reported by David M. Martill in Brazil (Feb 96 #1), and the name derives from the irritation that Martill and his fellow authors felt when they found that the snout of the fossil had been artificially elongated by the professional fossil-hunter who had found and sold the skull, and their wish to honor Prof. George Edward Challenger, of the *Lost World*. Now the fossil is to be repatriated from the German museum that bought the fossil in 1991 to Brazil, according to a story in the *Guardian* (May 2) <www.tinyurl.com/y6ymjsa5>.

There was a recent story in *Country Life* <www.tinyurl.com/mv5t4wbd> about Cotterel House in the village of Shere, in the wooded Vale of Holmesdale in Surrey (an hour and a half's drive from Eastbourne on the South Downs), and with mention of Arthur Conan Doyle and A. A. Milne having come to the Shere village green to play for J. M. Barrie's cricket team. Rudyard Kipling and H. G. Wells also were invited, but apparently declined.

May 26 #4 Douglas Kerr is the editor of *The Tragedy of the Korosko and The Fires of Fate*, with *The Nile Journal* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2026; 416 pp., \$165.00), the latest volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*; it provides the texts of the book and play, and (published for the first time) the journal that Conan Doyle kept on his visit to Egypt in 1895 and 1896, as well as comparisons of the serial and book editions, discussion of surviving scripts, and detailed explanatory notes. It's a grand addition to Doylean scholarship, and it's wonderful when scholarship is so readable.

Shigeru Tsuyuguchi died on Apr.28, 2025. He had a long career as an actor on Japanese stage, screen, and television, and dubbed the voice of Sherlock Holmes for the Japanese broadcast of the Granada series.

Sherlockian societies do like to celebrate significant anniversaries, and this year the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 75th anniversary is being celebrated with a full year of festivities. You can hear all about it in Scott Monty and Burt Wolder' interview with Ashley Mayo at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/mvjzv7ah>. Ashley also discusses the Scrapbook, which he maintains for the Society at their website <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook>; he 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.

Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, was on the market four years ago, priced at £2,950,000 (Nov 22 #3). Now it's available again, with an asking price of £3,325,000 <www.tinyurl.com/vt7dpc52>. There's an attractive downloadable brochure at the realtor's web-site. And an interesting display of photographs of Conan Doyle and his family at Bignell Wood at Alexis Barquin's "Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" <www.tinyurl.com/3j6sh77s>.

The spring issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) has Mark Jones' discussion of Conan Doyle's delightful short story "The Crime of the Brigadier" (but do read the story before reading the article), Matthew D. Hall's pursuit of "A Scandal in Pharmacoepia", and much more. Subscriptions are included with membership, and details on that are at <www.torontobootmakers.com/membership>.

As noted earlier (Feb 26 #3), someone managed to hack into my address book and send Paperless Post invitations, allegedly from me, to a party. Now someone has hacked into another Sherlockian's address book and is sending Punchbowl invitations to a party. You should beware of any message that says only "open this," and check before downloading anything.

Rex Reed died on May 12. He was an accomplished journalist and film critic, and occasionally an actor. There were reports in 1972 of plans for an Andy Warhol film, an underground version of Sherlock Holmes, with Reed to play Watson, and again in 1976 for a film in which Reed would have played play Watson with Rona Barrett as Shirley Sherlock, a female gossip columnist who was an amateur sleuth. Neither film made it to production.

May 26 #5 "Sherlock is back," according to Foil Arms and Hog, "and this time he's better than ever, all thanks to A.I.!!!" You can see them perform at <www.tinyurl.com/e9y6hj5p>. Sean Finegan (Foil) plays Holmes, and Sean Flanagan (Hog) plays Watson, and the Irish sketch comedy has a Wikipedia entry. Thanks to Howard Ostrom for the nice discovery.

Dennis Simanaitis presides over the "Simanaitis Says" blog, and Tom Tanaka has noted two colorful posts about Sherlock Holmes in advertising, available at <www.simanaitissays.com/tag/holmes-in-advertising>.

More about interesting uses of AI: Jennie Paton found David Attis' video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZdWZfe2vQw> about how he is using AI to convert old 4x3 ratio film and video to the 16x9 ratio in use today, and to colorize black-and-white film and video.

Another reason to mention Alexis Barquin's "Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia: a web-page devoted to 84 people who have performed as Conan Doyle, in various media, at <www.tinyurl.com/4rnjdu5d>.

When in Portugal: you can visit the Quinta da Bella Vista in Sintra, which has an impressive web-site <www.quintadabellavista.com> that says that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle once owned the property, and that members of his family had lived there. Not quite: Peter Calamai's article on "Seeking the Conan Doyle 'Estate' in Portugal (in the fall 2018 issue of Canadian Holmes) has the facts. Conan Doyle's sister Annette did live in Sintra, and his son Adrian did own and live in an 18th-century mansion that's now part of the Quinta. There's a long article (in Portuguese) about "Arthur Conan Doyle e Sintra" at the web-site of the Alagamares Cultural Association (Feb. 22, 2022) <www.alagamares.com/arthur-conan-doyle-portugal-e-sintra>.

Open Book Chocolates <www.openbookchocolates.com> continue to offer hand-made chocolate bars with literary-inspired flavors, including their tasty Doctor Watson bar (Earl Grey tea & honey in milk chocolate); \$12.99 for a 2.1-oz. bar.

Forecast for release on Aug 11: "Elementary Cinema: The Early Films of Sherlock Holmes" on Blu-ray (\$24.95) <www.tinyurl.com/y8pb3htc>.

Who was the "George Clooney of the 1800s"? William Gillette, according to a post at the "Boston Uncovered" web-site (May 12) about William Gillette and his castle <www.bostonuncovered.com/gillette-castle-state-park>. One does wonder how Gillette (and Clooney) might regard the comparison.

Michael Pennington died on May 7. He had a long career on stage in Britain (and estimated that he had spent 20,000 hours of his life in Shakespeare's plays), but did perform in other media, playing Sherlock Holmes in the television film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) and Professor Moriarty with Clive Merrison on BBC Radio 4 in "The Final Problem" (1992) and "The Empty House" (1993). There's a tribute to Pennington at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3dzwj4vs> that offers a link to the film. You can listen to the radio programs at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ysy982ef> and <www.tinyurl.com/44j5cdk8>.

May 26 #6 Balduin Groller's Dagobert Trostler (Vienna's Sherlock Holmes) came to the attention of Sherlockians when "Anonymous Letters" was included (in English) in Hugh Greene's anthology *More Rivals of Sherlock Holmes* (1971) and was dramatized in the Thames TV series broadcast by ITV (1971). Now there's a collection, *The Adventures of Dagobert Trostler* (San Diego: Kazabo, 2017; 194 pp., \$9.99), with half a dozen stories about the man Ellery Queen called "the first important Teutonic sleuth." Trostler's not Sherlock Holmes, but he's a fine example of the many rivals who were created after Holmes' career ended at the Reichenbach. The publisher's web-site is at <www.kazabo.com>.

Craig and June Hamilton-Parker described themselves as "happy mediums" and offer on-line readings via Zoom. They have posted a video of their visit to Conan Doyle's "haunted grave" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=pSc0CXayl1M> and you're entitled to think that their readings will be no more accurate than their stories about Conan Doyle.

Dom Testa tells the story of "The Most Famous Sax Riff Ever" in an interesting video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvtHS2oGmSs> that's actually Sherlockian (although you'll need to listen to the end to find out why). A tip of the deerstalker to Jennie Paton, who found the video.

There's no end to Internet speculation about a third movie starring Robert Downey Jr. as Sherlock Holmes. Director Guy Ritchie, in an interview recently posted at the Collider web-site, said that he would love to make a third film. "I adore Downey, and I adored making those two movies. Look, I think it's just honestly a question of just aligning our schedules. I know the appetite for it's there, but the appetite for it from our side is there, too. So we'd love to make that happen. I just don't know how it's going to happen. It's amazing that it hasn't happened."

One can find Conan Doyle everywhere, including the Tokyo National Museum, in an exhibition honoring the Maeda samurai clan. Matt Hall has an interesting post at his "221B Cooee" blog <www.tinyurl.com/354pb2uc> recounting the story behind a letter from Conan Doyle that's on display in Tokyo.

Jennie Paton has discovered an interesting interview with Nestor Chiese, who dubbed for Benedict Cumberbatch when "Sherlock" was broadcast in Brazil <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NK4y_7aVw1Y>. If you're not fluent in Portuguese, click on "settings" and "autotranslate" to get closed captions in English.

David Burke died on May 10. He had a spectacular career as an actor, on stage and then on television; his first Sherlockian role was as Sir George Burnwell in Peter Cushing's "The Beryl Coronet" (1965), and then he was a stalwart and intelligent Watson with Jeremy Brett in the first two seasons of the Granada television series (1984-1985). You can see Burke as Watson in the documentary "The Shackles of Sherlock" that was broadcast on ITV in 2007 <www.tinyurl.com/yrwetbev>, and in A&E's "Biography" series in "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" (2017) <www.tinyurl.com/m7smu5c>. There also is a warm appreciation of Burke at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/578ax6kt>.

May 26 #7 SRF [Schweizer Radio und Fernsehen] has announced the start of production on a new television series ("The Death of Sherlock Holmes") that begins with the supposed death of Holmes at the Reichenbach; Rafe Spall stars as Sherlock Holmes, and the series is scheduled to premiere in 2027. The SRF press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/43p4um9d>.

"The Adventure of the Three Garridebs (1937) was the first broadcast of a Sherlock Holmes story on television, and the second was "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (1949), with Alan Napier as Holmes. Napier is warmly remembered as Alfred, Bruce Wayne's butler, but you can see him as Holmes at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=TgD81Mz9cOY>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Mark Rowlands' nicely philosophical *The Book of Memory: How We Become Who We Are* (New York: Pegasus, 2025; 147 pp., \$26.95) opens with a Preface on "My Life as a Fictional Character" that explores "the difference between fiction and reality," and discusses Sherlock Holmes, concluding that "being a fictional character no doubt has its drawbacks." But he also suggests that "death is never definitive for such a being."

Black Cat Weekly is an e-zine <www.blackcatweekly.com> edited by John Betancourt and published by the Wildside Press. The e-zine casts a wide net, and issue 246 includes Elizabeth Elwood's pastiche "Gladwyn and the Speckled Band".

"The Young Lord Peter Consults Sherlock Holmes" (written by Dorothy Sayers) was included in a "Tribute to Sherlock Holmes on the Occasion of His Hundredth Birthday" broadcast by the BBC Home Service on Jan. 8, 1954. No recording's known, but the script was published in *Sayers on Holmes* (2001) and (reported by Allyn Gibson) is available at <www.tinyurl.com/464wrarr>.



It is tempting to suggest that there is nothing Sherlockian about the stamp (one of eight in a recent mini-sheet issued by our Postal Service to honor Route 66) that shows a handsome blue-and-white 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air parked in front of the Munger Moss Motel in Lebanon, Mo. But: the first new car that I ever owned was a blue 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air, and it was in that car that I drove to New York in 1958 to attend my first annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, and in 1959 for my second annual dinner, at which I received my Irregular Shilling and my Investiture. I wish I still had it. It is now a classic car, worth considerably more than the \$2,400 it cost me to buy mine.

Some ornithopter wings used in the film "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), at auction at Propstore on May 21, were estimated at £1,000-£2,000 but didn't sell <www.tinyurl.com/ymyuesuy>; Benedict Cumberbatch's autographed read-through script for Granada's "The Lying Detective" (2017) was estimated at £1,500-£3,000 and was bought for only £945 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/47ddjutv>; and the screen-matched Baker Street sign from Granada's "The Abominable Bride" (2016), estimated at £1,000-£2,000, sold (with 34 bids) for £10,080 <www.tinyurl.com/4rja89n2>.

May 26 #8 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Arts Theatre Cronulla in Cronulla, N.S.W., through June 13; web-site at <www.artstheatrecronulla.com.au>. It is also due at Lone Star College-Montgomery in The Woodlands, Tex., July 9-11 <www.tinyurl.com/j9kh3hdw>.

John Goodrum's "The Nightmare Room" (based on Conan Doyle's story) is on tour in Britain through Aug. 22 <www.tabsproductions.co.uk>.

Mark O'Sullivan's "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Roman Theatre of Verulamium in St. Albans, Herts., June 5-20 <www.ovo.org.uk>.

Elle Michael River's comedy "Oh Sh*t, Sherlock" [their asterisk] is to be produced at the October Ensemble Theatre in Ocean Grove, N.J., June 6-20 <www.octoberensemble.com>; "A different Sherlock every night! The twist? The actor playing Sherlock has never seen the script or attended a rehearsal."

David M. Belke's "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Arts Barn at Gaithersburg, Md., June 12-28; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/3shzrzuy>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Peterborough Players Theatre in Peterborough, N.H., June 17-28 <www.peterboroughplayers.org>.

James Nicholas' "Sherlock Holmes: The Speckled Band" is scheduled at the Blue Orange Theatre in Birmingham, July 18 <www.blueorangetheatre.co.uk>; and at theSpace on the Mile in Edinburgh, Aug. 21-29 <www.edfringe.com>.

The Old Joint Stock Theatre is performing "Sherlock Holmes and the Bitter of the Baskervilles: An Untapped Tale" on tour in Fuller's pubs in Britain, starting on July 26 <www.fullers.co.uk/event-finder/sherlock>.

The Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" will be performed during the Edinburgh Fringe at Just the Tonic in the Caves, Aug. 6-17 <www.improvsherlock.com>.

"Houdini Speaks to the Living" (Houdini and Conan Doyle and magic) is due at theSpace on the Mile in Edinburgh, Aug. 7-22 <www.edfringe.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville, Md., Sept. 25-Oct. 4 <www.rlt-online.org>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" will be produced at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alb., Nov. 14-Dec. 19; their web-site is at <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

"Baker Street: The Musical Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Gray Smith Stage in Winton-Salem, N.C., Nov. 19-23; their web-site is at <www.theatrealliance.ws>.

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