

Jan 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The birthday festivities in New York were a relatively easy commute for all those who arrived on Thursday (the day that people who had been marooned in the city for three days were able at long last to escape), and not quite as easy for those who arrived on Friday (by which time it was snowing again), and it was bright and sunny by Sunday, and presumably everyone made it home safely, except for those who never left home in the first place (and there were a few who decided not to make the trip from Oregon and Minnesota).

Thursday evening still is the time for informal gatherings (a few members of The Hounds of the Internet and their friends dined on mutton chops and other delicacies at Keen's Chop House), but there was no Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney,s (because there's no longer an O'Lunney,s).

Friday began with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast at the Hotel Algonquin (where sometimes the lobby seemed to be populated entirely by Sherlockians during the weekend), and continued with the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague Joffe, and Paul Singleton presented a new play by Andrew about what really happened when Arthur Conan Doyle first met William Gillette. And Otto Penzler's open house on Friday at the Mysterious Bookshop offered collectors an opportunity to see (and of course to purchase) some of the treasures Otto brought back from the London auction of Stanley MacKenzie's collection.

The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Mike Whelan toasted Barbara Herbert as *The* woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (Barbara then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have received that honor), and the evenings' entertainment included the usual traditions, imaginative toasts by Bob Katz to the Second Dr. Watson and by Sherry Rose-Bond to Peter Steiler the Elder, Shirley Purves' tour of the moors (with thoughts on a computerized Sherlock Holmes), and Ev Herzog's rhyming tribute to her fine collection of M's.

Irregular Shillings and Investitures were awarded to Steven T. Doyle ("The Western Morning News"), Ralph Hall ("Smack! Smack! Smack!"), Hugh Harrington ("Wisteria Lodge"), Peter Horrocks ("The Inner Temple"), Kate Karlson ("The Evening Standard"), John E. Pforr ("Police-Constable Cook"), Marsha Pollak ("A Small But Select Library"), and Robert J. Stek ("The Mysterious Scientist"). And Bob Thomalen received the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal in recognition for his work as Cartwright (a post from which he has retired). Tom Stix announced that Mike Whelan succeeds Bob as Cartwright, and that Tom and Ruthann Stetak are now the BSI's joint Simpsons, taking over the secretarial duties that the late John Bennett Shaw performed so well for many years.

The Fortescue Symposium also convened on Friday evening, at the St. Moritz Hotel, where the entertainment included Jan Stauber's description of what it's like to arrive in the world of Sherlockians, Francine Kitts' report on entries in her contest that sought answers to the question "What would you give for the box?" (Dr. Watson's battered tin dispatch-box), and presentations by Barbara Fleming on bootlaces and (in verse) on "The Tale of the Pinch of Victor Lynch".

Jan 96 #2 On Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin (known temporarily known as Covent Garden west) offered a wide variety of Sherlockian wares that included newly-published Sherlockian and Doylean books, as well as the usual assortment of old-and-rare and new-and-artistic material. The BSI Saturday afternoon cocktail party at the National Arts Club offered a pleasant venue and excellent food and drink and conversation that were briefly interrupted by the entertainment: Al Rosenblatt reported poetically and melodiously on both the Sherlockian year and the BSI dinner, a hotly-contested auction for eager collectors raised more than \$1,000 for the John H. Watson Fund, and Mike Whelan presented the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in last year's Baker Street Journal to Margaret

K. Nydell (who received an attractive certificate and a check for \$500).

The Morley-Montgomery Award will be offered again for the best article in the BSJ in 1996, and potential contestants are invited to send submissions to Donald K. Pollock (19 Putnam Street, Buffalo, NY 14213. Don is the new editor of the BSJ, beginning with the March 1996 issue (Tom Stix's message announcing the change, and thanking Bill Cochran for his work over the last three years appeared in the Sept. 1995 issue).

Samuel Rosenberg died on Jan. 5. He was a photographer, playwright, stage manager, artist, literary consultant, and the author of *NAKED IS THE BEST DISGUISE: THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1974). Michael Harrison thought that the book "certainly set the deductive cat amongst the Sherlockian pigeons," and Rosenberg did indeed find many critics who were outraged by the analysis and analogy presented in that book and in an essay in Harrison's *BEYOND BAKER STREET: A SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGY* (1976). But there also were many who enjoyed Rosenberg's new approach to the Canon and to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (his book sold well in cloth and paperback editions), and it was delightful to spend time with him (he was one of the speakers at a Sherlockian symposium at Colorado State University in 1975, and attended at least one annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars). He sometimes genially claimed to be a trivialist, but whether in person or on the printed page he was a guaranteed antidote to boredom.

The current issue of *Anglofile* quotes British press reports that ITV has axed the "Poirot" series (there still are some shows not yet aired here). A decline in the ratings was cited: the latest shows had only half of the 14 million viewers the series had at first (and the shows aren't cheap, at £1.2 million each). But consider: the United States has about four times the population of Britain. There aren't all that many shows on the air in the United States that have more than 28 million viewers. *Anglofile* is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

Something new, and nicely done: "Sherlock Through the Magnifying Glass: A Female Perspective" was dramatized by David Stuart Davies and performed for the first time for The Northern Musgraves in 1992; now Classic Specialties has produced an audiocassette performed by Vanessa Maroney, who also reads an introduction written by Catherine Cooke. There are some interesting insights into the Canon, and some imaginative surprises, in the 60-minute cassette. \$13.45 postpaid to North America from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (\$14.95 to Europe, \$16.45 elsewhere).

Jan 96 #3 Jack Tracy notes that the new *MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LITERATURE* (Springfield: Merriam-webster, 1995) has entries for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and The Hound of the Baskervilles; the anonymous author of the entry on Conan Doyle didn't confirm the titles of all the Sherlock Holmes books, but it's nice to see continuing attention paid to the Canon and its author.

Readers who enjoyed Kim Newman's *ANNO DRACULA* (in which Mycroft Holmes and other members of the Diogenes Club were working to overthrow Vlad Tepes, who had married the widow of Windsor and was ruling as Prince Consort and Lord Protector) likely will want to read the sequel, *THE BLOODY RED BARON* (Carroll & Graf, \$21.00). According to Tim Sullivan's review in the *Washington Post* (Dec. 31), the book is a fanciful tale of vampire flying aces: Prof. Ten Brincken and Dr. Mabuse have turned Richtofen and his brethren into huge bat-winged night flyers, and the Germans have hired Edgar Allan Poe (who was vampirized by his child bride Virginia) to write about them.

"Every last one of them," said Altamont of the signals he had brought to Von Bork, "semaphore, lamp code, Marconi." Great Britain honored Marconi last year (the centenary of the first wireless message) with a pair of stamps showing him as a young man (with early wireless equipment) and as

an older man (using a radiophone). Thanks to John Baesch for spotting this philatelic Sherlockiana and for confirming that the sinking ship in the design of the 60p stamp is the Titanic. That tragedy was not the first use of the S.O.S. signal, but it did result in a public exchange of letters between George Bernard Shaw and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the [London] Daily News in May 1912.

The birthday blizzards marooned Ben and Joan Wood in Florida, so they were unable to see their Sherlockian wares at the Algonquin. But a sales list of philatelic and other material is available from Benton Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222-0740.

Cheryl Hurd reports that her local public radio station carries a 30-minute weekly series called "NPR Playhouse" and (nice news for listeners where the series airs) that "The Cases of Sherlock Holmes" began on Jan. 14. This is a series recorded in Britain by Independent Radio Drama Productions (with Edward Petherbridge as Holmes and David Peart as Watson), and broadcast in the United States in 1991 and in Britain in 1992. The original series had "A Study in Scarlet" (in 6 episodes), "A Scandal in Bohemia" (2 episodes), "The Speckled Band" (2 episodes), "The Valley of Fear" (9 episodes), "The Five Orange Pips" (2 episodes), and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (2 episodes).

Robin Leckbee has reported that one of the floats in the Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans will feature Sherlock Holmes. Endymion's parade on Feb. 17 will have "Great Storytellers" as its theme (this won't be the first time that an image of Holmes has been used to honor the man who created him, of course). Mardi Gras now gets national television coverage, but there's no way of knowing whether or when we might see the float on the air.

Jan 96 #4 A GRAND NIGHT FOR MURDER (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995; 213 pp., \$20.95) is the latest novel by H. Paul Jeffers, whose earlier Sherlockian works include THE ADVENTURE OF THE STALWART COMPANIONS (1978) and MURDER MOST IRREGULAR (1983). The new book involves the murder of the Mystery Writers of America's newest grand master, who has a host of enemies (including a book dealer who is an enthusiastic Sherlockian), many Sherlockian allusions, and some nice twists in the plot.

A new catalog at hand from Femmes Fatales (Box 3457, Lakewood, CA 90712-3457) (800-596-3323), with many mystery-related items, decorative and otherwise, including attractive pins (3" high) designed by Glyn Swanson. One of them (as might be expected) is Sherlockian; item J101 (\$27.95).

Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Ted Paul Theatre at Mankato State University, Feb. 1-11, 1996. The box-office address is: MSU Theatre Arts, Box 8400, Mankato, MN 56002 (507-389-6661).

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUTH ABOUT LUDWIG II, by Zeus Weinstein, is Richard R. Rutter's translation of SHERLOCK HOLMES: DIE WAHRHEIT UBER LUDWIG II, first published by Deutsche Verlagsanstalt in 1978. Zeus Weinstein is the pseudonym of Peter Neugebauer, who has contributed some fine Sherlockian scholarship to the German literature. His pastiche brings Holmes (posing as an American journalist) and Watson (posing as an American millionaire) to Bavaria in 1886, unable to prevent the death of the "mad king" who was responsible for some of Europe's most romantic castles. \$27.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.

Nellie Brown notes that the Quality Paperback Book Club now offers Loren D. Estleman's SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA and DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HOLMES in one volume (\$12.95); Camp Hill, PA 17012-0001 (800-348-7128).

William Hjortsberg's NEVERMORE (Oct 94 #5) is now available in paperback (New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 1996; 302 pp., \$5.99); the novel brings Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini to New York in 1923, where they are involved with Opal Crosby Fletcher (a provocative and beautiful medium) and a mysterious serial killer (who copies murders described in Edgar Allan Poe's stories, and whose targets include Conan Doyle and Houdini).

"Richard III" is now in the theaters: Ian McKellen is executive producer, wrote the screenplay, and plays the title role, and other actors include Maggie Smith, Annette Bening, Nigel Hawthorne, and Edward Hardwicke (as Lord Stanley, played as an Air Vice Marshal who joins Richmond's forces, taking the RAF with him). The play is set in the 1930s, and McKellen is playing Richard as a fascist leader.

The world wide web, which now is much more than a hideaway located in stray corners of the Internet, has a growing list of Sherlockian home pages, one of which is maintained by Chris Redmond (and which has links to most if not all of the others). During the first 17 days of 1996 he averaged 93 hits per day; you can see what's available by telling a computerized friend that the URL is <<http://watserv1.uwaterloo.ca/~credmond/sh.html>>.

Jan 96 #5 David Healy died on Oct. 25. He was born in Texas, according to information at hand from David Morrill, but found an acting career in Britain, on stage and screen and television. He played a fine Watson to Ian Richardson's Holmes in the television film "The Sign of Four" (1983), and he played Aloysius Moran in "The Noble Bachelor" (1991) in the Clive Merrison series on BBC Radio 4.

Delicate Arch (in Arches National Park) is featured in MCRay Magleby's design for our new stamp honoring the centennial of statehood for Utah, and (indirectly) "A Study in Scarlet".

Helen Commodore spotted the announcement of a one-session "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the New School in New York City on Apr. 26 (taught by Arthur Liebman, in costume, with Nickelodeon piano accompaniment by Joyce Ann Liebman); course 0537, 8:00-9:30 pm, \$10.00 (212-229-5690).

Plan ahead: an International Sherlockian Congress in honor of "The Devil's Foot" will be held at Perth in the Swan River Colony on Oct. 4-6, 1997. If you are considering a journey to Australia and would like more information about the festivities, you can contact Douglas Sutherland-Bruce, P.O. Box 74, Sawyers Valley, W.A. 6074, Australia.

A fine way to listen to the Sherlock Holmes tales is when Dr. Watson tells them himself; Edward Hardwicke does just that, and does it well, in two new audiocassette sets available from Tangled Web Audio: SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF INTRIGUE (with Croo/Gree/Nava) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF SUSPENSE (with Suss/Cree/Spec). Each set contains two cassettes and costs \$20.45 postpaid (\$39.90 for two sets); 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 (800-249-2666 operator 616); credit card orders welcome.

Jennie Paton reports a box of "34 Tiny Toon Adventures Mystery Valentines" with two cards with Sherlockian motifs on the back (and more cards inside); apparently the similar box last year sold well enough to be repeated (the new box is a minor variant). About \$2.00 (check your local drug stores).

"Lasting Impressions" is the newly-chosen title for the celebration by The Bootmakers of Toronto of their silver anniversary, at the Arts and Letters Club in St. George's Hall, on June 26-29, 1997. If you would like to be on the mailing list for news about the gathering, the address is 30 Elm Avenue #210, Toronto, ON M4W 1N5, Canada.

Jon Lellenberg was the first to report John McPhee's "The Gravel Page" in The New Yorker (Jan. 29). McPhee has been explaining geology to non-geolo-

gists since 1980, and the magazine's lead-in to his latest article suggests that: "The most frightening crimes have no witnesses except the ground on which they were committed. And from that alone forensic geologists illuminate cases in a way that would impress Sherlock Holmes, the science's first practitioner." McPhee was aware from the very start that "detective work is what geologists do," and his article offers a well-written exploration of how geologists help solve crimes today, and careful acknowledgement of Sherlock Holmes' contributions to the science he invented (and the title "The Gravel Page" is taken from the Canon).

Jan 96 #6 THE THINKING MACHINE: JACQUES FUTRELLE, by Freddie Seymour and Bettina Kyper (Dennisport: Graphic Illusions, 1995) is a fine biography of a mystery writer who was only 37 years old when he died on the Titanic in 1912; his "The Problem of Cell 13" still is widely reprinted in anthologies of mystery stories, and Prof. Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen rated two appearances (played by Douglas Wilmer) in the British television series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" in 1971 and 1973. The book also has some of his stories, and is available from Seymour/Kyper Productions, Box 1369, Sandwich, MA 02563; \$12.00 postpaid.

Cadds has issued a Sherlock Holmes Diary for 1996: spiral bound, with page size 6 x 8.25" and a page for each week, with small illustrations (mostly by Paget) and Canonical quotes. Available from Cadds Printing (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England; \$11.00 postpaid (checks payable to Hugh Scullion).

Sherlockian tourists have long enjoyed visiting Sherlockian sites with the help of David Hammer's series of guidebooks, and now there's an opportunity for a guided tour of one of the Canonical tales, with Brad Keefauver as the almost-always-genial expert in charge of the tour. Readers of Brad's work in the BSJ and Plugs & Dottles and The Dangling Prussian APA already know his fine style, humor, and imagination, all on display in his THE ARMCHAIR BASKERVILLE TOUR (New York: Magico Magazine, 1995; 153 pp.). Brad takes a party of tourists through "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and it's a grand tour indeed, at least until some members of the tour group vanish in the midst of the tour (and the story). The tour allows the tour guide to offer some intriguing insights into the story, and to answer some unasked-until-now questions, and it's an enjoyable excursion. \$27.00 postpaid from the publisher (Box 156, New York, NY 10002).

Our new booklet showing five winter flowers includes a stamp portraying crocuses, which are mentioned twice in the Canon (in "The Speckled Band" and "The Empty House").

A new catalog from 800-Trekker, Box 13131, Reading, PA 19612 (800-873-5537) has collectibles for "Star Trek", "The X-Files", and "Doctor who", including a videocassette of Tom Baker in "Doctor who: The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977) at \$19.95; the Doctor is in Sherlockian costume, in Victorian London, fighting giant rats.

Vincent Price did some grand work in a career that lasted 55 years, and he was a splendid Ratigan in "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986). THE COMPLETE FILMS OF VINCENT PRICE, by Lucy Chase Williams (New York: Citadel Press, 1995; 290 pp., \$19.95) offers a biography (with interviews with his friends and fellow stars), a filmography, stills, posters, and much more.

"In the vaults of Cox was an old tin box, with Watson's name on the lid." Jay Finlay Christ wrote many years ago, asking "what wouldn't we pay for that box today, And the secret notes there hid?" Francine Kitts wonders what modern Sherlockians would give for that old tin box, and will welcome brief and imaginative suggestions; her address is 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301-4019.

Jan 96 #7 Thanks to Janice Fisher and Herb Tinning for forwarding an item

in Florence Fabricant's column in the food section of the N.Y. Times (Jan. 24): D. R. Finley, president of the Eerie Establishment restaurant company (which includes the Jekyll and Hyde Club on the Avenue of the Americas near 57th Street), plans to open the Sherlock Holmes this spring, at 176 West 4th Street (near Jones Street).

It is a pity that some admirers of Sherlock Holmes are not acquainted with some of the other grand tales told by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. One of the best of those tales is THE LOST WORLD, and a fine way to explore that book is in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 1996; 264 pp., \$34.95). The annotated version offers a well-researched introduction, and annotations, and appendices that cover topics that include the 1925 silent film and the fascinating archival material to be found with the manuscript of the story in the Berg Collection at the New York Public Library, and the wonderful illustrations from both the British and the American periodical appearances of the stories. And there is THE LOST WORLD itself, of course, still full of romance and fun, and enhanced by excellent contributions from Pilot and Rodin. The publisher's address is Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268; \$37.70 postpaid.

"Cousins' fairy tale casts a spell over Hollywood film-makers" is the headline on a story in The Times (Jan. 9), kindly forwarded by Pat Ward. The cousins are Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths, and the fairy tale involves the Cottingley fairies that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle thought really had been photographed by the schoolgirls in 1917. And the Hollywood film-makers are Paramount, now planning to make "The Golden Afternoon" at Pinewood studios and on location in Yorkshire this spring.

Visitors to London can choose from a variety of guides to London pubs (and they still are wonderful places to see London and Londoners at their best). John Baesch notes that the NICHOLSON LONDON PUB GUIDE (1995) has cover art showing the Peter Cushing side of the sign for The Sherlock Holmes.

The Hounds of the Internet (which has almost 500 members who meet out there in the electricity) now have a lapel pin (one inch square) based on artwork by Stu Shiffman, available from David L. Hobbet (816 Hill Street, Shelby, NC 28152; the cost is \$3.50 postpaid to U.S. addresses; \$5.00 postpaid to other countries (checks in dollars or U.S. currency, please).

CELEBRITY VAMPIRES is an anthology edited by Martin H. Greenberg (New York: DAW Books, 1995; 31 pp., \$4.99), with stories that include "Dracula on the Rocks" (by Carole Nelson Douglas, starring Irene Adler), "A Singular Event on a Night in 1912" (by Roman A. Ranieri, starring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker), and non-Sherlockian tales by Jerry Neal Williamson and Patti Nead Elrod.

The annual meeting of The STUD Sherlockian Society will be held on Mar. 9 at the Ridgemoor Country Club in Chicago, and the weekend also will feature a meeting of The Solar Pons Breakfast Club and a visit to the site of Vincent Starrett's grave on Mar. 10. Additional information is available from Donald B. Izban, 5334 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60639-1524.

Jan 96 #8 New York had many attractions in January in addition to all the Sherlockian birthday festivities, including interesting exhibits at the New York Public Library, which is celebrating its centennial with a display of one hundred "Books of the Century" (1895-1995); the books are in various categories, one of which is "Popular Culture & Mass Entertainment". And the eighteen books in that category range from Bram Stoker's DRACULA to Tom Wolfe's THE BONFIRE OF THE VANITIES, and include a copy of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

The fourth installment in the BSI's archival-history series is IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS OF THE MID 'FORTIES, edited by Jon L. Lellenberg (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 1995; 392 pp., \$24.95), covering the period from

the Trilogy Dinner in March 1994 to Christopher Morley declaration in June 1947 that there would be no more BSI annual dinners. Those were interesting days, and the book includes reports by Ted Schulz (on The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco), Ronald Mansbridge (on Basil Davenport), Hugh Harrington (on Clifton T. Andrew), Russell McLaughlin (on The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit), and Allen Robertson and Paul S. Clarkson (on The Six Napoleons of Baltimore), and fascinating tales of feuds and foibles and furor, and photographs from the Trilogy Dinner and the annual dinners in 1946 and 1947, and much more. The annual-dinner photographs are welcome indeed, because Bill Vande Water has managed to identify almost everyone in them, so you'll be able to see what people looked like half a century ago. \$27.90 postpaid (\$28.90 postpaid for international orders) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

The 15th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Dayton on Mar. 15-17, with papers, a banquet, and readers-theater presentations of "the Solitary Cyclist" and "A Duet: With an Occasional Chorus". Additional information is available from Jean C. Rodin, 3041 Maginn Drive, Beavercreek, OH 45434.

Dick Lesh notes that bargain-books catalogs from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000) continue to offer all sort of Sherlockian bargains, Nicholas Meyer's THE CANARY TRAINER (\$6.95) and the British edition of Mark Frost's THE LIST OF SEVEN (\$4.95).

And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, *The* women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.15 postpaid. The 74-page list of 682 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 413 active societies, costs \$3.80 postpaid. A run of address labels for 347 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.35 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.

For the electronically enabled, the 15-page list of Irregulars and others is available from me as e-mail (no charge), and both lists are offered by Willis Frick via ftp from <ftp://sanar.kaiwan.com/user/Sherlocktron/> or on the web at <<http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/stron1.html>>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Feb 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

David M. Martill continues to find and name new fossils from the Lower Cretaceous formations of Brazil. The pterosaur "Arthurdactylus conan-doylei" (Sep 95 #2) had been joined by the tetrapod "Irritator challengeri" (which is described in great detail in the Journal of the Geological Society, vol. 153, 1996, pp. 5-8, at hand from Bill Sarjeant). It's the first real dinosaur to be described from the Santana Formation: it was carnivorous, and it had a crested skull up to 840 mm long (that's just under 3 feet). The name "Irritator" derives from the irritation that Martill and his fellow authors felt when they discovered that the snout had been artificially elongated by the professional fossil-hunter who found and sold the skull, and the name "challengeri" honors Professor George Edward Challenger, of the Lost World.

Martill notes in correspondence that "Irritator challengeri" is the first fossil named in 1996 (the JGS is published on the first day of the year), and he says that if enough new fossils turn up he hopes to honor everyone else in Challenger's party ("Summerleetator and Youngfellameladosaurus are names to get your tongue around").

Two of Britain's best-known landmarks are for sale, at a combined asking price of £5.5 million, according to a story in the Yorkshire Post (Jan. 8), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. They're John o' Groats and Land's End, and

both are owned by Gulf Resources Pacific (of New Zealand); John o' Groats consists of 20 acres, and attracts more than 250,000 visitors a year, while Land's End is 100 acres and has 500,000 visitors a year. Sherlockians, of course, will want the one that's mentioned in the Canon: "A draghound will follow aniseed from here to John o' Groat's," said Sherlock Holmes in "The Missing Three-Quarter"). John o' Groats (as it's spelled in the guidebooks now) is named for a man named John who built a house there in the 15th century, and it is romantically regarded as the northernmost place in Britain (it's in Caithness, in the northeastern corner of Scotland). It isn't the northernmost place in Britain, actually (that's Dunnet Head, about 12 miles to the west), but the tourists don't care.

Jerry Siegel died on Jan. 28. He was a high-school student in Cleveland in the 1930s when he and classmate Joe Shuster invented Superman, who became a world-famous superhero as well as one of the most popular characters in the history of comic strips, films, and television. During World War II Siegel and others on the staff of the Pacific edition of Stars and Stripes founded The Baker Street Irregulars of Honolulu (active 1944-46).

Reported by Don Hobbs: a colorful poster (18 x 26") showing a very stylized Sherlock Holmes urging "Smart Skin Care: It's Elementary", offered by the American Academy of Dermatology, Box 2289, Carrol Stream, IL 60132 (\$5.00).

Kathy Barry-Hippensteel's "Little Sherlock" doll ("a clever little boy who thinks he's the world's greatest sleuth") was heavily promoted in 1989 and 1990 by the Ashton-Drake Galleries at \$87.00, and now it's available as an "heirloom ornament" for your Christmas tree a recent catalog, at hand from Jack Kerr. It's in a set of three 3" ornament (the other two aren't Sherlockian) that's item #96909 (\$33.79 postpaid). Ashton-Drake Galleries, Box 856, Morton Grove, IL 60053 (800-346-2460); credit-card orders welcome.

Feb 96 #2 THE YOUNG WITCHES is a thoroughly adults-only six-issue comic-book mini-series from Eros Comix; it's a porno Jack the Ripper story, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson make an appearance in the second issue (Dec. 1995), and may well turn up in the next issue. The cover price The cover price is \$3.50, or \$4.00 postpaid from the publisher (Box 25070, Seattle, WA 98125).

Norma Schier died on Nov. 17. She was a mystery novelist and short-story writer, and one of the founders of the Rocky Mountain chapter of the Mystery Writers of America; her imaginative collection THE ANAGRAM DETECTIVES (1979) offered pastiches of famous detectives, including Hoskell Chomers and Sandwort in "The Adventure of the Solitary Bride" by Aldon Canoy, and Mooch Sheckls and Tweany in "The Adventure of the Boing! Ritual" by Rif H. Lobster.

Jennie Paton reports that "Wishbone: The Slobbery Hound" is now available on a commercial videocassette from Polygram Video. This is the "Hound of Baskervilles" episode of the 30-minute PBS-TV children's series that has Wishbone (a Jack Russell terrier) encouraging kids to read good books. If your local video shop has never heard of Polygram, the address is 825 8th Avenue, New York, NY 10019 (800-825-7781).

Conan Doyle proposed the principal toast ("The Immortal Memory") at the Edinburgh Burns Club Dinner on Mar. 23, 1901 (the meeting was postponed from January because of the death of Queen Victoria), and on Jan. 25 this year the Royal Mail honored The Immortal Memory on the 200th anniversary of the death of Robert Burns with a set of four stamps designed by Tayburn McIlroy Coates. The 19p stamp is especially nice for Sherlockians, with the "wee sleeket, cowran, tim'rous beastie," made famous in Burns' poem "To a Mouse" (it was in "The Copper Beeches" that Violet Hunter said of Edward Rucastle that he showed "quite remarkable talent in planning the capture of mice"). Thanks to Catherine Cooke for her capture of this philatelic mouse.

CANONICAL CRIME SCENES & INVESTIGATIONS, VOLUME 1, by William H. Conway and Linda L. Conway (Cincinnati: Classic Specialties Books, 1995) offers a new approach to the Canon: summaries of 14 cases done as official crime-scene reports; the 54-page spiral-bound book costs \$17.95 postpaid from Classic Specialties (see above), and there are many more books and other Sherlockiana in their new illustrated catalog.

Warren Randall plans to honor the late Bob Brodie in a collection that will be called "The Log of the 'Gloria Scott'" and would like to hear from those who corresponded with Bob about Sherlockian matters or who have reminiscences of Bob that you would like to share. Warren's address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346.

If you don't have a local Wal-Mart, their Sherlockian "bloodhound" plaster statue (Nov 95 #5) is described as a coon dog in the Dec. 1995 catalog from Thompson & Co. (Box 30303, Tampa, FL 33630) (800-237-2559) and offered for \$29.95 plus shipping. The catalog, kindly forwarded by Laura Kuhn, also has a set of Holmes and Watson meerschaum pipes at \$57.50.

Feb 96 #3 The winter 1996 issue of The Armchair Detective has arrived, with Daniel Stashower's excellent tribute to and interview with Jeremy Brett. And Scott and Sherry Rose Bond's regular Sherlockian column discusses collecting, with an account of their experience bidding in the auction of Stanley MacKenzie's collection. \$31.00 a year (quarterly); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019-3808.

Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY (1978) has been reprinted as a trade paperback (New York: Vintage Books, 1996; 190 pp., \$10.00); the pastiche pits Sherlock Holmes against Jack the Ripper.

Laurie King reports that the Bantam paperback of THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE will be issued this summer as part of their "read mysteries" promotion, and the book will be prominently featured in a display rack decorated by Edward Gorey (who unfortunately has not drawn a portrait of Mary Russell). A LETTER OF MARY, the third title in the series, is due in November, and Laurie is now working on the fourth book, which involves Mary in a mysterious case on Dartmoor.

Don Hobbs spotted a "Barnes & Noble Classics" edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with an Introduction by Eric Ambler (\$5.98); it's a reprint of the volume published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in London in 1974. They published all nine volumes of the Canon, so Barnes & Noble may reprint all of them eventually.

Michael Brady has forwarded the Sherlockian design used by the Background Investigation Unit of the California Youth Authority.

The Wigmore Street Post Office is an electronic journal published on the Prodigy computer service, but some of its material can be found in an ink-on-paper journal of the same name; the winter 1995 issue has 40 pages, and subscriptions cost \$6.00 a year (two issues) from Donald H. Meyers, 4757 47th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

The last six shows in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series are now available on commercial videocassettes from MPI video: all 41 shows are offered by Scarlet Street Video (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452) at \$19.98 each; write for their price list (which has other Sherlockian videos as well).

Karl Gunnar Ekblad suggests that visitors to Norway might enjoy a visit to Sherlock's Pub at C.J. Hambros pl. 5 in Oslo (telephone 2241-8218).

Ray Betzner reports that autograph dealer Robert F. Batchelder offers some Conan Doyle material: item 161 in catalog 101 consists of 14 items relating to spiritualism, including three autograph letters from Conan Doyle to Mrs. Cadwallader, an American from Chicago whom he apparently met during one of his American visits; there's also a note from Lady Doyle written in 1932, and the price for the lot is \$2,200. Item 214 in catalog 102 is a letter from Conan Doyle about spiritualism, and the price is \$1,400. The dealer's address is 1 West Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002 (215-643-1430).

Feb 96 #4 Diana Ver Nooy, who is editor of Neurology Reviews (a journal for neurologists), has begun a continuing quote-of-the-month feature; the first one (titled "Phrenologically Speaking") is in the Jan.-Feb. 1996 issue, and should be familiar to Sherlockians: "You interest me very much, Mr. Holmes. I had hardly expected so dolichocephalic a skull or such well-marked supra-orbital development. Would you have any objection to my running my finger along your parietal fissure? A cast of your skull, sir, until the original is available, would be an ornament to any anthropological museum. It is not my intention to be fulsome, but I confess that I covet your skull." Suggestions for future issues can be sent to Diana c/o CPG, 4 Brighton Road, Clifton, NJ 07012.

Don Pollock reports O XANGO DE BAKER STREET, by Jo Soares (Sao Paulo: Companhia das Letras, 1995); it's a pastiche that brings Holmes and Watson to Rio de Janeiro to investigate the disappearance of a valuable Stradivarius during Sarah Bernhardt's first visit to the city. And it's available from Luso-Brazilian Books, Box 17028, Brooklyn, NY 11217; \$28.95 postpaid (they take plastic, and have an e-mail address <llbooks@aol.com>). And in Portuguese, Don notes, there's a chapeuzinho ("little hat") accent over the O's in XANGO and Jo.

Barbara Holmes has designed a set of ten Sherlockian notecards available (with envelopes) for \$4.90 postpaid, and a design sheet showing the pencil-sketch artwork on the notecards is offered in return for a self-addressed stamped envelope; her address is Box 446, Scottsville, VA 24590.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will convene on Wednesday, May 22, at Luigi's in San Diego, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Sherlockians and geologists are welcome to join in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; Luigi's is at 861 West Harbor Drive, in Seaport Village (next to the convention center), and the festivities will begin with cocktails at 7:00 and continue with dinner at 8:00; reservations are not needed.

The Jan. 1996 issue of Baker Street W1 offers news from Sherlockian societies west of the Mississippi, excellent articles about Sherlockian rooms, both full-size and miniature, and John Farrell's review of the punk rock song "Quick, Watson" on the Stiffs, Inc. debut recording "Nix Nought Nothing" (American Records CD 9-43030-2); subscriptions are \$9.00 a year (three issues), from Jerry Kegley, 110 South El Nido #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.

Peter H. Wood's THE WINGED WHEEL is a new novel-length pastiche that brings Holmes and Watson to the Isle of Man in 1912, investigating a mystery that involves both the "Old Religion" and a German plot, and that offers Watson an opportunity to participate in a Manx motorcycle race. The 180-page book is available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$27.00 postpaid.

John Ruyle, who occasionally masquerades as ringmaster of the Quaker Street Irregulars, has announced a new collection of poetry from the Pequod Press: WIGGINS & COMPANY deals with Irregulars and other odd characters and will be (as usual) set and printed by the proprietor of the Press. 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 97407-1521; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

Feb 96 #5 Further to the report (Jan 96 #7) on the Sherlock Holmes Pub (which is due to open later this year at 176 West 4th Street in

New York), John Baesch has reported that it will be across the street from The Slaughtered Lamb Pub (honoring "An American werewolf in London") and not far from the Jack the Ripper Pub, all owned by Eerie Entertainment Inc.

The Easton Press has published a new "Collector's Edition" of the Canon in three leather-bound volumes that reprint the text of The Limited Editions Club set and, for the first time, all of the fine introductions (as well as Edgar W. Smith's "Note on the Collation" and his "Epilogue"); the previous sets from Easton have been reprints of the Heritage Press version, which did not have all of the additional material. The Limited Editions Club set was warmly welcomed by Sherlockians, not only for its carefully edited text but also for its excellent illustrations and the new introductions (by Vincent Starrett, Elmer Davis, Fletcher Pratt, Rex Stout, Anthony Boucher, and Christopher Morley, all still names to conjure with). Each volume of "The Leather-Bound Complete Sherlock Holmes" has a color frontispiece (Richard Sparks' new portrait of Conan Doyle in the first volume, and illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele in the other two), and the cost is \$41.85 postpaid per volume; the address is 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-243-5160), and they accept credit-card orders.

Philip Weller reports that The Franco-Midland Hardware Company has issued a new edition of Arthur Conan Doyle's short story "The Winning Shot" (which has been reprinted from the original appearance in Bow Bells in 1883), with a new introduction, illustrations, maps, and more than 300 textual annotations. £7.00 or \$14.00 postpaid (£8.00 or \$16.00 for airmail) (please send dollar payments in U.S. currency), and the address is 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hampshire PO14 3RU, England.

Solar Pons, created by August Derleth almost seventy years ago as a tribute to Sherlock Holmes, starred in a long series of stories popular with Sherlockians, and the saga was continued after Derleth's death by Basil Copper. Copper's THE RECOLLECTIONS OF SOLAR PONS (Minneapolis: Fedogan & Bremer, 1995; 248 pp., \$25.00) contains four stories, three of them new and one a revision from an earlier appearance, with fine illustrations by Stefanie K. Hawks. The book also is available (\$27.00 postpaid) from the publisher at 603 Washington Avenue SE #77, Minneapolis, MN 55414 (800-738-2660); credit-card orders welcome.

Joseph A. Coppola has reported that The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Apr. 20, and that a special commemorative postmark (with the logo of the society) will be applied by the post office there. The Society will offer a cover with its own cachet and with Sherlockian stamps for \$2.00 postpaid (mailed under separate cover); \$5.00 postpaid for a set of three covers with different Sherlockian stamps. You can send advance orders to Hodge Hodgskin, 7328 Jamesville Road, Manlius, NY 13104. If you want to have the postmark on your own covers, you should send them to the Main Post Office, 5640 East Taft Road, Syracuse, NY 13200; the postmark will be available from Apr. 20 for 30 days. This may well be the first official commemorative postmark honoring a Sherlockian society; there have been other official postmarks honoring Sherlock Holmes, but I'm not aware of one honoring a Sherlockian society.

Feb 96 #6 "The Man Who Disappeared" (a dramatization of "The Man with the Twisted Lip") was produced in Britain in 1950 as a pilot film for American television, with John Longden as Holmes and Campbell Singer as Watson; it never made it onto the air at the time, but it was released to theaters in 1951, and eventually found its way onto videocassette, although very little has been known about the history of the project. Now Richard Lancelyn Green, drawing upon the correspondence files of Denis Conan Doyle, has written THE MISADVENTURE OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PILOT, a 36-page monograph published by The Northern Musgraves with illustrations from the film, and it's a delight to have the details. \$13.00 postpaid from Classic Specialities, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219; credit-cards orders welcome.

Issue #13 of the Sherlock Holmes Gazette includes a fine tribute to Jeremy

Brett, with articles written by David Stuart Davies, Michael Cox, Elizabeth Wiggins, and Jean Upton, plus reviews and columns and letters about Holmes and Conan Doyle. \$9.50 postpaid from Classic Specialties (see above).

Leslie Klinger is scheduled to teach a six-week, Monday-evening, extension course on "Sherlock Holmes and His world" at the University of California in Los Angeles from Apr. 15 to May 20; details are available from the UCLA Extension Writer's Program (310-825-0107). The press contact for the UCLA program is John G. Watson (no relation, he admits).

There are realtors using the name "Sherlock Homes" here and there, but John Baesch spotted an advertisement for a different approach, by Rob Watson, in business in Wilmington, Del., as "Homes & Watson" (800-296-7629).

The Franco-Midland Hardware Company (American Exchange Branch) is planning a "Valley of Fear" weekend in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, on March 30 and 31. The focus will of course be on The Molly Maguires, and the plans included tours of Pottsville and vicinity. Details are available from Bob Carter, Box 762, Fort Montgomery, NY 10922.

Herman Herst Jr. (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429) offers a copy of William S. Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (1967): two volumes, dust jackets, second edition (with the added Index of Titles on p. 806); \$50.00 postpaid. Also available from Pat (he was born on St. Patrick's Day) is a pamphlet reprint of "Dirty Pool" (a pleasant philatelic pastiche that was published in The Baker Street Journal in June 1966) and a round-robin pastiche to which he contributed; autographed copies of the 24-page pamphlet cost \$10.00 postpaid (same address).

Spotted by Tim O'Connor: SHERLOCK HOLMES: SOUL OF THE DRAGON, a comic-book collection published by Northstar Press in Sept. 1995 with three stories written by Joe Gentile and illustrated by different artists (in different styles), and an introduction by Brad Keefauver; \$9.95.

Chuck Kovacic (14383-B Nordhoff Street, Panorama City, CA 91402) offers an illustrated sales list of reproductions of Sherlockian cigar-box labels and cigarette cards, postcards, and the 1880 Afghan Campaign medal.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Mar 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

J. Adrian Fillmore is back, no longer involved with incredible and amorous umbrellas, but rather as the author of the introduction to Marvin Kaye's new anthology THE RESURRECTED HOLMES (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996; 337 pp., \$24.95). Kaye has posed his authors a double problem: to write a Sherlock Holmes story, and to write it in the style of yet another author. And the results are intriguing: the authors pastiched vary widely, and are as unusual as Jack Kerouac and H. P. Lovecraft and J. Thorne Smith (and I wonder uneasily how many of us there still are who fondly remember Smith's racy novels). You won't find the styles of Watson or Conan Doyle in this anthology, but there's fun to be had reading the stories.

And for those who are wondering about J. Adrian Fillmore: sometimes known as James Phillimore, he was the hero of Marvin Kaye's fantasy novels THE INCREDIBLE UMBRELLA (1979) and THE AMOROUS UMBRELLA (1981).

The United States has marked the Lunar New Year with a stamp honoring the Year of the Rat (that's the first in the twelve-year cycle celebrated by the Chinese). Rats are mentioned in nine Sherlock Holmes stories (and that doesn't count the giant rat of Sumatra, or the dreaded Balla rat of Australia).

Edward D. Hoch writes delightful short stories, and he has had at least one story in each issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine for many years (John Dickson Carr who once wrote about Hoch that "Satan himself would be proud of his ingenuity"). One of his series detectives is Dr. Sam Hawthorne, and a dozen of those stories have been collected in DIAGNOSIS: IMPOSSIBLE (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 1996; 203 pp., \$38.00 for a signed edition bound in cloth, or \$15.00 for the trade paperback). And one of the stories is "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (reprinted from EQMM, Dec. 1974), which has an appropriate Sherlockian allusion. The publisher's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505; add \$2.25 for shipping.

Plan ahead: the sixth annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Nov. 8-10. Membership is limited to 450 and full registration costs \$50.00, and the contact is Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Plan well ahead: the seventh annual convention is scheduled for Oct. 3-5, 1997.

Forecast: ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (from Avon in April at \$5.50); "Introducing Emma Hudson, the other sleuth of Baker Street: called in by old friend Vi Warner, who believes her employer has been murdered, a diligent Mrs. Hudson begins an investigation of the snobby upper-crust St. Clair family and uncovers evidence of a second murder."

"Mad Dogs and Englishmen" (Jeremy Brett's last film) opened in Britain last June, and was broadcast on German television (VOX) on Dec. 3, according to Michael Ross, who now edits The Striking Trifles and The Soft-Nosed Bullet-In for Von Herder Airguns Ltd. Details on the society and its publications are available from Michael (Bendheide 65, 47906 Kempen, Germany).

Mar 96 #2 Dorothy Stix has reported on the formation of a new Sherlockian society for collectors of foreign-language editions. The name of the new society is thoroughly appropriate ("Sherlock Holmes Around the World"), and membership (including the quarterly newsletter) costs \$10.00 a year. There's also a lapel pin designed by Jeff Decker, available only to members, at \$10.00 postpaid (or \$18.95 for a one-year membership plus the pin). Checks to Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218.

TIMEWANKERS #3 (Mar. 1991) had Jonathan Fegly in Sherlockian costume on the cover, and a non-S'ian pornographic time-travel comic-book story by Stephen Sullivan; now reprinted in TIMEWANKERS #13 (Aug 94), a graphic album from Eros Comic (Box 25070, Seattle, WA 98125) with a small S'ian vignette on the cover.

Thelma Steward is an award-winning doll-maker, and she now has a "Sherlock Holmes Series" that features Holmes, Watson, Mrs. Hudson, and Moriarty. The dolls are hand-crafted from Cernit polymer and are about 20" high, and cost from \$1,350 to \$1,500 each. Mrs. Steward will be happy to provide additional information on request (6720 Happy Valley Road, Somerset, CA 95684).

For the dedicated marginalists: Will Walsh reports that the Eddie Bauer chain is selling a \$19.95 stuffed puppy wearing an Eddie Bauer cap, which is a deerstalker.

Eleanor N. Schwartz wrote the text that accompanied a fine photo story on "Hooray for Hollywood" in Life (Mar. 1996); the lead photograph (by Alfred Eisenstadt) shows "Sherlock Holmes and Jessica Fletcher" in the Paramount commissary in 1955, when Basil Rathbone and Angela Lansbury had roles in Danny Kaye's "Court Jester".

"A Gathering of Inquiring Minds" is the formal title of the John Bennett Shaw Memorial Conference in Santa Fe on Apr. 19-20, and the agenda includes presentations by Sherlockians local and far-flung, and a live broadcast of

Bill Dunning's radio adaptation of "A Scandal in Bohemia". An illustrated flier with all the details is available from Rita Martinez-Purson, Santa Fe Community College, Community Services Office, Box 4187, Santa Fe, NM 87502 <rpurson@santa-fe.cc.nm.us>.

The commercial videocassette of "Wishbone: The Slobbery Hound" is in the shops at \$9.99 (discounted to \$7.95 at Best Buy, according to Laura Kuhn). It's the "Hound of Baskervilles" episode of the 30-minute PBS-TV children's series that has Wishbone (a Jack Russell terrier) encouraging kids to read good books.

Congratulations to William A. S. Sarjeant, who has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, recognizing his long career as a geologist and as editor of an award-winning bibliography of geologists and the history of geology. Bill uses the pseudonym Antony Swithin for his fantasy novels, and his own name for his Sherlockian and Doyleana, which include MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET: THE TRUTH ABOUT SHERLOCK HOLMES (1989) articles about the geology of "The Lost World" and "The Terror of Blue John Gap".

Mar 96 #3 The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco continue to devise interesting events, such as the "day of gala events and fun" scheduled for June 15 at the Scowrers Inn and Gaming Parlor (aka the Holiday Inn-Union Square) in San Francisco; details are available from the Scowrers (V.V. 341, Mount Eden, CA 94557).

THE MAN WITH THE FISTED GRIP is the thirtieth narrative of Turlock Loams, to be revealed by Dr. Fatso, who is celebrating the occasion with a glass of cooking sherry (according to his Agent). Finely printed as always at the Pequod Press, the booklet costs \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

The Lynn Peavey Co. has a thick mail-order catalog full of things of interest to law-enforcement professionals, such as fingerprint kits, evidence bags, prisoner property bags, gunshot residue kits, and some amusing souvenirs, including "Tracker the Investigator" (a 13" tall plush dog wearing a trenchcoat and deerstalker). \$24.95 plus shipping, and their address is Box 14100, Lenexa, KS 66285 (800-255-6499).

The new catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) offers (on page 40) two new Sherlock Holmes jigsaw puzzles ("read the mystery story inside, assemble the jigsaw, then try to solve the crime") at \$10.95 each or \$16.95 for both; shipping extra, and credit-card orders are welcome.

Harry Ryba died on Mar. 4. He owned hotels and boarding houses and bicycle rental shops on Mackinac Island (where bicycle rental shops did quite well, since motor vehicles are banned from the island). He opened a fudge shop on the island in 1959, and quickly became known as the "Fudge King", thanks to the late Bill Rabe, whose inspired public-relations campaign for everything there touted Mackinac Island as "the Miami Beach of the North." And of course Bill ensured that those who attended the The Mrs. Hudson Breakfast all those years ago went home with samples of the Fudge King's fudge.

"Sherlock Holmes faces a new challenge...perhaps his greatest ever...and while he's singing, yet!" That's the blurb for "Sherlock in Love", a new musical scheduled at the Alleyway Theatre in Buffalo from Apr. 11 to May 5. The box-office address is One Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo, NY 14202, and the telephone number is 716-852-2600.

Jim Hillestad (The Toy Soldier, Paradise Falls, R.R. 1, Box 379, Cresco, PA 18326) welcomes visitors to his museum (you can call 717-629-7227 for hours and directions) and mail orders (he offers 54-mm figures of Holmes and Wat-

son, and other Sherlockiana).

Further to last month's mention (Feb 96 #6) of the John Longden film "The Man Who Disappeared" (1951), David Pearson sent a reminder that the film is available on videocassette at \$19.99 from Movies Unlimited, a firm that is an excellent source of almost all videocassettes; 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823) <movies@moviesunltd.com>.

Mar 96 #4 The winter 1996 issue of Scarlet Street is a fine one, and has more than a dozen pages of well-illustrated tributes to Jeremy Brett, and an interview with Hillary Brooke (who acted with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in three of their Universal films), and a note that Steven Spielberg will start filming "The Lost world" in September (that's Michael Crichton's book, of course). Scarlet Street is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year), and the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

George Burns died on March 9. His career as an entertainer and comedian spanned 90 years, and included four decades as genial straight man to his wife Gracie Allen. His sense of timing was impeccable, and there still are many who fondly remember "The Burns and Allen Show" from radio and television. Basil Rathbone was one of the many guest stars who appeared with them on radio, and you'll find a picture of them on page 83 of Michael B. Druxman's BASIL RATHBONE: HIS LIFE AND FILMS (1975). Rathbone and Allen are in Sherlockian costume, with Burns as the suspect, in a publicity shot from the 1940s.

Readers of Playboy surely will recall the magazine's recent pictorial about Bettie Page, whose many fans were delighted to hear that she is alive and well, and the subject of a new biography BETTIE PAGE: THE LIFE OF A PIN-UP LEGEND, by Karen Essex and James L. Swanson (Los Angeles: General Publishing Group, 1996). In 1953 she was working in New York, enrolled in acting classes, going to movies, and reading fiction. "She also loved detective stories, and read Sherlock Holmes, Raymond Chandler and Erle Stanley Gardner," the biography notes (and thanks to John Comstock for the report).

Classic Specialties Audio has issued a five-cassette (320 minutes) recording of Ronald C. Weyman's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MARK OF THE BEAST, read by the author, who has an excellent voice and does well with accents. The pastiche was first published by Simon & Pierre in 1990, and brings Holmes to Canada during the Great Hiatus to rescue the Empire from "a diabolical weapon before which nothing could live." \$34.05 postpaid (Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); credit-card orders welcome.

"Footrot Flats" was a comic strip that ran for many years in newspapers in New Zealand (and it was syndicated elsewhere), about a rancher named Wally Footrot, and his friends, neighbors, family, and pets, and his dog (named Dog). The strip was drawn by Murray Ball, and this excerpt, noted by Linda Anderson, is from the paperback collection "...LET SLIP THE DOGS OF WAR!" (Lower Hutt: Inprint, 1992), kindly forwarded by Alex Mitchell.

Mar 96 #5 The fifth annual Watsonian weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) will begin with a regimental dinner at Knickers Restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill., on July 19 (when Dr. Watson will

"Meet the Press"), and continues with the 37th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Course on July 20. More information is available from Fred Levin, 8242 North Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.

Patricia E. Moran ("Patience Moran") died on March 12. Pat was one of the founders of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and one of the Albertus Magnus sextette who picketed the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars on a wintry evening in 1968. She helped edit the Adventuresses' newsletter, and then their more formal The Serpentine Muse, and always was one of the usual suspects whenever the game was afoot or aflight or just cooked and served at the rowdy table.

Richard Wein notes that there's a lot of Sherlockiana in the latest catalog from Barnes & Noble (126 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10011) (800-843-2665): THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Peter Haining (#1884097, \$4.98); THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (#1546977, \$14.98); A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION (a new title for A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPENDIUM), edited by Peter Haining (#1903251, \$7.98); THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ken Greenwald (#E104047, \$5.98); and the American edition of THE LIFE & TIMES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Philip Weller (#1933860, \$17.98).

Richard also reports that the "Barnes & Noble Classics" edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES with an Introduction by Eric Ambler (Feb 96 #3) also is available as a trade paperback at \$4.98.

The Gleniffer Press has published microbook (7/8" high) editions of THE THREE STUDENTS (1992) and SILVER BLAZE (1993), and now THE EMPTY HOUSE is available, with 109 pages set in readable 2-point type. Gleniffer does excellent work, and the address is 11 Low Road, Castlehead, Paisley, Renfrewshire PA2 6AQ, Scotland, United Kingdom; \$26.00 (or £15.00) postpaid (U.S. dollar checks and credit-card orders are welcome).

The Northern Musgraves held a memorial luncheon for Jeremy Brett at the Cafe Royal in London on Mar. 16, and it was a splendid gathering indeed, according to a report from Lisa Oldham. There were toasts and tributes by David Stuart Davies, Edward Hardwicke, David Burke, Jeremy Paul, and Myra Fulford (of the Manic Depression Fellowship), and Lisa's detailed report on the festivities (retelling some of the grand stories she heard) is in the latest issue of her electronic newsletter The Brettish Empire. Her e-mail address is <loldham@freenet.columbus.oh.us>.

Douglas G. Greene's JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES is one of the Mystery Writers of America nominees for an Edgar for Best Critical Biographical this year (the annual MWA awards dinner will be held on Apr. 25). T. R. Bowen's "The Eligible Bachelor" is one of the nominees for Best Episode in a Television Series, and Jacques Barzun will receive this year's Ellery Queen Award (for writing teams, editors, and publishers who have made an outstanding contribution to the mystery genre). A CATALOGUE OF CRIME (written by Barzun and Wendell Hertig Taylor) is still a classic inventory of the genre, and he has contributed to our own literature.

Mar 96 #6 David Hammer reports on M. F. K. Fisher's LAST HOUSE: REFLECTIONS, DREAMS, AND OBSERVATIONS 1943-1991 (New York: Pantheon Books, 1995; 286 pp., \$23.00); it was her last book, and chapter 7 ("A Few of the Men") is her confession about the men she loved, including Brillat-Savarin, Maigret, and Sherlock Holmes (and there's some excellent analysis of our hero, David adds).

Frank Darlington notes that THE WORDSWORTH DICTIONARY OF PUB NAMES, by Leslie Dunkling and Gordon Wright (Ware: Wordsworth Reference, 1994; 305 pp., \$3.95 on bargain-books tables), contains entries for The Dangling Prussian and for all the other inns and pubs mentioned in the Canon, except for the Alpha (but only The Dangling Prussian is cited as Canonical). The book was first published by Routledge & Kegan Paul in London in 1987.

Jerry Bangham spotted an advertisement in Variety (Feb. 26) for "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Temporal Nexus" with a photograph of Patrick Macnee as Holmes. The film is billed as produced and directed by David L. Stanton for Associated Entertainment Releasing in association with Range of Vision Productions, with the telephone number 310-576-7435, which turns out not to be in service. Nor does the telephone company have a listing for either of the two companies, or for Stanton. Can someone out there on the southern Pacific slope find out how to contact someone associated with the film?

SHERLOCK HOLMES' LAST ADVENTURES is a new audiocassette set from K-Tel International/AudioScope, with George Takei reading five of the stories (Wist/Bruc/Lady/Dyin/Last) on two cassettes; Takei is well-known in the "Star Trek" world as Mr. Sulu, and has a fine voice (but no British accent). The set is in many bookstores at \$11.95; the address for K-Tel International is 2605 Fernbrook Lane North, Minneapolis, MN 55447-4736 (612-509-6418).

Walter P. Armstrong, Jr. ("Birdy Edwards") died on Mar. 5. His career as a lawyer spanned more than 50 years, as did his interest in Sherlock Holmes: his first contribution to our literature appeared in the Oct. 1946 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and his last in the Sept. 1992 issue. He was one of the founding members of The Giant Rats of Sumatra of Memphis, and he received his BSI Investiture in 1985. His many essays, articles, and toasts were collected in HOLMES' RANGE (published by Magico in 1994).

There are few people who have brought as much laughter to as many people as Chuck Jones has, in the more than 300 hundred animations he has directed in a career that has lasted more than 50 years. His Sherlockian "Deduce, You Say!" (1956) was one of them, and a brief clip from the film was shown when he received a special Oscar for lifetime achievement at the Academy Awards on Mar. 25.

Baseball season is almost here, Thom Boykoff notes, and Holmes and Watson are still pitching: Darren Holmes (traded this winter by the Colorado Rockies to the San Francisco Giants) and Allen Watson (St. Louis Cardinals).

Thom offers a pair of collectors cards for \$2.32 postpaid; his address is 222 Randolph Drive #303, Madison, WI 53717-1647.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Apr 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Murder, She Wrote" debuted on CBS-TV on Sept. 30, 1984, with a two-hour premiere that starred Angela Lansbury as mystery-writer Jessica Fletcher in "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (with Brian Keith playing a man who attends a costume party dressed as Sherlock Holmes and who may or may not have been the intended victim of a murderer. The final episode will be broadcast on May 19, making "Murder, She Wrote" the longest-running detective-drama series in the history of television (it was the highest-rated television drama series for nine consecutive seasons, from 1985 to 1994).

Kenneth Ludwig's play "Postmortem" is scheduled by the Oldcastle Theatre Company at the Bennington Center for the Arts in Bennington, Vt., on June 14-29. The play had its premiere (as "Dramatic License") in 1983 and was revised and retitled in 1985, and puts William Gillette to work solving a mystery at his famous home in Hadlyme, Conn. The box-office phone number is 802-447-0564.

Simon Callow's ORSON WELLES: THE ROAD TO XANADU was published last year in Britain, and now has an American edition (New York: Viking, 1996; 638 pp., \$32.95), and it's an excellent biography of a man known best to many Sherlockians as the answer to a trivia-quiz question (name an actor who played both Sherlock Holmes and Prof. Moriarty). The book covers only the first 26 years of Welles' life and career, and there was plenty to cover (at the

age of 18 he played Mercutio to Basil Rathbone's Romeo, and by the time he was 26 he had broadcast his alarming "The war of the worlds" and launched his film career with "Citizen Kane". Callow is himself a director and an actor (he played Inspector Lestrade in Charlton Heston's "The Crucifer of Blood" for TNT cable in 1991), and offers splendid insight into what made Welles such a phenomenon.

John Baesch notes that Sherlockians may wish to visit the Frick Collection in New York to see a new exhibition called "Greuze: A Portraitist for the 90's" (since Jean-Baptiste Greuze is mentioned in the Canon). The Frick is at Fifth Avenue at East 70th Street, and the exhibition closes on Apr. 14.

For those who still know what phonograph records are (and perhaps even have machines that play them), John Burkardt offers a treasure trove of Sherlockian LP records, at reasonable prices; a sales list is available (send a #10 SASE to him at 750 Hethwood Drive #200-D, Blacksburg, VA 24060).

The continuing saga of St. Bartholomew's Hospital continues: a year ago The Times suggested that British Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley had "succeeded where Henry VIII, the Great Fire of London, the Blitz, and Margaret Thatcher all failed," and that the long campaign to keep the hospital open seemed to have failed. But a later article in The Times (Dec. 7, 1995), at hand from Chris Redmond, reports that the decision to close Bart's provoked an unprecedented campaign of opposition that culminated in a damaging Tory back-bench rebellion blamed for unseating Bottomley. And a new report from the King's Fund (an independent health-policy think-tank) suggests that the hospital can be kept going with state, charitable, and private funding. So the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson is safe to the end of the century, and perhaps much longer.

Apr 96 #2 Michael J. Farrell died on Mar. 1. He was a doctor in Queensland, and the founder and president of The Resident Patients of Toowoomba. He edited their journal Panacea, and organized both the annual Silver Blaze race day in Toowoomba and the 1994 national meeting of all the Sherlockian societies in Australia, and with his family had great fun helping keep the memory green in the Antipodes.

Elizabeth Peters' series of mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson now runs to seven titles, and they're written with style and humor, set in Victorian England and Egypt, and all with direct or indirect Canonical echoes. The latest in the series is THE SNAKE, THE CROCODILE & THE DOG (New York: Warner Books, 1994; 432 pp., \$5.99).

"It's a very rare bird--practically extinct--in England now, but all things are possible upon the moor," Stapleton said (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). "Yes, I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns." It wasn't the last one, but there may be only 15 breeding males left in Great Britain. The bittern is one of the five threatened birds shown in a set issued there last month to honor the 50th anniversary of the wildfowl & wetlands Trust (the others are the Muscovy duck, the lapwing, the white-fronted goose, and the whooper crane); the stamps feature paintings by the late Charles F. Tunnicliffe.

David Talbott Cox died on Mar. 15. He was a Chicago producer, director and actor for many years (and he was on the cover of TV Guide in the 1960s as a member of the cast of "The Integrators" when the television play aired was broadcast by WTTW-TV), and a newsletter publisher, and a Sherlockian: David was an energetic member of Hugo's Companions and one of the founders of The Criterion Bar Association.

For those who like trivia questions: name two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. The answer will appear later in this issue.

Dominica issued a set of eight stamps in 1991 showing historic trains, and one of them showed "Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson watching Brunigline train (built 1888) descending from the Brunig Pass toward Meiringen"; the set of eight mint stamps is available from the International Collectors Society, Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408, for \$19.95 postpaid (credit cards welcome).

Brook Manor was the home of the infamous Richard Cabell in 1656, and he is believed by many to have provided some of the inspiration for the legend of the Hound of the Baskervilles. And you can now stay at Brook Manor while touring Dartmoor: it is open as a guest house, fully restored with modern conveniences and central heating. A nicely-illustrated flier is available, and the address is: Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0HR, England.

William H. "Skip" Boyer has an article "At Holmes with a Good Smoke" (with a Gahan Wilson illustration showing Holmes offering a cigar to Moriarty) in the spring 1996 issue of *Smoke*, a fancy new quarterly for people who fancy cigars (\$3.99); 135 West 41st Street #1050, New York, NY 10036.

Apr 96 #3 Michael Ricker Pewter are preparing to ship the detailed pewter reproduction of The Consulting Room (the third element in their Sherlock Holmes Collection); \$260.00 postpaid. Dr. Watson and Mrs. Hudson (the first two figures) are still available (\$92.00 each postpaid), and the set will be completed by early 1997 with Inspector Lestrade, a Baker Street Irregular, and Sherlock Holmes. An illustrated flier is available from the company (5333 West 88th Avenue #132, Westminster, CO 80030) (800-554-1571); credit-card orders welcome.

"George Spelvin, Performing Legend, Takes His Final Bow" was the headline on an article (not included in every edition of the *Newspaper of Record*, but reprinted in *New York magazine* on Apr. 8). According to Randall Short, "It is with sadness tinged by a modicum of embarrassment that these pages find themselves called upon to report (somewhat belatedly) the passing of George Spelvin, a giant of the American theater whose legend in that notoriously fickle milieu rivals--it is hardly an exaggeration to say--those of Edwin Forrest, Ethel Barrymore, and warm orange-flavored intermission beverages. The great man appears actually to have departed the sphere of our sorrow--or, at any rate, New York--immediately following his last recorded (1988) appearance in 'The Mystery of Edwin Drood', but it seems to have been a while before anybody noticed." Short also notes that Spelvin was a native New Yorker, and made his stage debut in Charles A. Gardner's 1886 "Karl the Peddler" on 14th Street in a space currently housing Phil's World of Electronics, and that he is survived by a sister, Georgina.

George Spelvin also had many Sherlockian credits, according to George Vanderburgh's index to Ron De Waal's *THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES*, including supporting roles in the 1970s and 1980s in productions of Martin Keeley's "Sherlock Holmes and the C.P.R. Murders", Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood", William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", and Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of Four". The index also has credits for Georgina's children Georgia, Garff, and P. Highley Spelvin.

And for those who have not noticed the name of George Spelvin before, it is traditionally used in cast listings when a producer isn't sure which actor will be playing a role, or occasionally (and incorrectly) when a character is another character in disguise.

The question was: name two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes. Patrick Horgan, who played Sherlock Holmes on stage in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and in Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band", played Gillette in Kenneth Ludwig's play "Dramatic License" (now "Postmortem"). And Nicol Williamson, who was Holmes in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution", is playing John Barrymore (who starred in the silent film "Sherlock Holmes") on stage in "Jack" at the Belasco Theatre in New York. "Jack" started previews on Apr. 20, and

will have an eight-week run (212-239-6200).

William K. Everson died on Apr. 14. He was a film historian and collector, and helped saved hundreds of films from the days when studios didn't bother to. He wrote 16 books on the cinema, and included discussion of Moriarty in *THE BAD GUYS: A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE MOVIE VILLAIN* (1964), and had a chapter on Sherlock Holmes in *THE DETECTIVE IN FILM* (1972).

Apr 96 #4 Lots of dramatic items in this issue, so I'll also mention that Bert Coules (Fairway, Sandling Road, Saltwood, Hythe, Kent CT21 4QJ, England) still offers laser-printed scripts (about 60 pp. each) of his adaptations for the BBC radio series that stars Clive Merrison and Michael Williams as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson ("The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1988 had Roger Rees and Crawford Logan in 1999). The stories are: Stud/Sign/Scan/Bosc/Blue/Nobl/Silv/Croo/Fina/Empt/Norw/Danc/Soli/Chas/SixN/Seco/Houn/Wist/Bruc/Devi/Last/Illu/Maza/Suss/Thor/Lion/Reti. The postpaid cost (sterling check or draft) for each short-story script is L12.00 (surface) or L14.00 (airmail), or you can pay with currency (\$19.00 or \$22.00) or by dollar check (\$28.86 or \$30.02). The cost is doubled for the three long-story scripts.

One of the nice things about collecting Sherlockiana is that the old can be as interesting as the new, and it can be fun to catch up with something you missed. As is the case with *THE NOISELESS TENOR: THE BICYCLE IN LITERATURE* (East Brunswick: Cornwall Books, 1982). James E. Starrs is well-known now for forensic investigation of questions such as whether Alferd Packer dined on the party he was supposed to be guiding over the mountains (Starrs dug up the victims, and concluded that they had indeed been murdered, and quite likely butchered). And he enjoys bicycling, and he has edited a delightful anthology that includes "The Priory School" (and some discussion of bicycle tracks), and a splendid Foreword by William Saroyan, and two excerpts from Christopher Morley, and much more.

Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales list, with figurines, statues, Mardi Gras doubloons, programs, lobby cards, books, and other Sherlockiana.

Lawrence J. Kaplan has been teaching a course on "Chemistry and Crime: From Sherlock Holmes to Modern Forensic Science" at Williams College since 1990, and this month the National Science Foundation awarded him a \$234,539 grant to create a CD-ROM version of his course. The disk is intended to make the laboratory portion of his course accessible to colleges that cannot offer forensics laboratory classes, and it will include simulations of equipment used in forensics analysis as well as cases for students to solve using the equipment. Kaplan hopes to have a finished product available in two years.

Stuffed Moose Audio has issued an amusing audiocassette with four "classic humorous ghost stories" written by Stephen Leacock, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, and Arthur Conan Doyle (whose story is "Selecting a Ghost"). George Plumley has dramatized the stories, and they're performed well by a group of talented actors. The Lodestone Catalog offers *SPIRITED YARNS: VOLUME 1* for \$9.95 plus shipping; the address is 611 Empire Mill Road, Bloomington, IN 47401 (800-411-6463), and credit-card orders are welcome.

Heritage Media (Castle Eden Studios, Castle Eden, Durham TS27 4SD, England) offers a catalog of classic audio and video, including radio drama: three double-cassette sets of "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" (each set with four Gielgud/Richardson broadcasts); L7.99 each (or L19.99 for all three in a slip case) plus shipping. The cassettes are available here from National Review Radio Classics (150 East 35th Street, New York, NY 10016); \$16.99 each (or \$39.99 for all three); \$4.50 shipping per order; plastic welcome.

Apr 96 #5 The first annual Sherlock Holmes Festival will be held in Crowborough on July 5-7, according to an item in *The Times Literary Supplement* (Mar. 15). Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lived in Crowborough for many

years, but the Chamber of Commerce believes that far too few Sherlockians visit the town. The festival will feature an exhibition, a street party, a concert, and a mystery trail, and the organizers are hoping that Sherlockians "will come to see Crowborough as the Mecca for Sherlock Holmes buffs." Details are available from The Sherlock Holmes Festival, The Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1DA, England.

Francine Kitts notes that a radio-theater production of "The Six Napoleons" will be performed five times at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center in Staten Island, N.Y. on May 2-5; tickets cost \$10.00, and the phone number for the box office is 718-979-3190.

For anyone who might need another reason to keep away from the moor, Fred Barbash reported in the Washington Post (Apr. 18), that "There's a monster loose that's threatening the cities and the towns of Britain, its national heritage, its animals, its health, and its wealth. It's called traffic." The threat is everywhere, including "the great moors of lore and legend, like Dartmoor, the setting in western England for 'The Hound of the Baskervilles.' Any hound venturing into it today risks life and limb, according to a recent study, which said that some 300 sheep, ponies, and cattle were run down and killed by speeding cars there last year."

Jim Suszynski spotted Shaggy in a deerstalker in "The Maltese Mutt" in the comic book SCOOBY-DOO #9 (June 1996) from Archie Comics (\$1.50). And Jack Kerr spotted Fred Flintstone in a deerstalker in "Fred Flintstone: Private Eye!" in THE FLINTSTONES #11 (July 1996), also from Archie (\$1.50).

FROM PRUSSIA WITH LOVE, by John DeChancie (Rocklin: Prima, 1996; 261 pp., \$5.99), is a spin-off from the Castle Falkenstein role-playing game created by R. Talsorian Games. The game and the novel are set in a magical Victorian alternate universe that includes fairies, dwarves, steam engines, and dragons, and Prof. Moriarty makes a brief but villainous appearance in the novel. Stu Shiffman, who knows far more than I about this steampunk world, reports that Moriarty also is in a second novel (DeChancie's MASTERMINDS OF FALKENSTEIN), and that a third novel (by George Alec Effinger) will involve both Moriarty and Sherlock Holmes.

Richard Olken has reported Alan M. Young's article "C. Auguste Dupin, Alias Holmes" (about Conan Doyle's debt to Poe) in the Feb. 1996 issue of Sextant (Salem State College, 352 Lafayette Street, Salem, MA 01970); the article has some fine illustrations of Dupin and Holmes (and photographs of Poe and Conan Doyle). The e-mail address is <sextant@mecn.mass.edu>.

"The Molly Maguires" is a new musical (book by William Strempek, and music and lyrics by Sid Cherry), and it will have its world premiere this year at the Grand Candlelight Theatre in Milton, Pa., Aug. 7-31 (800-355-3099), and at the Media Theatre for the Performing Arts in Media, Pa., Sept. 4-Oct. 6 (800-355-3099). There will be a theater party for Sherlockians on Sept. 28 at 2:00 pm in Media; details are available from Sherry Rose-Bond, 519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

Apr 96 #6 Videotaper alert: "Wishbone" is featured in "A Dogged Expose" on PBS-TV on May 3. Wishbone is a Jack Russell terrier who stars in a fine children's series about a dog who finds himself involved in literary classics (this time in "A Scandal in Bohemia"); the series has 40 programs that cycle in repeats, and there is another interesting episode called "The Slobbery Hound" (yes, "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Also: many PBS-TV stations are likely to repeat some of the Granada programs with Jeremy Brett in May: "The Dying Detective" and "The Cardboard Box" will air in Washington on May 16, and "The Three Gables" on May 23.

It was in the Sept. 1983 issue of Science 83 that John Hathaway Winslow and Alfred Meyer accused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of being the perpetrator of the Piltdown hoax, presenting a detailed and thoroughly circumstantial argument that received considerable publicity (mainly because they provided the N.Y.

Times with an advance copy of their article). And now Robert B. Anderson has made the same accusation, in the spring 1996 issue of Pacific Discovery (California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118; \$5.00 postpaid). Anderson, who is earth science editor at Natural History magazine at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, has drawn heavily upon Winslow's work, but (using Sherlock Holmes to reveal the solution) offers some additional evidence that is just as circumstantial. One is tempted to wonder whether the spring issue of Pacific Discovery was published on April Fool's Day . . .

ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (New York: Avon, 1996; 206 pp., \$5.50), is yet another yellowed manuscript, part of the "Hudson Collection" (that's Emma Hudson, housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes), and the story is set in 1898, when Holmes and Watson are on holiday and Mrs. Hudson answers an old friend's plea for help and solves two mysterious murders (with the help of her old friend's powers of astral projection).

R. Dixon Smith and Paulina M. Smith have a new catalog of "Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes" with 592 items old and new: books, pamphlets, magazines, posters, programs, and other ephemera; write to Rupert Books, 58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England.

Societies looking for ideas for souvenirs might take a look through the new catalog from Best Impressions (Box 802, La Salle, IL 61301) (800-635-2378). Their promotional products range from mugs (\$35.00 set-up charge, and \$2.38 each for 72) to wooden nickels and key fobs and totebags and other items.

Apparently I'm not the only one who has had trouble ordering new magazine cases from the Magafile Company in Vandalia, Mo., and it may well be that the company has gone out of business. Please let me know about alternate sources for inexpensive fold-up cardboard cases in various sizes.

Is anyone planning a visit to Moscow? Does anyone know anyone who is planning a trip to Moscow? I need a courier who can retrieve some Sherlockian videocassettes that I am reluctant to entrust to the Russian mail system. Please let me know if you can help.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

May 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Marlene R. Aig died on Apr. 25. She earned a Master's degree from McGill University (as did Christopher Morley's friend Jane Nightwork), and joined the Associated Press in 1978, becoming their Westchester correspondent in 1983. Marlene was as enthusiastic and energetic as a Sherlockian as she was as a journalist, and she made sure that her AP beat also included the Sherlockian world, filing stories on the birthday festivities and on other important events. Her AP obituary described her as a small, fast-talking, frequently squawking mass of energy, with a mop-top of rusty red hair and a spirit to match: that's the sort of personal touch that journalists like to give their colleagues, and it's the way her friends will remember her.

The spring 1996 issue of The Armchair Detective includes excellent articles by Jan B. Steffensen and Kate Derie about the continuing spread of mystery-related material on the Internet, and Scott and Sherry Rose Bond's memorial to Jeremy Brett and Robert Stephens. \$31.00 a year (quarterly); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019-3808.

Nice news for everyone interested in the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota (now the home of John Bennett Shaw's collection and much more): the state legislature has approved a bill that provides \$38.5 million to build the new Minnesota Library Access Center, which will be the new home of the special collections, and the governor has signed the bill into law. That's bricks-and-mortar money, and The Friends of the Sherlock

Holmes Collections are always happy to accept tax-deductible contributions to help maintain the collections. And there's an excellent reason to give now: the F. R. Bigelow Foundation in St. Paul will match all contributions (up to a total of \$30,000) to the John Bennett Shaw Fund (fund no. 3906). You can send your donations to the Sherlock Holmes Collections, 466 Wilson Library, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (matching gifts from employers also qualify for the for the matching grant). And there's a deadline: the first \$15,000 must be raised by June 30.

Christopher Roden reports that EMI has issued a "Writers and Poets" set of three CDs (L26.99 in Britain) that includes an excerpt (3:48 minutes) from the longer recording that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle made for His Master's Voice in 1930.

Further to last month's report (Apr 96 #5) on a paperback spin-off from the Castle Falkenstein role-playing game, the second book in the series is *MAS-TERMINDS OF FALKENSTEIN*, by John DeChancie (Rocklin: Prima, 1996; 25 pp., \$5.99); Moriarty turns up again in a magical Victorian alternate steampunk universe. The third novel in the series will be *THE LEAGUE OF DRAGONS*, by George Alec Effinger, due in October ("Tom Olam and the lovely, swashbuckling Marianne meet Sherlock Holmes, the young, not-yet-famous hero of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's series"). If your local bookseller can't find Prima Publishing, their address is Box 1260-BK, Rocklin, CA 95677.

John Ruyle is once again perpetrating poetry, and hand-printing it himself at the Pequod Press: *SIR ARTHUR AGONISTES* "dips into unexpected areas of the Canon and ranges over other Holmesian matters as well." 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 97407-1521; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

May 96 #2 Do any "Howdy Doody" fans remember Inspector John J. Fadoodle? Paul Martin spotted mention of the Inspector ("America's number one--boi-i-i-i-nggg--puh-rivate eye"), and a photograph showing him with a deerstalker, cape, and mustache, in *HOWDY AND ME: BUFFALO BOB'S OWN STORY*, by Buffalo Bob Smith and Donna McCrohan (New York: Penguin/Plume, 1990).

Orville Prescott died on Apr. 28. He was a book critic for the N.Y. Times from 1942 to 1966, and reviewed John Dickson Carr's *THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE* (1949) and Adrian Conan Doyle's *HEAVEN HAS CLAWS* (1953), praising them both but noting that Adrian Conan Doyle "lacks the literary skill to present his material in effective fashion." Prescott also enjoyed the writings of Christopher Morley, and in his review of Morley's *THE MAN WHO MADE FRIENDS WITH HIMSELF* (1949) suggested that if the book "is a failure as a novel and as a commentary on the neurosis of our time, it at least flashes intermittently with wit and charm. Christopher Morley never wrote anything that didn't do that."

Herman Herst Jr. was able to combine his knowledge of philately and his interest in Arthur Conan Doyle in a souvenir he prepared for the 1981 annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars. If you would like learn more about the world's first Christmas envelope (which was designed by Conan Doyle's uncle, Richard Doyle, in 1840) you can send him a #10 SASE (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429).

Malice Domestic VIII (in Bethesda, Md., at the end of April) was an interesting convention, with Peter Lovesey as guest of honor and Josephine Tey as ghost of honor, and a focus on "mysteries of manners," although not exclusively, since this year there were sessions on "The Scientific Sleuth: from Sherlock Holmes to Gideon Oliver" and on "Sherlock Holmes as a Forensic Scientist". The first session offered a panel consisting of Douglas G. Green, Aaron Elkins, Paul Sledzik, and me, and the second session was just me (and questions and comments from the audience). Audio Visual Inc. offers audiocassettes of any of the 50 convention sessions at \$10.00 each plus shipping (there's a discount for volume); 4390-B Parliament Place, Lanham, MD 20706 (credit-card orders welcome).

Mary Frost-Pierson also was at the convention, offering a demonstration of the "mysteries" division of America Online, which is an excellent reason to try out AOL's free-trial-offer (now 15 hours). You'll need to be driving a Macintosh, or running windows, with a 256-color card, and then you can take your own tour through Mary's offerings, which include on-line editions of magazines (The Sherlock Holmes Review and Scarlet Street), bulletin boards, discussion groups for kids and teachers, opportunities to browse the stock and buy books and gifts (Sherlockian and otherwise) from Mary's bookshop (Mysteries from the Yard), and much more. The address of Mary's shop is 253-B Xenia Avenue, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 <msteries@aol.com>; ask for AOL's 15-free-hours floppy disk.

Glyn Szasz reports from Australia that a Planet Hollywood opened recently in Sydney, packed with movie memorabilia, including the pipe from "Young Sherlock Holmes". Glyn is the first Sherlockian I've heard of who has admitted going to a Planet Hollywood, let alone finding anything Sherlockian there (I have been to a Hard Rock Cafe, but didn't).

May 96 #3 Web-cruiser alert: thanks to the energy and expertise of Willis Frick, the three most recent issues of the electronic edition of this newsletter are now available on a home page at his kaiwan.com web site; the URL is: <<http://www.kaiwan.com/~sherlock/SCUTTLE.HTML>>. URLs are case-sensitive, so you need to use the upper-case letters.

Stephen Hemming died on Apr. 19. He was an actor in Wisconsin, and one of his fellow actors said that "when he was given a role, he was like Sherlock Holmes, investigating it, diving into learning everything he could about it." And perhaps that was only natural: he played Sherlock Holmes in "The Case of the Lurking Variable" on an audiocassette made for an instructional series on mathematics distributed the University of Wisconsin in 1987.

Thanks to all who responded to my request for other sources for inexpensive cardboard magazine cases, what with the Magafile Company having vanished. The good news is that there are alternate sources, and the bad news is that all the different sizes aren't available. The office-supply stores such as Staples and Office Depot offer "regular" (12" x 4" x 9") cut-corner boxes for about \$1.60 each. So do mail-order companies such as Quill (800-789-1331) and Highsmith (800-558-2110); Highsmith offers inexpensive boxes at \$19.15 for 20. Brodart (800-233-8959) offers "super-budget files" at \$0.96 each (cheaper by the dozen), and "economical shelf files" in five different sizes, ranging from 8.5" high (\$1.30 each for a dozen) to 14.5" high (\$1.95 each for a dozen); Brodart would be best for those who want BSJ-size boxes and for those who want low prices (don't forget that shipping costs extra).

Bartholomew's Ink (Box 359, Warner, NH 03278-0359) offers a catalog full of mystery-related rubber stamps (with quite a few Sherlockian designs).

Tim Kelly's adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend, Ontario, July 16-27. Their address is R.R. #1, Grand Bend, ON N0M 1T0, Canada (519-238-6000) (800-706-6665).

"Holmes lies on the border of fantasy. He has charm and verve, but no one actually knew him. This gives every actor who plays Holmes an unexcelled chance to use his imagination, but also exposes him to criticism from every person with an imagination of his own." According to Basil Rathbone, in an article "On Playing Sherlock Holmes" in Radio Varieties (Mar. 1940). And: "Portrayal of Sherlock Holmes on the screen, I might say, causes me more worry than my portrayal on the radio. The screen leaves little to the imagination, and anyone in the audience may disagree with my idea of how Sherlock Holmes should look and act. Radio leaves every listener free to draw individual mental pictures of Holmes."

"A New Pinnacle for Sherlockian Achievement" is the slogan of the Downstate Illinois Sherlockian Invitational, to be held on Sept. 28 in Peoria. The

Hansoms of John Clayton have offered a challenge to other societies in a Knowledge Competition, to be followed by The Nineteenth Annual 2704 Banquet of the Hansoms, and anyone interested participating, or merely attending, is invited to communication with Robert C. Burr, 4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614-7109, by Aug. 31. One wonders about those pinnacles in downstate Illinois, which is not known for its mountains.

May 96 #4 "While the British Library management makes swingeing cuts to finance its move to St. Pancras, the British Museum is this month seeking planning permission and listed building consent to vandalise the Round Reading Room when, and if, the British Library finally leaves Bloomsbury," is the news from Marysa Demoor, posted to the Gaslight electronic mailing list. "Contrary to its stated policy over many years, the British Museum is now preparing to sacrifice its commitment to keeping the Round Reading Room as a library and work place for scholars. Such a commitment is now deemed to be inconvenient to the realisation of 'The Great Court Scheme' in which the Round Reading Room is redefined as circulation space, with information terminals and, as one British Museum spokesman memorably reported, 'a place for schoolchildren to eat their sandwiches'. The 'library' element is restricted to a small sector, surrounded by low glass walls, providing passing tourists with a glimpse of how things used to be."

And there's more, of particular importance to Sherlockians: "The desks, integral to the original design, will have to be largely removed." One would hope that before all those desks are hauled off to a land-fill, they will be carefully inspected to see whose initials might be carved in or on them. If Sherlock Holmes carved his initials on a laboratory stool at Bart's (and that one has been found and preserved), perhaps he did the same at a desk in the British Museum. "When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum," he recalled (in "The Musgrave Ritual"), "and there I waited, filling in my too abundant leisure time by studying all those branches of science which might make me more efficient."

Moris H. Goldberg died on Apr. 29. Moris ("that's with one r," as he liked to remind people) was an enthusiastic member of The Giant Rats of Massillon and The Inverness Capers of Akron, and he was the founder of The Deerstalkers of Akron, and a grand story-teller, Sherlockian and otherwise.

Tim O'Connor notes that Parade Magazine is offering \$100 prizes to ten winners of a contest for funny, clever, or unusual vanity license plates; you need to enter a photograph of the actual license plate of a vehicle registered to the contestant, and the winners will need to prove that they are the registered owners of the vehicles. The complete rules were in the May 12 issue of Parade, and entries must be received by June 16; the address is Vanity License Plate Contest, c/o Parade, Box 4943, Grand Central Station, New York, NY 10163-4943). In the early 1980s someone had a vanity plate in San Francisco reading BSKRVLS, on a Honda.

Tim also reports that Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced at the Candlelight Dinner Theater from Mar. 5 to May 25, 1997. The address is 5620 South Harlem Avenue, Summit, IL 60501 (15 minutes from downtown Chicago, according to the advertisement), and the box-office phone number is 708-496-3000. It is likely, of course, that one or more of the local Sherlockian societies will arrange for a theater party.

Planning continues for Australia's seventh national Sherlockian convention, to be held on Oct. 4-6, 1997, in Perth, with festivities centering on "The Devil's Foot". The organizers are Tim Richards and Narrelle Harris, and their address is Box 896, Fremantle, W.A. 6160, Australia.

May 96 #5 The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner on May 22 at Luigi's in San Diego to honor (as always) the world's first forensic geologist and to celebrate some local Sherlockian and Doylean connections. We were made welcome by Darlene Nelson, Debi Pollard, and Vinnie

Brosnan, who all quite modestly declined personal responsibility for spring weather as delightful as any I've seen anywhere this year, and the visitors included Les Clutter, who has ascended Holmes Peak both as a geologist and as a member of the Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa. Our peripatetic society will meet next in Denver in October 1996 and in Dallas in April 1997.

Visitors to San Diego may wish to stay at the Hotel del Coronado, which is the world's largest wooden hotel, carefully preserved and established as a national landmark, and it would be especially appropriate to stay in room 3236, since that's the room where William Gillette stayed in December 1898, when he settled in to write his play "Sherlock Holmes". Visitors also can visit the Spreckels Theater in downtown San Diego: the theater was built in 1912 and seats 1,400 (it was the largest theater of its kind west of New York), and it was still quite new when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at the theater in May 1923. And it's still in use as a theater, with much of the grand old decorative style.

My journey to the Left Coast also included a stop in Long Beach for dinner with some of the Trained Cormorants, and a trip to jail for a visit with the Dartmoor Residents, the latter society being students in classes taught by Michael Brady at the California Youth Authority; Mike uses the Canon to good advantage, and his students are interested and knowledgeable.

And I descended briefly on Los Angeles, where I had arranged for a Houdini Seance at the Magic Castle, which is a private club for magicians. There were twelve of us at the seance, and the medium was impressive indeed: he managed many of the manifestations produced by mediums in Houdini's time, and an appearance by Houdini himself.

Vinnie Brosnan, I hasten to add, still presides over Sherlock in L.A. (1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056); his new mail-order catalog is as always well-illustrated and has 711 items of Sherlockian and Doylean literature, Vinnie's warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw, and an intriguing "brief look" at Sherlockian scion societies by Bill Vande Water and fellow non-members of A Case of Identifiers.

Videotaper alert: "Remember WENN" is an original 30-minute series now seen on Saturdays on American Movie Classics cable, about a fictional Pittsburgh radio station during the golden age of radio; it's written by Rupert Holmes (who is perhaps best known as the author of the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" and whose pen name reflects his enjoyment of Rupert Knickerbocker beer and the Canon), and the episode scheduled for June 22 (titled "Arm-chair Detective") will be Sherlockian.

And: the "Wishbone" series continues to repeat on PBS-TV, and it's a grand way to get kids interested in literature. Wishbone is a Jack Russell terrier who finds himself involved in literary classics, and "A Dogged Expose" (about "A Scandal in Bohemia") will air on June 28. "The Slobbery Hound" (about "The Hound of the Baskervilles") also is well worth watching for.

May 96 #6 It was only last month (Apr 96 #6) that there was a report of yet another article identifying Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the perpetrator of the hoax at Piltdown, but now there's real news: an article by Kings College professor Brian Gardiner in the May 23 issue of Nature suggests that the culprit was Martin A. C. Hinton, a curator at the Natural History Museum in London. And for the first time there's some persuasive physical evidence: a trunk left behind at the museum by Hinton has been found to contain bones, teeth, and fossils stained with the same chemical mixture that was used to deceive those who first examined the Piltdown discoveries. Gardiner also found that Hinton had done some staining work for Charles Dawson (who made the Piltdown discovery), and was an expert on the geology of the area of Sussex where the find was made, and had good reason to bear a grudge against Arthur Smith Woodward (who was thoroughly deceived by the hoax). Hinton, who died in 1961, lived to see the hoax exposed by modern scientists in the early 1950s.

"The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" will be performed at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont., July 25-Aug. 25. That's not far from Kingston; their address is: Thousand Islands Playhouse, Box 241, Gananoque, ON K7G 2T8, Canada (613-382-7020).

Lisa Lambert (77 Mendham Avenue, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706) has designed some attractive Sherlockian wine labels (6.5x4.5") and bordered quotations (7.5" x 3.5"); the artwork is hand-colored and thoroughly artistic, and the prices are about \$25.00 postpaid, and complementary matting is available. The wines include varieties such as Silver Blaze Bordeaux, Hound Port, Musgrave Montrachet, Speckled Band Claret, and Holmes Port, and they make for nice displays. If you're interested, Lisa will be glad to send you a photocopy that will show her work to better advantage than I can.

The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet in New York this year during the annual meeting of the ALA, at the Renaissance Hotel at 4:30 pm on July 7. For additional information, you can write to Marsha L. Pollak, 1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125 (and non-librarians are welcome to attend the festivities, of course).

Laura Kuhn reports that the latest catalog from What on Earth is offering a one-third-off discount on its Sherlock Holmes Pub T-shirts (now \$9.95) and sweatshirts (now \$18.95); 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552). Note: the design is their own, rather than the actual pub sign.

David Pearson reports that Critics' Choice Video offers discounts through July 1 on Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) at \$14.77, and Cushing's "The Masks of Death" (1986) at \$14.95; Box 749, Itasca, IL 60143 (800-367-7765).

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Jun 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The long series of Rathbone/Bruce radio programs on audiocassettes produced by Ken Greenwald and his 221A Baker Street Associates is expanding into the 1946-47 season with Tom Conway as Sherlock Holmes. There are new introductions by old-time radio actors Elliott Reid and Parley Baer, and there will be 16 cassettes in the new series (and four cassettes will be issued every three months). Eight cassettes are available now, and they are a grand reminder of the wonderful old days of radio, with scripts by Denis Green and Anthony Boucher, nice performances by Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson (he got top billing) and the rest of the cast, and fine high-fidelity engineering. The series title is MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; the cassettes (each with two shows) are distributed by Brilliance Audio and cost \$9.95 each; if you can't find them in local stores, Brilliance is at Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225). The eighth cassette includes "The Singular Affair of The Ancient Egyptian Curse" (1947), in which Ben Wright played Sherlock Holmes while Tom Conway was ill.

Minnesota voters will have a chance to vote for a Sherlockian on Sept. 10, in the state's Republican primary: one of the six candidates for the Senate is former Senator Rudy Boschwitz, who lost the seat to Democrat Paul Wellstone in 1990. Boschwitz attended meetings of The Red Circle in the 1980s, and hopes to return (to the Senate, that is, although of course he's always welcome in The Red Circle).

Andy Peck reports that eagle-eyed Sherlockians will find two small plaques

at Doc Watson's (a bar-style restaurant at 1490 Second Avenue in New York), but nothing else Canonical. And that he and Les Klinger hard at work preparing an up-to-date revised edition of his comparative chronology THE DATE BEING --? (first published in 1970, with an addendum in 1973).

Movies, movies, movies. Clint Eastwood received a Life Achievement Award from the American Film Institute (the televised special was broadcast by ABC-TV last month), and his many fans will recall that in "The Dead Pool" (1988) Dirty Harry's boss Captain Donnelly (played by Michael Currie) has a framed portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the wall of his office; it also is of (remotely) Sherlockian interest that Callahan kills the villain by pinning him to a wall with a harpoon through his chest. Entertainment Weekly has a brief report on the film "The Lost World" (due for release in the summer of 1997): co-screenwriter David Koepp's \$1.5 million salary is the most ever paid for an adapted screenplay; the film is based on the book by Michael Crichton, and will be directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Julianne Moore and Jeff Goldblum. And: Jeremy Brett's last film was "Moll Flanders" (released this month), starring Robin Wright as Moll, Stockard Channing as the evil madam who makes Moll's life miserable, and Morgan Freeman as Hibble (who doesn't appear in Daniel Defoe's book); Brett has a brief appearance as the wealthy father of the artist with whom Moll falls in love.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Sticky Wicket" is the title of an interesting and well-illustrated article by Peter N. Street in the Jan.-Feb. 1996 issue of the Journal of Sports Philately, about Holmes and Conan Doyle and cricket. The issue costs \$2.50 postpaid from John La Porta, Box 2286, La Grange, IL 60525 (checks payable to Sports Philatelists International, please).

Jun 96 #2 Ralph Hall spotted a new paperback edition of Graham Landrum's THE ROTARY CLUB MURDER MYSTERY (New York: St. Martin's, 1996; \$4.99); there are two Sherlockian chapters ("The Baker Street Irregulars" and "Second Meeting of the Baker Street Irregulars"), and there was a hardback edition from St. Martin's in 1993. Also: Maurice Horn's 100 YEARS OF AMERICAN NEWSPAPER COMICS (New York: Gramercy Books, 1996; \$14.99) will be found on the bargain tables, with sections on Sherlock Holmes, Hawkshaw the Detective, and Sherlocko the Monk.

Laurie R. King reports that A LETTER OF MARY (her third mystery novel about Mary Russell) is now set for publication in January 1997, and that THE BEE-KEEPER'S APPRENTICE is due in England this summer ("at long last").

Tamara Toumanova died on May 29. At the age of five she danced with Anna Pavlova in France, and was one of the first of George Balanchine's "baby ballerinas" when she joined his Ballet Russes de Monte Carlo in 1932. She danced on Broadway and in films, and played the ballerina Petrova in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), proposing that Sherlock Holmes father a child with her, so that the child would have his brains and her beauty. Mrs. Patrick Campbell made the same proposal to George Bernard Shaw, who pointed out that the child might have his beauty and her brains, but Holmes managed to find another way to avoid a liaison with Petrova.

Al Gregory and Jan Stauber offer three new lapel pins with artwork by Sidney Paget (shown here actual size); \$6.00 each postpaid (checks made payable to Al Gregory, please), and Al's address is 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044.

Captain Sharkey was one of the more memorable characters created by Arthur Conan Doyle, and he was one of the most vicious villains to be found in literature (if you like tales of pirates and the high seas). There are four stories about Sharkey, and you can find them in THE DOYLE STORIES and in other collections. "How the Governor of St. Kitt's Came Home" was published in Pearson's Magazine in Jan. 1897, and the 23-page signed manuscript went to

auction at Christie's in New York on May 17, estimated at \$4,000-6,000. And it sold for \$12,650 (including the 15% buyer's premium).

BOSC-1

"I do believe we're dealing with something we haven't seen before..." was the quote in a full-page advertisement in the May 6 issue of Variety for "Sherlock Holmes: The Case of the Temporal Nexus", one of the television projects promoted at the Cannes film festival by Associated Entertainment Releasing. And promoted quite successfully: the project has been pre-sold in European markets, and filming will begin soon in and near Los Angeles, with Patrick Macnee as Holmes, assisted by a young American reporter. The "legendary investigator is immersed in a case of paranormal murders and extra-terrestrials" in the two-hour television film that will be followed by a series of 22 one-hour shows. Work also is underway in England on a one-hour series of television specials called "Sherlock Holmes' Tour of London" with Macnee as host, viewing London through the eyes of Sherlock Holmes.

Jun 96 #3 Allen Mackler has spotted some bargains available from Daedalus Books (Box 9132, Hyattsville, MD 20781): the Chronicle Books editions of THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS & OTHER TALES OF SUSPENSE (1990) and WHEN THE WORLD SCREAMED AND OTHER STORIES (1992), now discounted at \$3.98 each; and Carroll & Graf's 100 GREAT DETECTIVES, edited by Maxim Jakubowsky (1992), with H.F.R. Keating's discussion of Sherlock Holmes, at \$2.98. And The Scholar's Bookshelf (100 Melrich Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512) offers the Academy Chicago editions of Conan Doyle's THE BEST HORROR STORIES (1989), THE LOST WORLD (1989), and TALES FOR A WINTER'S NIGHT (1990) at \$19.90 for all three.

A hot plate: license plate, that is. The culprit most likely is a cruising teen-ager collecting things to display on a wall, but if you discover someone with a Maryland license plate reading BAKERST, it was stolen from a car owned by Wayne and Francine Swift. Just the one plate, which is why it's likely to be on a wall rather than one someone else's car.

Marcus Geisser, the editor of The Reichenbach Journal (published in German by The Reichenbach Irregulars, the Sherlockian society in Switzerland), has been publishing German translations of some of the classic writings about the writings, including essays by Ronald Knox and Christopher Morley, (and an essay by Dorothy L. Sayers will be in the next issue). And Marcus would like to hear from anyone who can help with future translation; his address is 40 avenue de la Gare, CH-1003 Lausanne, Switzerland; and or by e-mail at <mgeisser@access.ch>.

"The Ku Klux Klan ... rapidly formed local branches in different parts of the country, notably in Tennessee, Louisiana, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida," according to the American Encyclopaedia consulted by Sherlock Holmes in "The Five Orange Pips". The State Capitol Building is seen in a photograph on a new stamp honoring the 200th anniversary of Tennessee's statehood.

"Sitting in a London pub, James O'Brien admits that he contemplated wearing his deerstalker hat, but opted instead for the more conservative blazer and tie of an academic," Alina Tugend noted in her article in The Chronicle of Higher Education (May 24). Jim, usually to be found teaching chemistry at Southwest Missouri State University, taught a two-month weekly course on the science of the Sherlock Holmes stories at the University of London's Imperial College.

Percy Edwards died on June 8. "Of Psyche the dog and other noises," is the subhead on The Guardian's obituary for Edwards, who made his show-business debut at the Pier Pavilion in Worthing in 1928, so intriguing the audience with his bird songs and growls that other seaside engagements followed. In 1931 he took his act to London's Windmill Theatre (more famous for its nude tableaux), and in the 1950s and 1960s he starred on BBC radio as Psyche the

dog, and as Gregory the chicken (in different series). He also performed in films (producers often found that he was far more reliable and cheaper than real animals). The obituary reports that he once was The Hound of the Baskervilles (most likely with Carlton Hobbs and Norman Shelley in the BBC Radio series in 1958, but full credits for that series aren't available).

Jun 96 #4 Paula M. Brown is starting work on planning for a memorial to Jeremy Brett at the Holiday Inn (Union Square) in San Francisco on Sept. 14, and she would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to participate in the program, and to share thoughts and memories of the actor and his career. Paula's address is 40787 Canyon Heights Drive, Fremont, CA 94539; e-mail <vgtd52b@prodigy.com>.

"Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Oct. 26-27 at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y. This annual gathering is always well-attended, and the agenda always interesting (this year the speakers will include Wilma Brown, Carey Cummings, Sue Dahlinger, David Houle, Bill Hyder, Dick Kitts, Sandra Kozinn, Linda Spessotti, and Diana Ver Nooy). Details are available from Robert E. Thomalen, Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 <crwk02a@prodigy.com>.

"The Terror of Blue John Gap" continues to delight geologists who admire Conan Doyle's fiction, because the story offers an interesting mineral and a monster that turns out to be a Pleistocene cave bear. In a fine article about the story published in A.C.D. (1994), Dana Martin Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant suggest that the terror was not, in fact, a cave bear, but rather a great scimitar cat (*Homotherium sainszelli*). The dirk-tooth cat (*Megantereon megantereon*), was a close relative and much better known, since its upper canines were much longer, and thus tends to show up on postage stamps, such as the one just issued by the United States.

The Running Press published a semi-miniature edition (2.75 x 3.25 in.) of SHERLOCK HOLMES: TWO COMPLETE ADVENTURES in 1989, and there's a new edition (1994) with a truly handsome jacket and illustrations by Andrew Davidson, the British artist who designed the attractive Sherlockian covers for four stamp booklets issued by Britain in 1987-1988, and the set of five Sherlock Holmes stamps issued by Britain in 1993. The cost is \$4.95 in bookstores, or \$5.95 from the publisher (125 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-4399); "But try your bookstore first!" the publisher urges.

John Ruyle modestly suggests in the 50th issue of Tantalus that ten years ago he had no idea that The Pequod Press would survive for ten years, but it certainly has, and its latest pressing will be THE ADVENTURE OF THE SECOND BRAIN, another of Dr. Fatso's accounts of the many cases of his friend Turlock Loams. \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) postpaid from John, at 521 Vincente Avenue Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

The lion's mane jellyfish seem to be spreading, turning up last year in an exhibit at the New England Aquarium in Boston (Mar 95 #3), and now, according to Peter Calamai, in an exhibit of "Phantoms of the Deep" at the Aquarium in Baltimore.

Francine Swift notes that the Carriage Museum at the Ladew Topiary Gardens contains a fine hansom, and a very sporting dog cart, for those who might wish to see what those methods of Canonical transportation look like close up. The Ladew Topiary Gardens are at 3535 Jarrettsville Pike, Monkton, MD 21111 (410-557-9570); that's north of Baltimore, about halfway to the border, and the dates are mid-April through the end of October.

Jun 96 #5 THE HERPETOLOGICAL HOLMES: A MONOGRAPH ON REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, illustrated with artwork of the period, is the eighth volume in Donald Girard Jewell's continuing Sherlock Holmes Natural History series; the pamphlet costs \$12.95 postpaid from the Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158.

There are many singular Sherlockian societies, of course, and Luther Norris delighted in making The Praed Street Irregulars singular in more ways than one. Vinnie Brosnan has recently found that Luther awarded the Investiture "Meadows" to Basil of Baker Street.

The Stage One Theatre Company will launch a tour of Tim Heath's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's" in Brighton on Sept. 11, playing for three weeks in Croydon, and will close at Walton-on-Thames on Nov. 30; details of the schedule are available from Stage One at 34 Jasmine Grove, London SE20 8JW, England). Miles Richardson will play Holmes, and he is the son of Ian Richardson, who was Holmes in two television films (and as far as I know this is the only father-and-son to play the role).

Jack Tracy ("A Case of Identity") died on May 9. He was an author, editor, and publisher, and a Doylean as well as a Sherlockian. His first article in The Baker Street Journal appeared in 1971, and his investigation of "St. Savior's near King's Cross" earned him the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article in the BSJ in 1977. His ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (1977) and his Conan Doyle collections SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PUBLISHED APOCRYPHA (1980) and MASTERWORKS OF CRIME & MYSTERY (1982) were widely distributed by trade publishers, and his own Gaslight Publications, founded in 1979, issued many fine Sherlockian books by authors such as Robert L. Fish, David L. Hammer, Michael Harrison, Paul D. Herbert, and Jon L. Lellenberg, as well as seven books by Conan Doyle, each carefully edited and with new Afterwords written by Doylean enthusiasts. The many books he wrote and edited and published are a fine memorial to Jack.

Hugh Scullion (Cadds Printing, 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England) offers an illustrated sales list of Sherlockiana, old and new (the new includes The Norwood Magazine, which is "The Empty House" reset in Strand Magazine format, with color covers, at \$5.00 postpaid); his e-mail address is <beetons@aol.com>.

Thanks to Debi Rotmil for an item from The Times (May 23): "Mr. Peter William Jeremy Huggins, of London SW4, Jeremy Brett, the actor, known for his portrayal of Sherlock Holmes on television, left estate valued at L634,744 net. He left L3,000 to his fan club known as 'The Regulars', with the wish it be divided equally between those persons who are members at his death." "The Regulars" is a group of fans who met during the run of "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (the group was founded by Linda Pritchard, and they were responsible for placing his memorial plaque at Wyndham's Theatre).

Further to the report (May 96 #3) on other sources for magazine file cases, it turns out that The Magafile Company is back in business ("after experiencing some difficulties that we have fortunately been able to overcome"); I have received a shipment of cases from them. They offer a wider range of sizes (heights and widths), and the address is Box 66, Vandalia, MO 63382.

Jun 96 #6 Plan ahead: "Sherlock's Secret Life" (a new play written by Ed. Lange) is scheduled at the New York Theatre Institute in Troy, Mar. 13-26, 1997. Lange describes the play as "a good mystery with lots of 'inside' references and plausible speculations," and the box-office address is 155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180 (518-274-3256).

SHERLOCK HOLMES: CLASSIC THEMES FROM 221B BAKER STREET is a new "music to read Sherlock Holmes by" compact disk produced by Varese Sarabande (with liner notes by the Scarlet Street's editor Richard Valley), offering music from films and television, from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) to the Granada series. \$18.98 postpaid (or \$24.98 to Canada, \$27.98 elsewhere); credit card orders welcome, and the Scarlet Street address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. Note: all of the music is newly recorded, by an orchestra conducted by Larry Meyers.

An official Baker Street Irregulars necktie is again available (but only to

those who have Investitures in the BSI), in a new edition (a bit wider, and with slightly different shades of the traditional purple, blue, and mouse); \$23.00 postpaid (\$25.00 outside the U.S.) from Wayne B. Swift, 4622 Morgan Drive, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-5315.

The Eighth International Holmesian Games will be held on Sept. 21-22 at an extinct volcano in Mount Tabor Park in Portland, Ore. [warning: the locals may claim that the volcano is extinct, but volcanoes are either active or dormant]. Additional information is available from Karen Bridger (940 S.W. Vincent Place, Portland, OR 97201) or Don MacLachlan <donmac@wimsey.com>.

Meg Moller Martin spotted an interesting item in the June issue of Esquire (in the "Reality Check"): some celebrities use pseudonyms when they travel (to avoid publicity and occasionally overeager admirers), and Indiana Pacer guard Reggie Miller checks into hotels as Sherlock Holmes.

Carolyn and Joel Senter's latest sales list ("Quick Watson...!" #2) offers some nice Sherlockian books, audio, video, pins, and much more, including some items for admirers of Inspector Morse; Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

A new catalog from Mindware (6142 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley, MN 55422) (800-999-0398) includes an illustration showing the Sherlockian artwork on the cover of Eleanor W. Hoomes' book CREATE-A-SLEUTH: WRITING A DETECTIVE STORY.

Jennie Paton spotted some videocassette bargains: Nicol Williamson's "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) and Peter Cushing's "The Masks of Death" (1984) at \$14.99 each from Movies Unlimited, 6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 (800-523-0823) <movies@moviesunltd.com>

Jennings Lang died on May 29. A veteran MCA-Universal vice-president, he was the producer of "Earthquake" and "Airport", and "They Might Be Giants" (1971) was "a Jennings Lang presentation."

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Jul 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

A plaque on all your houses. Members of The Wolfe Pack were on hand at 454 West 35th in New York to watch the installation of a plaque that reads: "On this site stood the elegant brownstone of the corpulent fictional private detective Nero Wolfe. With his able assistant Archie Goodwin, Mr. Wolfe raised orchids and dined well, while solving over seventy cases as recorded by Rex Stout from 1934-1975." Three brownstones at the site were torn down after Wolfe retired to his house in Egypt, and a new building erected. The new building houses formerly homeless adults, and the ceremony was attended by Parks Commissioner Henry Stern and Rex Stout's grandson Reed Maroc.

The Wolfe Pack has about 400 members world-wide, and some of them are just as fanatic about Wolfe as some Sherlockians are about Holmes. Membership in The Wolfe Pack costs \$25.00 for two years (including four issues of The Gazette); Box 822, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023.

The Sherlock Holmes Museum (221B Baker Street, London NW1 6XE, England) has a 28-page full-color catalog of Sherlockian souvenirs and mementoes: dolls, deerstalkers, buttons, badges, figurines, plaques, posters, prints, books, and videos. This is the museum founded some years ago by John Aidiniantz at 239 Baker Street; Grace Riley and Linda Riley are the directors now, and the e-mail address is <sherlock@easynet.co.uk>.

Albert R. "Cubby" Broccoli died on June 27. He started his film career in 1938 as an assistant directory with 20th Century-Fox, and is best known as the producer of all but one of the James Bond films. Born in New York, he

was an agronomist before entering the film business. His obituary in the Washington Post noted that agronomy was in the family: forebears in Italy invented the vegetable that bears their name by crossing the Italian rabe with cauliflower.

Caliber has started a new comic-book mini-series called THE SEARCHERS, with a story by Colin Clayton and Chris Dows and artwork by Art Wetherell: issue #1 (\$2.95) is in shops now. Real-life descendants of characters created by Wells, Verne, Haggard, Burroughs, and Conan Doyle "must band together in a mutual quest for not only their own survival, but that of reality itself." But the Conan Doyle character isn't a Holmes: she's a Moriarty.

Laura Kuhn notes that bargain-books catalogs from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031-5000) continue to offer all sort of Sherlockian bargains, and items such as THE BOXTREE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TV DETECTIVES, by Geoff Tibballs (1992) at \$3.95; with brief entries for many of the Sherlockian series from 1951 (with Alan Wheatley) through the Granada series.

The Washington Post has a contest each Sunday called "The Style Invitation-al" (in the Style section), and a recent contest called for tasteless "what is" jokes punning on someone's name. Among the runners-up were "What revolutionary leader led his guerrilla forces while wearing an evening gown and a string of pearls? (Che Edgar Hoover)" and "Who steals from the rich and mismanages the proceeds? (Robin HUD)", and the winning entry was "Who wrote 'The Hatchback of Notre Dame? (Victor Yugo)." An honorable mention went to "What famous mystery writer had no heirs? (Sir Arthur Condom Doyle)".

Jul 96 #2 DINOSAUR TALES is a fine collection of stories by Ray Bradbury, illustrated by Gahan Wilson, Steranko, and others; the book was first published by Byron Preiss in 1983, and is now available in a new edition (New York: Barnes & Noble, 1996; 144 pp., \$5.98). Bradbury dedicated the book to Willis O'Brien, "who animated the beasts in 'The Lost World' in 1925, and so changed my life, forever." Ray Harryhausen tells in his foreword of seeing the same film when he was five; he worked with Bradbury on "The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms" (based on the story "The Fog Horn", which is included in the book.

And no, there's no real Sherlockian connection for Cubby Broccoli, but the story about the vegetable having been named for an ancestor deserved to be shared. And apparently it's too good to be true; according to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word was first in print in 1699 and the vegetable wasn't named for anyone. But it's pleasant to think of great-grandfather telling his children the story.

Luci Zahray has noted Ellis Peters' THE HIPPOPOTAMUS POOL (New York: Warner Books, 1996; 384 pp.); this is the eighth in her series of mystery novels about Amelia Peabody Emerson, set in Victorian England and Egypt, all with direct or indirect Canonical echoes.

Hugh S. Scullion's SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES:--POLITICALLY CORRECT? examines the Canon for examples of language and attitudes and actions that would be considered incorrect or offensive by today's standards, and finds a lot of them, and he concludes that the author of the stories was a racist bigot. The paperback book (97 pages) costs \$16.00 postpaid from Hugh Scullion at 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England.

There's a new society lapel pin, from Watson's Tin Dispatchers, and the cost is \$6.00 postpaid from Francine Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301.

For Sherlockian societies tired of the same old lapel pins and mugs and such: Calico Temporary Tattoos (2" x 2") cost \$189.00 for 1,000 (and \$10.00 for shipping); they use your design, and offer full-color service. And their address is 315 Plantation Way, Vacaville, CA 95687. No reports of a Sherlock Holmes Tattoo Society so far,

but I wouldn't be surprised if someone starts one.

Further to earlier reports (Jul 95 #1 and Aug 95 #3) on cameo appearances by Sherlockians in non-Sherlockian books, Bill Nadel reports that you will find him (as Chick Nadel, a barkeep with a load of hot radios) on page 44 of James Ellroy's L.A. CONFIDENTIAL (New York: Mysterious Press, 1990).

Those who felt the recent film "Moll Flanders" (with Robin Wright, Morgan Freeman, Stockard Channing, and Jeremy Brett) was unfaithful to the book will welcome the news that Granada's version (written by Andrew Davies and starring Alex Kingston as Moll) will open the fall season on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV in two episodes on Oct. 13 and 14. According to Anglofile, the new version is closely based on Defoe's book, and Dame Diana Rigg is in the cast. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

Jul 96 #3 CHINESE BOX MYSTERIES: SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Dan Kilcup (Springfield: Allen Wayne Limited, 1996; 268 pp., \$24.00 postpaid), offers two pastiches involving an elderly Sherlock Holmes and a young John S. Watson (son of the doctor), and a third featuring the ghost of Sherlock Holmes. Kilcup reports that his grandmother was the niece of Mrs. Victoria Hampton, successor to Mrs. Hudson as housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes at Hudson Farm in Surrey, and that there are eight more stories in the mysterious Chinese box, to be published in a second volume later this year. The publisher's address is 5404-A Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151 (800-695-8880); credit-card orders welcome.

R. Caton Woodville was a fine illustrator and artist, and you can see his illustrations for Arthur Conan Doyle's "An Exciting Christmas Eve; or, My Lecture on Dynamite" in the Boy's Own Paper (Christmas, 1883) and in Every Boy's Magazine (Feb.-Mar. 1905), "Uncle Jeremy's Household" in Boy's Own Paper (Jan. 8-Feb. 19, 1887) and Every Boy's Magazine (Feb.-Aug. 1907), "A Shadow Before" in the Windsor Magazine (Dec. 1898) and "The Pot of Caviare" in The Strand Magazine (Mar. 1908). He is more widely noted as an artist, and one of his classic works is "Saving the Guns at Maiwand" (showing the Royal Horse Artillery withdrawing with the enemy in hot pursuit during the Afghan war of 1879); a reproduction of the painting is available in full color and in two sizes from Cranston Fine Arts (Torwood House, Torwoodhill Road, Rhu Helensburgh, Scotland G84 8LE, Great Britain), and from an American distributor, Scottish Images, Box 160133, Sacramento, CA 95816 (800-700-0334), for \$60.00 (30 x 20 in.) or \$20.00 (14 x 10 in.). Shipping is \$10.00, and credit-card orders are welcome. Scottish Images' catalog also offers a 75-mm metal figurine of Sherlock Holmes at \$19.95, and reproductions of Napoleonic paintings by Holmes' grand-uncle, Horace Vernet.

Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) offers copies of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION, which has 120 pages of stories, cartoons, poems, puzzles, and plays written by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few pieces have appeared elsewhere. AU\$18.00 (US\$15.00 or L9.00) postpaid by air, or AU\$11.50 (US\$10.00 or L6.00); postpaid by surface mail. Payment in Australian dollars is preferred, but U.S. and British checks and currency are acceptable.

Further to the report (May 96 #4) on plans, or lack of plans, for preservation of the Round Reading Room in the British Museum, Catherine Cooke notes that the summer 1996 issue of the British Museum Magazine reports that the original blue, white, and gold interior will be restored and used for a new Information Center that will have terminals connected to a multimedia database, and a growing range of CD-ROM discs which can be consulted on "topics such as the Anglo-Saxons, the history of money, or the Rosetta Stone."

Thanks to Didi Johnson for recommending THE BETTER BROWN STORIES, by Allan Ahlberg (New York: Viking, 1995; 97 pp., \$12.99); it's a grand existentialist story for children, about "a monstrous dog, a monstrous Milkman, free money, some Mysterious Men, a forgotten baby, baffled police, and a bewild-

ered town." The monstrous dog isn't our Hound, but the author does thank Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the Acknowledgements, and rightfully so. Ahlberg is British, and with his wife Janet has written many other childrens' books that are reported to be just as good, if not as Sherlockian, as this one.

Jul 96 #4 Plan well ahead: The Pleasant Places of Florida will mark their 25th anniversary with a "Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium" in or near St. Petersburg on May 2-4, 1997. The contact is Carl L. Heifetz, 5490 Salem Square Drive South, Palm Harbor, FL 34685-11387; e-mail to <72642.3220@compuserve.com>.

Thomas F. McGee ("Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer") died on June 25. He was an Army cryptographer and a commercial artist before beginning his career as a social worker, and he was a member of many of the Sherlockian societies in Chicago as well as The Baker Street Irregulars, from whom he received his investiture in 1981. He contributed to our literature in the 1970s and 1980s, and in 1976 he designed and manufactured the first Sherlockian chess set.

You'll win one of 150 signed and numbered uncorrected proofs of A LETTER TO MARY (to be published later this year), and an acknowledgement in the next book in Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell, if you submit the best "Sherlockismus" (or possibly "Russellismus") to be uttered (preferably) by Mary. A Sherlockismus, identified by Ronald A. Knox, is an exchange such as: "I followed you." "I saw nobody." "That is what you must expect to see when I am following you." But for the contest, it can also be a witty statement. Entries to Rebecca J. Anderson, 1877 Dumont Street, London, ON N5W 2S3, Canada <rebeccaj@mercury.execulink.com>; the deadline is Aug. 17.

Karen M. Mullen (721 Vashti Drive, Houston, TX 77037-4128) <kmam1@aol.com> offers her graphite print (12 x 20 in.) titled "A Tribute to Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes" (\$75.00 postpaid; credit-card orders welcome).

Chris Redmond notes that THE ADVENTURES OF SURELOCKED HOMES: MAKING ENTRY LESS ELEMENTARY still is offered by the State Farm Insurance Companies, Box 7661, Westchester, IL 60154; the pleasant 16-page pamphlet was first issued in 1975, with suggestions on how to make your home safer, and there's no charge (although they hope that you'll think of them for home insurance).

Ted Friedman made a pleasant discovery in Alan MacKinnon's MURDER, REPEAT MURDER (Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1952). The dedication reads: "This book is offered to James Keddie Jr. of Boston, Mass. and the Baker Street Irregulars, in some slight return for the friendliest and most encouraging letter a downhearted writer can ever have received."

Jim Suszynski's daughter spotted Larry "Sheerluck" Holmes in a deerstalker in "The Barking!" in the comic book SCOOBY-DOO #11 (Aug. 1996) from Archie Comics (\$1.50).

Priscilla Juvelis (1166 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138; 617-497-7570) offers interesting material in her catalogs, including from time to time some interesting Sherlockian and Doyleana. And her summer miscellany (list 96-3) has a still from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) showing Holmes meeting Sir Henry, signed by Basil Rathbone in blue ink across the margin and a bit of the photograph, in fine condition; \$150.00.

Jul 96 #5 Reported by Ralph Hall: MYSTERIOUS MENAGERIE, edited by Cynthia Manson (Berkley, 1996, \$5.99); with a Sherlockian dog on the front cover. THE BIG BOOK OF BERENSTAIN BEARS BEGINNER BOOKS, by Stan and Jan Berenstain (Random House, 1996, \$10.00); with reprints of two stories about the Bear Detectives. THE JEWELLED PEACOCK OF PERSIA, by Jake and Luke Thoene (Moorings/Ballantine, 1996, \$5.99); the third in a series of

"Baker Street Mysteries". ESCAPE, by Walter Satterthwait (St. Martin's, 1996, \$5.99); a reprint of his Conan Doyle/Houndini pastiche (Sep 95 #4). CLASSIC MYSTERIES: A COLLECTION OF MIND-BENDING MASTERPIECES, edited by Molly Cooper (Lowell House, 1996, \$5.95); with "The Veiled Lodger". And: Sherlockian allusions in THE CASE OF THE U.S. SPACE CAMP MISSION, starring Mary Kate and Ashley (a videocassette from Kid Vision/Warner, \$9.95), and a Sherlockian Roquefort, the Cheese Detective, in THE ARISTOCATS (from Walt Disney Home Video, \$12.99).

Our recent set of stamps honoring folk heroes, with designs by David La Fleur, includes a stamp honoring the Mighty Casey (who was launched into legend on June 3, 1888, when Ernest L. Thayer's poem "Casey at the Bat" first was published in the San Francisco Examiner). In a footnote in his THE ANNOTATED CASEY AT THE BAT (New York: Clarkson N. Potter, 1967), Martin Gardner noted that Mudville's civic leaders, in an effort to change its rather forlorn image, had the town's name officially changed to Moorville, but residents of the area refused to use the new name, and the town continued to deteriorate rapidly. By 1907 it had disappeared entirely, explaining why neither Mudville nor Moorville can be found in Kansas today (although, of course, there was a Moorville at the time of "The Three Garridebs"). Gardner's friend John Bennett Shaw often proudly admitted that he had helped with certain aspects of the book.

Steve Legenhausen has nice news for those who would like to see just what the Vermissa Valley looked like in the days of the Scowlers: there are many 19th-century photographs, with informative captions, in IMAGES OF AMERICA: POTTSVILLE, by Leo L. Ward and Mark T. Major (Dover: Arcadia Publishing, 1995; 144 pp., \$16.99). Pottsville, the county seat of Schuylkill County, is where the real Mollie Maguires were known and feared; the publisher's address is One Washington Center, Dover, NH 03820.

I mentioned earlier (Apr 96 #1) an exhibition called "Greuze: A Portraitist for the 90's" at the Frick; the show has closed, but Sonia Fetherston notes that two of his portraits are part of the permanent collection: he painted famous Comedie Francaise actor Baptiste Aene and his young wife in the early 1790s. The Frick is at Fifth Avenue at East 70th Street in New York.

Bert Coules has reported on the auction (at Phillip's of London, on July 11) of items from the estate of the late Peter Cushing. One of them was a deerstalker "worn by Cushing in the role of Sherlock Holmes" (estimated at L30) that brought L1,200. A Cox Moore red smoking jacket (also worn in the role) sold for L480, and a Berman green tweed suit (ditto) for L440, and a small collection of pipes and smoking accessories (ditto) for L950. And a collection of film and television scripts annotated by Cushing (including "The Masks of Death" and "The Abbot's Cry") brought L1,250.

Jul 96 #6 The Quality Paperback Book Club now offers a ten-volume uniform Sherlock Holmes set for \$34.95 (that's the nine volumes of the Canon, plus their 96-page "guide to the lives of the great detective and his creator"); the club is for members only, but it's easy to join: the address is Camp Hill, PA 17011-9902.

The summer 1996 issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal has arrived, with the usual fine assortment of interesting material, including Catherine Cooke's enthusiastic evaluation of Michael Harrison's IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1958) as the first of a series on "The Classics Reassessed", and Nicholas Utechin's announcement that next month the BBC will issue a videocassette with two shows ("The Speckled Band" and "The Illustrious Client") from the 1960s television series starring Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock (the cassette will be in the British PAL format, and so far there's no word of plans for a release in the American NTSC format). The SHJ is published two times a year, and a subscription costs \$21.00 to the U.S. (different prices for other countries); checks payable to the society, and you should

write to Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England.

The United States certainly wasn't the only country to honor the Year of the Rat on stamps (Mar 96 #1); there are two rats on a handsome souvenir sheet from Australia (for Christmas Island, which of course is closer to Sumatra).

William E. Butler's SHERLOCKIAN BOOKPLATES (Jul 92 #3) still is available from its publisher (Silent Books, Boxworth End, Swavesey, Cambridge CB4 5RA, England) for L9.95 postpaid. The 57-page booklet does a fine job of showing a wide variety of bookplates created for and by many Sherlockians from Vincent Starrett and Edgar W. Smith to more recent times.

The South Atlantic Chronicle (The Journal of the St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society), and this year it published Michael D. Mueller's three-part article on "The Saint Helena Hypothesis". He explores the Sherlockian and philatelic connections of four well-known men: Darwin, Napoleon, Halley, and Newton (three of them actually visited the island, and are shown on its stamps, and of course St. Helena is mentioned in the Canon). The set of three issues is available (\$10.00 postpaid) from the author at 3201 Wisconsin Avenue NW #401, Washington, DC 20016-3802.

Jerry Wachs reports that John English Gifts Ltd. (6 Princes Arcade, Piccadilly, London W1Y 6DS, England) have a sales list of Sherlockian figures, including the Bossons wall sculptures, Robert Harrop's Country Companions (the Holmes and Watson dogs), Cloudside figures, and chess sets.

John W. Chancellor died on July 12. He began his career in journalism in 1948, moving to television in 1950, and gained national attention with his on-the-scene coverage of the school-integration struggle in Little Rock in 1957; he had become one of America's most highly-regarded television journalists when he retired in 1993, and he often referred to the Canon during his broadcasts (during the 1992 presidential campaign he called Bush and Baker "the Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson of the Republican Party")

Jul 96 #7 There's still time to register for Bouchercon 27 (in St. Paul, Oct. 10-13); I've not heard about any Sherlockian programming, but Douglas Greene's JOHN DICKSON CARR: THE MAN WHO EXPLAINED MIRACLES has been nominated for an Anthony in the "best critical work" category. Bouchercon is the world mystery convention, named in honor of Anthony Boucher; additional information is available from Bouchercon 27, 4400 Upton Avenue South #408, Minneapolis, MN 55410 <bcon27@winternet.com>.

What place, mentioned in the Canon, was a city when Conan Doyle was there, but isn't now? I'll give the answer on the next page.

Ev Herzog has forwarded an interesting article in the New York Press (Jan. 3) about Richard B. Shull -- well, it's really about lost kingdoms, such as the Kingdom of Araucania and Patagonia, which briefly existed more than a century ago in what is now Chile. But there's still a Prince Phillippe, who lives in France, and a North American Araucania Royalist Society, of which Shull is director; their newsletter is called The Steel Crown (his address is 400 West 43rd Street #33-A, New York, NY 10036-6301) and they have a web site <<http://www.pitt.edu/~figtree/kap.html>>. He also has been knighted by the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, and the Orthodox Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and he is a member of the Society of the Colonial Wars, the Veterans Corps of Artillery, the Military Society of the War of 1812, the Colonial Order of the Acorn, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Honorary Order of Kentucky Colonels, Washington Irving's St. Nicholas Society, and the Dutch Treat Club. Not mentioned in the article is the Baker Street Irregulars (in which his Investiture is "An Actor and a Rare One"). When you're in New York you can see him on stage in the musical "Victor/Victoria" at the Marquis Theatre.

Russ Geoffrey reports that the latest catalog from What on Earth has hand-cast stone busts (also useful as bookends) of Holmes and Watson at \$54.95 each plus shipping; 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087-2351 (800-945-2552). And the new catalog from Cash's of Ireland has a painted resin Sherlockian chess set for \$295.00 plus shipping; Box 158, Plainview, NY 11803 (800-223-8100).

Paul Martin notes that a yet another hand-decorated Sherlockian chess set is available from British Exports Ltd., Box 11240, Merrillville, IN 46411; \$450.00. Is anyone keeping count of how many different Sherlockian chess sets there are?

Christopher Roden reports that next month the Calabash Press will publish THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE MUSGRAVE RITUAL, with essays on the story by Sherlockians and Doyleans. The 167-page book will be available in cloth (\$33.00 by air, \$29.00 by surface) and paper (\$22.50 by air, \$19.50 by surface) and the address is Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, CH4 0JG, England.

The Bull Terrier Club of Boston University is again planning an excursion to a polo match (USA vs. Argentina) at Glen Farm in Portsmouth, R.I., on Sept. 7. Polo is mentioned in the Canon, of course, and details about the event are available from Scott Monty, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127-4342 <wsmonty@bu.edu>.

Jul 96 #8 Philip J. Attwell reports that Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding will star in "Move Over Moriarty" (they play all the roles, in fact) at The Castle in Wellingborough on Nov. 20. The play is a comedy, and the duo has had high praise from The Independent. The Castle's address is Castle Way, Wellingborough, Northants. NN8 1XA, England (01933-270-007).

The Commonwealth of Dominica has just issued a sheetlet of nine stamps honoring "Legendary Sleuths of the Silver Screen", and one of those legendary sleuths is Sherlock Holmes, as portrayed by Basil Rathbone. The others are Sam Spade (Humphrey Bogart), James Bond (Sean Connery), Dick Tracy (Warren Beatty), Charlie Chan (Sidney Toler), The Thin Man (William Powell), Inspector Clouseau (Peter Sellers), Philip Marlowe (Robert Mitchum), and Inspector Poirot (Peter Ustinov); there's also a separate souvenir sheet for Miss Marple (Margaret Rutherford). And there is no need to travel to the windward Islands to get the Sherlock Holmes stamp: Benton Wood has a limited supply of the nine-stamp sheetlets, priced at \$7.50 postpaid.

Ben's address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222-0740. And (for those who are not philatelists) Ben also offers a fine sales list for the Pleasant Places of Florida's "Super Sherlockian Sale" of books, videocassettes, and other Sherlockiana.

Gary Thaden has passed on a copy of the summer issue America Brews News, a newsletter for people who brew their own beer. The company offers recipe kits (with ingredients and instructions) for Sherlock's Bitter (\$20.95) and Watson's Cream Stout (\$21.65); shipping extra. The address is 9925 Lyndale Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55438 (800-200-3647) <abrews@aol.com>.

What place, mentioned in the Canon, was a city when Conan Doyle was there, but isn't now? Brooklyn (mentioned in "The Red Circle") was a city when he was there during his lecture tour in 1894; it was annexed into the city of New York in 1898, and now is a borough. If you want to try the question on non-Sherlockians: name a city in the United States that once had a population more than a million, and no longer exists.

The latest issue of the Reichenbachian Cliff-Notes, edited by Kendall Pagan and published occasionally by The Reichenbach Cliff-Divers, has the usual

assortment of skewed Sherlockiana, including a report on Juan Melondirge's plans for IRREGULAR MEMORIES OF 1996 and its supplements JOE BOB'S IRREGULAR MAMMIES OF 1996 and IRREGULAR MUMMIES OF 1996. A few copies still are available from the Lascarian Press, 4010 North Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614 (\$1.00 postpaid).

Paula M. Brown has more information on the memorial to Jeremy Brett at the Holiday Inn (Union Square) in San Francisco on Sept. 14-15; she has blocked rooms at the Holiday Inn and at the nearby (and less expensive) Hotel Rex, and is lining up speakers and other items for the agenda. Her address is 40787 Canyon Heights Drive, Fremont, CA 94539 <vgtd52b@prodigy.com>.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Aug 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Claudette Colbert died on July 30. She started her film career in "Love O' Mike" (1927), and won an Academy Award as best actress in "It Happened One Night" (1934), and became one of the most-admired stars in Hollywood; when she was awarded a Kennedy Center Honor in 1989, Gregory Peck introduced her as the "best thing we've gotten from France since the Statue of Liberty." She also acted on stage (including an appearance with Rex Harrison and Jeremy Brett in "Aren't We All" in 1985). And if you have a chance to see her with James Stewart in the splendid comedy "It's a Wonderful World" (1939), don't miss it: in one scene Colbert asks Stewart, "Couldn't you just think of me as if I were Sherlock Holmes?" And he replies, "OK, have it your own way. You're Sherlock Holmes. Here's your pipe."

Sorry about that: the author of the fine Amelia Peabody Emerson mysteries (Jul 96 #2) is Elizabeth Peters (a pseudonym used by Barbara Mertz). Ellis Peters (a pseudonym used by Edith Pargeter) wrote about Brother Cadfael and others. And of course there is Ludovic Peters (a pseudonym used by Peter Ludwig Brent), who wrote about Ian Firth. It may well be that there are no mysteries written by someone who really is named Peters. Or perhaps someone named Peters is writing mysteries, but has wisely chosen a pseudonym.

"A Japanese museum has launched a bizarre search for bricks from buildings featured in the adventures of Sherlock Holmes," according to a story in The Guardian (July 5, 1996), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. Not so bizarre, in fact: the World Brick Museum in Maizaru is preparing for an exhibition of British building bricks, and has targeted New Scotland Yard, Covent Garden, the Royal Albert Hall, and St. Pancras Station. The Guardian also reports that Sherlock Holmes was created when Arthur Conan Doyle lived in Portsmouth, "where there is concern at the methods that may be used by Japanese tourists to obtain the bricks."

Also at hand from Jon are articles from Yorkshire about the start of filming on "The Golden Afternoon" (Jan 96 #7), the film about the two girls who created the Cottingley fairies and fooled Conan Doyle and many others. The film is budgeted at L9 million, and will star Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Houdini. The film has a new title ("Illumination"), and is scheduled for release next spring. Houdini? well, according to the film-makers, Houdini and Conan Doyle "were friends who famously fell out over the authenticity of the pictures" of the fairies. Not true, but of course two big names are better than one.

Is anyone planning a visit to Moscow? Does anyone know anyone who is planning a trip to Moscow? I still need to find someone who can retrieve some Sherlockian videocassettes that I am reluctant to entrust to the Russian mail system. Please let me know if you can help.

The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with the last installment of Jeremy Brett's conversations with David Stuart Davies and Jessie Lilley. a fine discussion of film and television versions of "Laura" (it's not all

that easy to discuss a television program when neither script nor tape have survived), and much more. Scarlet Street is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year), and the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

Aug 96 #2 Herman Herst Jr. (Box 1583, Boca Raton, FL 33429) distributed copies of his illustrated report on the world's first Christmas card at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1981, and it is available from him again for \$2.00 and a #10 55c SASE. Why would the story of an 1840 Christmas card be of interest to Sherlockian? It was designed by Richard Doyle, uncle of Arthur Conan Doyle.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will convene on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the Cadillac Ranch in Denver, during the annual meeting of the Geological Association of America. Sherlockians and geologists are welcome to join in honoring the world's first forensic geologist; the restaurant is in Larimer Square (1400 Larimer Street), and the festivities will begin with cocktails at 7:00 and continue with dinner at 8:00; the dinner will cost \$28.95 (with tax and tip included), and a choice of three entrees (prime rib, salmon, or chicken). It would be helpful (although it's not absolutely necessary) if you let me know in advance if you will attend the gathering.

The current issue of Anglofile reports that Raymond Benson will be the new author of additions to the James Bond saga, following in the footsteps of John Gardner (who "has tired of the 007 writing chores after 14 novels and two novelizations of Bond movies"); this may mean that Gardner will at long last have time to write the third novel in his "Moriarty" trilogy. And we will see some Sherlockian actors in non-Sherlockian roles: Christopher Lee will play Lucas De Beaumanoir in a BBC/A&E six-hour mini-series based on Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe", and Michael Caine will star as Capt. Nemo in an ABC-TV mini-series "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea". Anglofile (a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment) costs \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

Two of Val Andrews' British pastiches were on the shelves at a local Barnes & Noble, and presumably are available elsewhere; Andrews is a knowledgeable magician, and it shows. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE EGYPTIAN HALL ADVENTURE (London: Breese Books, 1993, 112 pp., \$9.00) has Holmes and Watson involved with J. N. Maskelyne in 1898; SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HOUDINI BIRTHRIGHT was published in 1995 and also costs \$9.00 (Sep 95 #5).

"The Sherlock Holmes Museum (221B Baker Street, London NW1 6XE, England)" is what I gave as the address last month (Jul 96 #1), and of course some readers were quick to wonder whether the Museum had moved from 239 to 221 (or had persuaded the Royal Mail to give the 221 address to the Museum). No. But: as far as I know, a letter addressed to the Museum at 221b will be delivered to the Museum at 239, and a letter sent to Sherlock Holmes at 221b will be delivered to his secretary at Abbey House (since the carriers in England pay attention, which cannot always be said of carriers here).

A correspondent in England reports that John Aidiniantz is now allowed out of jail each day, but must return to the nick in Richmond for the night. Aidiniantz, formerly the proprietor of The Sherlock Holmes Museum, was convicted on charges of obtaining £1.2 million by deception (in this case it multiple mortgages on the same properties), and was fined £30,000 in costs and jailed for three years in Jan. 1995; the British legal system allows one-third off for good behavior, so he's likely to be paroled soon. Mrs. Grace Riley, currently the Museum's proprietor, is his mother.

Aug 96 #3 Don't delay too long: Malice Domestic IX will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda on May 2-4, 1997, but registration is likely to close in October (attendance is limited to 700); Malice Domestic is a convention for fans of mysteries of manners, and this year's gathering was nicely done. Details are available from Malice Domestic, Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824-1137 <malice@erols.com> <<http://www.erols.com/malice>>.

The Patchwork Playhouse performed Catherine Baker's dramatizations of four Sherlock Holmes stories in 1994-95, and two more plays have been scheduled: "The Noble Bridegroom" (Oct. 3-19, 1996) and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" (Mar. 13-Apr. 5, 1997). The box-office address is: 711 East Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072 (800-477-7252).

Most if not all of the volumes in the "Franklin Library of Mystery Masterpieces" are now on the bargain tables at Barnes & Noble at \$4.98 each, and one of them is the handsome GREAT CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 1987 (at \$19.95); it has 19 stories, and five excellent illustrations by Mitchell Hooks, and a rear section reprinting many of Julian Wolff's fine Sherlockian maps. You can identify the discount variant on the title-page verso, which no longer states that Magico Magazine owns the copyright for the maps (which apparently were taken from the Magico reprint of Julian's THE SHERLOCKIAN ATLAS).

The Pequod Press presses on, with Dr. Fatso's report on Turlock Loams's encounter with the Rat Girl, Bulldog Drumstick, three sinister rodents, and their mysterious bonny blue eggs. THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE RODENTS is available (hand-crafted as always) from Fatso's literary agent John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707: \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

Mark Frost's Conan Doyle pastiche THE SIX MESSIAHS was issued on audiocassettes last year (Mar 95 #1); the six-hour audio version (abridged with the approval of the author) is read on four cassettes by David Warner with fine voice and style (Dove Audio, \$24.95).

Syd Goldberg forwarded an item from the July 7 issue of the N.Y. Post: Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York, was in London scouting for a location for the British sister bookstore he hopes to open later this year. And in September he will spend a month as "the Alistair Cooke of mystery" when he does the introductions for 59 mystery classics on the Turner Classic Movie channel.

An Orthodox rabbi is found shot to death in his study in the synagogue, in Batya Swift Yasgur's nice short story "Kaddish" in EQMM (Sept.-Oct. 1996); there's a copy of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES among the books on his desk, and there's good reason for that.

Further to the earlier review of the eight audiocassettes from Brilliance Audio starring Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce (Jun 96 #1), Ken Greenwald notes that he has just finished recording the introductions for the next four cassettes (the introductions include a dramatic encounter between Mycroft and Moriarty). There will be two more cassettes, for a series total of 16, and there's a possibility of a new series of 20 cassettes with 40 programs from 1947-1949, starring John Stanley as Sherlock Holmes.

Aug 96 #4 Jessica Mitford died on July 23. Time magazine dubbed her the "Queen of Muckrakers" when she wrote her expose of the funeral industry in THE AMERICAN WAY OF DEATH (1963), and in her long career as a writer she also attacked the Famous Writers School, overpriced restaurants, and the American prison system. And when her how-I-did-it book POISON PENMANSHIP was published in 1979, she happily posed in deerstalker and cape in advertisements in the N.Y. Times and other papers.

Eddie Maguire's A DEATH AT THE CRICKET (Bridgwater: Big House Books, 1996) follows in the footsteps of last year's THE IRISH PROFESSOR (Sep 95 #2); the new pastiche takes Holmes and Watson to Sussex for a cricket match and a murder mystery. The 30-page pamphlet costs \$6.50 postpaid from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England.

The sixth issue of The Shoso-in Bulletin has arrived from The Men with the Twisted Konjo, with 162 pages (in English) of articles, pastiches, poetry, and illustrations by contributors from Japan and eight other nations. The journal is edited by Yuichi Hirayama, and is truly an international effort

(don't neglect the delightful Japanese cover artwork, which isn't). \$12.00 postpaid (to United States and Canada) from Jennie C. Paton, 206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458; or £7.50 postpaid (to Britain and Europe) from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, W. Yorks. LS18 4BR, England. Checks in U.S. dollars to Jennie; checks in sterling to John (or any other nation's currency, John notes).

One of the nice things about modern technology is that it allows Sherlockian (and other) authors access to broader audiences than is possible with ink-on-paper publication. John Hall's monograph 140 DIFFERENT VARIETIES (on the use of tobacco in the Canon) was published as pamphlet in 1994 by the Northern Musgraves, and can now be read on the world wide web at the Pipe Digest home page at <<http://www.pipes.org>>.

Luci Zahray kindly forwarded an excerpt from the list of items available at Mark Hime's booth at the New York International Antiquarian Book Fair last April: a fine, bright copy of the first edition of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$2,250); one of the 147 sets of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (1953) with Conan Doyle's signature (\$2,750); and the almost-complete manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" (\$525,000). They may still be available; you can write to Biblioctopus, 2142 Century Park Lane, Century City, CA 90067.

Pepper & Stern are offering books from the library of Nigel Bruce, including his copies of the first editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1892) and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894), at \$6,500 for the set. More reasonable, perhaps, is his wife Bunny's signed copy of THE BEDSIDE BOOK OF FAMOUS BRITISH STORIES (1940), with "The Speckled Band", at \$150. Pepper & Stern's address is 1980 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 <psbookwest@aol.com>.

THE KINGS' TALES, by Phillip and Robert King (London: B. T. Batsford, 1994; 142 pp.), is a collection of bridge-problem pastiches, done in the styles of authors such as Chandler, Runyon, Wodehouse, Asimov, Kafka, and Coward, and one of them is "A Study in Sherlock". \$20.95 postpaid from Trafalgar Square, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, VT 05053 (800-423-4525).

Aug 96 #5 The BBC has ended its educational daytime programs on Radio 3 FM, but continues to broadcast School Radio programs at night (when teachers can make off-the-air recordings for later use). And "Music Workshop" will offer "Sherlock Holmes and the Rogues Gallery" at 3:00-3:20 am Fridays from Sept. 20 to Nov. 29 ("Holmes and Watson unravel a mystery, set in Victorian London, as we do a spot of musical detection; the musical focus is pitch and structure"). BBC Educational Publishing (P.O. Box 234, Wetherby, West Yorks. LS23 7EU, England) mentions teacher's notes, radio tapes, pupils' booklets, and music workshop cassettes in the catalog covering this series and many others on BBC radio and television.

The Conan Doyles liked Mercedes-Benz cars: Sir Arthur owned one, and his sons Denis and Adrian owned and raced four of them. One of the sons' cars is preserved in the collection at the Mercedes-Benz Museum in Stuttgart, and that's where another one was sold in April at an auction conducted by Brooks of London. Their 1934-35 7.1-litre supercharged Mercedes-Benz type 'SSK' two-seat competition Spyder rated four full pages in the auction catalog, with photographs of the car as it looks now, and when they raced it in England and Ireland. And there is some evidence that when the car was built for Denis and Adrian, Mercedes-Benz used the engine from Sir Arthur's older and more sedate car. Adrian sold the car in 1948, and it has been in the hands of collectors ever since; it was fully restored in 1990, and then was driven in rallies in England and Europe. The catalog described the car as "an immediately usable, reliable, and spectacular thoroughbred mount, ideal for a full programme of vintage motor sporting events of all kinds." And it sold for 1.2 million deutschmarks (about \$813,600).

The Montague Street Lodgers of Brooklyn celebrated their tenth anniversary last

year, and commemorated the event with a souvenir magnifying glass (5.25" long) \$7.00 postpaid from Peter Crupe (checks payable to him, please), at 1533 64th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219-5709.

Masamichi Higurashi has helped to make some American pastiches available in Japan, providing translations for Edward B. Hanna's THE WHITECHAPEL HORRORS in two volumes (Tokyo: Fusosha, 1996; 336/312 pp., Y560/Y540), and Randall Collins' THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S RING (Tokyo: Kawade Shobo Shinsha, 1996); 272 pp., Y700). Masamichi also has translated four stories [RedH/Twis/Blue/Silv] for HOLMES THE GREAT DETECTIVE (Tokyo: Kodansha, 1996; 224 pp., Y560) in a children's series; the book has attractive illustrations by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki".

For Jeremy Brett fans: Ashley Lynn Decker reports that the episode of "The Incredible Hulk" on the Sci-Fi Channel on Sept. 16 will be "Of Guilt, Models and Murders" (with Brett in the cast).

Collectors seeking specific old, used, and rare books have long relied on book-search firms, and now there's an electronic equivalent on the world wide web at <<http://www.bibliofind>>. Dealers post what they have in the data base, and you can run a search on-line (and if you don't find what you're looking for, you can put a want-list on file).

Aug 96 #6 CSA Telltapes has issued another set of Sherlockian audiocassettes: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE TWO has two cassettes with three stories ("The Cardboard Box", "The Man with the Twisted Lip", and "The Bruce-Partington Plans") read by Edward Hardwicke, who as always does a splendid job with the text and voices; L9.00 postpaid, from CSA Telltapes, 101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England. SIX GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has the earlier and the current cassettes, at L14.00 postpaid. The cassettes also are available in stores in the United States at \$12.00/\$19.95; the distributor is Cimino Publishing, Box 174, Carle Place, NY 11514; \$14.00/\$22.95 postpaid.

Robert C. Hess (559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718) offers a new sales list, with figurines, statues, programs, posters, lobby cards, books, magazines, and other Sherlockiana.

Sonia Fetherston reports that the new film "A Very Brady Sequel" has Jesse Lee (Bobby Brady) with deerstalker and magnifying glass while he searches for Cindy's missing Kitty Carry-All doll (which also wears a deerstalker). The film is a sequel to "The Brady Bunch Movie" (1995), which of course was a sequel to the television sit-com series "The Brady Bunch" (1969-1974). I've not yet heard any rumors of a television series sequel to the films.

And Susan Dahlinger reports that in the new film "The Island of Dr. Moreau" Val Kilmer (Douglas) explains the "dog in the night-time" Sherlockism to a group of Moreau's genetic "children".

William Seil has reported that his pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TITANIC TRAGEDY is available for \$14.95 (postage extra) from Breese Books, 164 Kensington Park Road, London W11 2ER, England (credit-card orders accepted). According to Bill, the 256-page book also is carried by some of the mystery and other bookshops in the United States.

Enola Stewart (Gravesend Books, Box 235 Pocono Pines, PA 18350) has issued a new catalog offering lots of rare, unusual, and interesting Sherlockiana and other material, much of it from the collection of Julian Wolff, who was for many years the leader of The Baker Street Irregulars, and editor of The Baker Street Journal.

John Farrell has discovered an intriguing CD issued by Channel Classics in 1995: "Modern Times: Dutch Jewish Composers 1928-1943" (CCS 7995); the con-

tents include "Deux Homages" for solo piano by Leo Smit, and one of them is "a Sherlock Holmes" (a Charleston written in 1928).

Forecast for September: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (a new pastiche by Larry Millett) from Viking/Penguin, \$22.95; THE LOST WORLD (the sequel to Michael Crichton's JURASSIC PARK) in paperback from Ballantine, \$7.99; THE LIST OF 7 (the Conan Doyle pastiche by Mark Frost) reissued in paperback from Avon, \$5.99. And David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (Calabash Press, 192 pp., \$19.99) will have its launch party at Crime in Store in London on Oct. 23.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Sep 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" has returned. Leslie Bricusse was hired by MGM to write a new score for a film version of the musical "Baker Street" (1964), but the film was never produced, and Bricusse eventually used his songs in "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988), which received lukewarm reviews in London and the provinces. And "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" appears from the program to be a restaging of the musical; the new version was produced at the Bristol Old Vic in Mar. 1993 (but not reported by any local Sherlockians), and then in May 1996 at the Little Theatre in Gateshead (noted in a newspaper article recently forwarded by Jon Lellenberg). Samuel French Ltd., is handling licensing for amateur productions.

The August Derleth Society commemorated the 25th anniversary of Derleth's death last June in Sauk City, with a tour of his home "Place of Hawks" and a visit to his grave, according to an article in the local paper, at hand from George Vanderburgh. Peter Ruber, one of Derleth's editors, noted that "Derleth's genius was in storytelling, whether he wrote about the people of his home town or detective stories or stories of the macabre and the supernatural." Some of those detective stories will be found in the Solar Pons saga, of course. Membership in the society (including the quarterly newsletter) costs \$10.00 a year; Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583.

Plan ahead: Theatre Aquarius will present 19 performances of Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Hamilton, Ont., on Feb. 12-Mar. 1, 1997; the box-office address is 190 King William Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1A8, Canada (800-465-7529).

The summer 1996 issue of the Amherst alumni magazine has an amusing item about Henry Ward Beecher, who in addition to being admired by Watson was an Amherst graduate (1834) and author of the novel NORWOOD, "of which he characteristically remarked, 'People used to say that I had had a hand in [my sister's] writing of UNCLE TOM'S CABIN, but when NORWOOD was published I heard no more talk of this kind.'"

The Friends of Bogie's (Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, and Paul Singleton) have been delighting Sherlockian audiences for a dozen years with inspired pastiches and parodies (such as a retelling of some of the Canonical tales in the styles of Shakespeare, Pinter, Joyce, Chandler, and Milne), and you can hear and enjoy their humor on five audiocassettes (THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET, THE FOB'S RETURN TO BAKER STREET, THE ADVENTURES OF THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET, THE MEMOIRS OF THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET, and THE CASEBOOK OF THE FOB'S ON BAKER STREET), each also with a poetic account of one of the cases by Baker Street bard Henry W. Enberg. The cassettes cost \$8.95 each (or \$35.00 for all five) plus \$2.00 shipping per order, from Andrew Joffe, 340 East 63rd Street, New York, NY 10021.

Christopher Morley turns up in unexpected places: USAir had "Kitty Foyle" (1940) as one of the in-flight movies (well, they're in-flight television now) on trans-Atlantic and trans-continental flights in July. And in the N.Y. Times Magazine (Aug. 4): Charles Harrington Elster reports in his "On

Language" column that Morley minted the word "infracaninophile" (a champion of the underdog) in his preface to THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (1930).

Sep 96 #2 One of the most delightful of the Sherlockian bibliohoxes is THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF BEE CULTURE: WITH SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE SEGREGATION OF THE QUEEN, by Sherlock Holmes (London: Methuen & Co., 1911), actually published by Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck in an edition so limited that the few fortunate recipients were warned never to reveal the source of the rarity. And the book was real: the title page was reproduced in the Sept. 1966 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and the book is cited in THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES, and Julian Wolff's copy was advertised by Enola Stewart in 1993. Enola, with help from British bee-books specialists Betty and Karl Showler, eventually was able to find the source of Schenck's clever forgery: Kenneth K. Clark's handbook on BEEKEEPING (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1951), a post-war paperback that Schenck had bound in cloth after substituting a new title-page. Copies of Clark's book turn up from time to time, and the Showlers now offer THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK: a carefully crafted box containing Clark's BEEKEEPING and a 28-page pamphlet with a detailed discussion of the affair. \$60.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please) from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England. But note: there's a waiting list, with orders filled as more copies of Clark's book turn up.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: VICTORIAN SLEUTH TO MODERN HERO was the title of a fine conference held at Bennington College in Vermont in June 1994, and it is the title of a collection of papers presented at the conference, edited by Charles A. Putney, Sally Sugarman, and Joseph A. Cutshall King, members of The Baker Street Breakfast Club (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 1996; 356 pp., \$34.50); \$37.50 postpaid from the publisher, 4720 Boston Way, Lanham, MD 20706 (800-462-6420).

Video-taper alert: the latest issue of Anglofile reports that "Nightmare! The Birth of Victorian Horror" will air on A&E cable on Oct. 28-31 (and on BBC-1, probably); this is a four-part mini-series with Christopher Frayling as host, examining Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein", Bram Stoker's "Dracula", Robert Louis Stevenson's "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (actors impersonating Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson were filmed in Sept. 1995 at the Links Hotel in West Runton, and John Nettles plays Sherlock Holmes). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

The Gainesville Children's Theatre will perform Suzan L. Zeder's play "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) at the Pearce Auditorium on the Brenau University Campus in Gainesville, Ga. on Oct. 11-12 (six school performances on Oct. 8-10 have already been sold out). The box-office address is Box 2267, Gainesville, GA 30503 (770-503-1118).

Further to the mention of IMAGES OF AMERICA: POTTSVILLE (Jul 96 #5), Bruce Aikin notes that IMAGES OF AMERICA: NIAGARA FALLS, by Daniel M. Dumych (Dover: Arcadia Publishing, 1996; \$16.99) also has fine period photographs of a place mentioned in two Sherlock Holmes stories ("A Study in Scarlet" and "The Cardboard Box"); the publisher's address is One Washington Center, Dover, NH 03820. There is a person named in Canon who visited Niagara Falls many times, and was famous for what he did there. Who was he? and what did he do there? I'll give the answer on the next page.

Sep 96 #3 Victoria Gill has forwarded an item from the Toronto Globe and Mail (Aug. 20): filming has started in Winnipeg on a 13-episode children's mystery series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" (with Meredith Henderson as Shirley Holmes, the 12-year-old great grandniece of Sherlock Holmes); like her ancestor, Shirley is brilliant and eccentric and wants to become the world's greatest detective. The 30-minute series will air next year on YTV cable in Canada.

Queen Victoria was discussing the Diamond Jubilee with the Bishop of Winchester, and she asked him, "From what point did you see the procession?" And then, recollecting, she said, "Oh! you were on the steps of St. Paul's. I was unfortunate -- I had a very bad place and saw nothing." That's only one of the stories in THE JUBILEE YEARS 1887-1897, compiled by Roger Hudson and published by The Folio Society to celebrate its own 50th anniversary. It's lavishly illustrated, and costs \$57.00, and available only to members of the Society (Box 694, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-353-0700), but it will be found in used-book shops eventually, and it looks like a grand view of the world of Sherlock Holmes.

Christopher Roden reports that the Calabash Press will publish collections of fine articles from Baker Street Miscellanea, Canadian Holmes, and wheelwrightings within the next eighteen months, and that all major articles in the journals will be reprinted in the book. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London also is preparing to publish a similar volume of articles reprinted from The Sherlock Holmes Journal, so the next two years will be banner ones for "best of" books.

Sorry about that: I gave an incorrect world wide web address for the electronic equivalent of a book-search firm (Aug 96 #6). The correct address is <<http://www.bibliofind.com>>.

Thomas M. McDade ("The Dancing Men") died on Mar. 2. He was an FBI agent in the 1930s, in the days when the G-Men battled Public Enemies, and then became an attorney and a writer. He won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for his book THE ANNALS OF MURDER, and his article on "Sherlock Holmes and the F.B.I." appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine in 1957 (the same year in which he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars).

The Bull-Terrier Club of Boston University returned to Newport, R.I., on Sept. 7 for its second annual polo outing, and enjoyed a thoroughly rainy afternoon (thanks to Hurricane Fran) rather than a polo match. A revised edition of their (now 20-page) booklet that explores the history of this Canonical sport is available for \$2.50 postpaid from W. Scott Monty, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127-4342.

Who visited Niagara Falls many times, and was famous for what he did there? Blondin (mentioned in "The Sign of the Four"). Jean Francois Gravelet was a French acrobat who performed as Blondin and won the title "Hero of Niagara" when he crossed the Falls on a tightrope many times in 1859 and 1860. If you would like to know more about him, I recommend "Blondin, Prince of Manila" in Vincent Starrett's BOOKMAN'S HOLIDAY: THE PRIVATE SATISFACTIONS OF AN INCURABLE COLLECTOR (New York: Random House, 1942).

Sep 96 #4 Planning continues for the "Devil's Foot Congress" in Guildford (near Perth) in Western Australia on Oct. 4-6, 1997, should you need a good excuse for a trip to the Antipodes. Douglas Sutherland-Bruce (P.O. Box 74, Sawyers Valley, W.A. 6074, Australia) will be happy to send more information about plans for the festivities.

Cadds Printing has issued THE SHERLOCK HOLMES DIARY 1997, with page size 6 x 8.25". and a page for each week, with small illustrations (most by Paget) and Canonical dates and quotes. Available from the publisher (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England) for \$14.00 postpaid (checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please); the Filofax version is \$13.00 postpaid.

Kathleen Zacharias (Tribute Portrait Studio, Box 1153, Lawrence, KS 66044) offers an attractive full-color tribute to Jeremy Brett on a hockey shirt (XL); \$18.00 postpaid.

"Mr. Milne pooh-poohs my fears...." is an unexpected bit of wordplay noted by Mary Lee Herrick in a posting to the Gaslight electronic mailing list -- and the wordplay certainly

is unexpected from an author who hadn't had a chance to read A. A. Milne's WINNIE THE POOH. The author was Arthur Conan Doyle, in "The Captain of the Pole-Star" (1883).

The current catalog from Seventh Avenue (1112 Seventh Avenue, Monroe, WI 53566-1364) has a Sherlockian photograph on the front cover (but nothing Sherlockian in the catalog).

David Pearson notes that Far-Out Flix (404 Cooper Road, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) offers John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965) on a cassette for \$20.00 plus \$4.00 shipping (much less than the \$69.99 asked by other companies). Far-Out Flix also offers "The Deadly Bees" (1967), with screenplay by Robert Bloch based on H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY; the only problem is that Mr. Mycroft doesn't appear in the film (but he was in Bloch's script -- Anthony Marriott was brought in to "juice up" the script and Bloch once told me that he had never seen his "deformed offspring"). And Movies Unlimited (6736 Castor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149; 800-523-0823) offers "Movie Madness Mystery" at \$19.99; this is the L.A. Connection version of Basil Rathbone's "The woman in Green" with new dialogue supplied by parodists.

Richard Lancelyn Green's CONAN DOYLE OF UPPER WIMPOLE STREET (Aug 94 #6) is a well-researched 20-page booklet issued to commemorate the unveiling of a plaque at Conan Doyle's surgery in London, and it's still available (\$7.00 postpaid) from The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, at Ashcroft, 2 Abbotsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester, CH4 0JG, England); \$7.00 postpaid.

"Currently on a tour of South America, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, thought of an apt gift for one of his hosts, the Argentinian Foreign Minister. The pair went to visit the Iguazu Falls on the border between Argentina and Brazil on Saturday, and afterwards Rifkind handed over a copy of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, carefully marking the famous fight scene between the detective and Moriarty at the Reichenbach Fall in Switzerland." From the [London] Times, Apr. 15, 1996.

Sep 96 #5 Jim Vogelsang reports that the "Wishbone: A Classic Hero!" wall calendar for 1997 has wishbone (the star of the imaginative PBS children's television series) in Sherlockian costume at Sept. 1997 (Landmark Calendars, \$10.99); and a new stuffed-toy wishbone in Sherlockian costume, in a box designed as a stage, from Equity Toys (\$19.99 at Toys R Us, and likely at other toy stores). And Jennie Paton reports that wishbone is a wendy's (that's the fast-food chain), as part of their kid's meal motif, with one of the prizes being a little "photo book" with one page for "The Slobbery Hound" and a stick-on Sherlockian costume for wishbone.

Reported by Ralph Hall: a Sherlockian word search in the Oct. 1996 issue of Games. Michael Mallory's pastiche "The Adventure of the Damsel in Grey" (told by Watson's wife Amelia) in the summer 1996 issue of Murderous Intent (Box 5947, Vancouver, WA 98668; \$5.00). STAR IN YOUR OWN ADVENTURE: THE HAUNTED SCHOOL, written by Caroline Rose, illustrations by Mike Dorey (Baron's, \$14.95); a children's book that comes in a plastic kit with a 35mm camera (and a Sherlockian illustration on the cover). The NATE THE GREAT series by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Rosalind Weinman have been reissued by Bantam Doubleday Dell (\$3.99) in new printings with covers that differ from the earlier printings.

Vincent Bugliosi won 105 of 106 felony jury trials will at the Los Angeles district attorney's office (Charles Manson was one of the many criminals he helped to convict), and wrote the recent best-seller OUTRAGE: THE FIVE REASONS WHY O.J. SIMPSON GOT AWAY WITH MURDER, and (according to the Sept. 16 issue of People), his inquisitive part-Siamese cat is named Sherlock.

Larry Millett's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (New York: Viking, 1996; 318 pp., \$22.95) is yet another long-lost manuscript, found in a safe hidden in the wall of the James J. Hill mansion in St. Paul; Hill was a 19th-

century railroad magnate who brought Holmes and Watson to Minnesota to help save the Great North Railway from an insane arsonist. Holmes becomes an expert on American railroads, and on the logging industry, and faces dire perils, and manages to save the railroad.

221B BAKER STREET: THE MASTER DETECTIVE GAME is now available in a pocket-size version from by Gibsons Games (L14.95 in the catalog from The Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company, 230 Baker Street, London NW1 5RT, England); the board game was designed by Antler Productions for the John N. Hansen Co. in 1977, and appeared in a video version in 1987, and was issued full-size in England in 1992.

Further to earlier reports (Jan 96 #7 and Aug 96 #1) on the new film "Illumination" (also known as "One Golden Afternoon"), now in production with Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel, Mel Gibson has been added to the cast in a small role as the father of the two girls who created the Cottingley fairies and fooled Conan Doyle and many others. And articles at hand from Mel Hughes report that shooting has started in Britain on "Photographing Fairies" (adapted from Steve Szilagyi's book); Conan Doyle and his daughter Mary are incidental characters in the book, which is well-written fantasy rather than a fictionalized account (Aug 92 #6). Toby Stephens, Emily Woof, Ben Kingsley, Frances Barber, and Phil Davies will star in the film (there's no word yet on whether the Conan DoYLES will be characters).

Sep 96 #6 Brenda Forbes died on Sept. 11. She began her acting career in 1927, and made her Broadway debut as a loyal maid in Katharine Cornell's "The Barretts of Wimpole Street" (1931); she was Madge Larrabee in Orson Welles' radio adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes" (1938), and appeared in "Aren't We All" on Broadway with Rex Harrison, Claudette Colbert, and Jeremy Brett in 1985.

Filming is now underway on a new version of "The Day of the Jackal" (1973), which centered on a plot to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle. The new film will star Bruce Willis as the assassin, Sidney Poitier as the FBI deputy director, and Richard Gere as the former Irish Republican Army commando who helps Poitier track down the assassin. There's no word yet on the target of the assassin, but it would appear to be someone other than de Gaulle. Nor is there any word on whether the new film will follow the book written by Frederick Forsythe (1971), in which the Jackal's rifle is smuggled in the country in an aluminum crutch.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES IQ BOOK, by Eamonn Butler and Madsen Pirie, previously published in England (Apr 95 #1), now has an American edition (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1996; 193 pp., \$9.95); the book used summaries of canonical cases as introductions to 74 Mensa-type puzzles.

THE BOURBON BULLION BAFFLEMENT is the latest round-robin pastiche written by six members of The Pleasant Places of Florida; \$6.00 postpaid from Ben Wood, Box 740, Ellenton, FL 24222. Ben also offers SHERLOCK ON STAMPS (a presentation folder with color reproductions of all the stamps that honor Sherlock Holmes); \$2.50 postpaid. And he still has a few copies of the new Commonwealth of Dominica sheetlet with the stamp showing Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes; \$7.50 postpaid.

"You're Sherlock Holmes, and the game is afoot, but you're not in 19th-century London any more. Thanks to H. G. Wells' time machine, you're in 20th-century America, tackling 20 true unsolved crimes," according to the blurb for 221B BAKER ST.: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TIME MACHINE, a new version of the board game first marketed 20 years ago by John N. Hansen Co. \$34.95 in stores, and the current catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297).

This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will again be in full color, with another attractive watercolor by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson arriving to question Breckinridge about his geese

(in "The Blue Carbuncle"). The cost is \$13.50 postpaid for ten cards (or L5.50 to the U.K., L6.00 to Europe, L7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders should be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.

Sherlock Holmes appeared in one of the new programs that debuted on Sept. 14 in the one-hour "Great Books" television series on The Learning Channel. Not because the Canon made the list of Great Books, but rather in the program devoted to "Plato's Republic": narrator Donald Sutherland noted (over a clip showing Rathbone and Bruce) that "Even Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, pays tribute when Dr. Watson quotes Plato to describe his detective friend as 'the best and wisest man I have ever known.'"

Sep 96 #7 Former Senator Rudy Boschwitz won easily in the Republican primary on Sept. 10 in Minnesota, winning 80 percent of the vote against four challengers. He will now face Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone in November, hoping to regain his Senate seat as well as his status as the highest-ranking elected politician who's a Sherlockian (Boschwitz attended meetings of The Red Circle when he was in the Senate in the 1980s).

"Dangermouse, the world's greatest detective, and his faithful assistant, Penfold, the world's most obvious coward, operate from a letterbox on Baker Street, helping their boss, Colonel K, solve crises that range from exploding custard that is taking over the world to a weather machine run amok." Dangermouse was created by Brian Cosgrove and Mark Hall in 1981, and was the star of a ten-minute animated cartoon series that aired in Britain, and later on Nickelodeon cable in the United States. And he is one of five children's television characters on a set of stamps issued this year in Britain.

Mark Frost's THE 6 MESSIAHS (a sequel to his THE LIST OF SEVEN) is now out in paperback (New York: Avon, 1996; 423 pp., \$6.99); the book is alternate-universe fantasy, opening in 1894, with Conan Doyle about to leave England for his tour of the United States, and the story involves him in a struggle to possess the mystical Book of Zohar, and to prevent the end of the world. The title-page verso mentions an Avon Book special printing in Feb. 1996; does anyone know what this was?

George A. Vanderburgh has published a 32-page Fall Price List with details on publications available from The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box; Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada <gav@gbd.com>.

Robert S. Gellerstedt, Jr., (1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214) has tucked away in his computer some nice indexes to various Sherlockian anthologies, and to the obituaries published in The Baker Street Journal, and to the recorded cases, all included in an updated version of his earlier THE SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGIES INDEX (Aug 94 #2); \$5.00 postpaid (in the United States) for a print-out.

Takahiko Endo reports that the World Brick Museum (Aug 96 #1) is in Maizuru (in case you're planning to visit Japan, and have been wondering about The Guardian's misspelling of the town's name). Maizuru is about 100 minutes by train from Kyoto.

Canadians have been enjoying CBC Radio's "The Mystery Project" on Saturdays at 6:30 pm: the series started Sept. 7, and offers rebroadcasts of the 1954 BBC radio programs with John Gielgud as Holmes and Ralph Richardson as Watson.

Reports of his death were greatly exaggerated: Vasily Livanov did not die in 1995 (Oct 95 #2), but is in fact alive and well. According to Peter A. Kartsev, reporting from Moscow, Livanov was interviewed on television there on Sept. 11, discussing his latest project (a Russian-Bulgarian co-production of "Don Quixote"). He starred as Holmes in a series of dramatizations

of Canonical stories on Soviet television from 1979 to 1985.

Sep 96 #8 SUPERNATURAL SLEUTHS, edited by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Roc, 1996; 348 pp., \$5.99), has "14 mysterious cases of uncanny crimes," including a reprint of "The Adventure of the Ball of Nostradamus" (a 1955 science-fiction Solar Pons story written by August Derleth and Mack Reynolds). MURDER BY THE BOOK, an anthology edited by Cynthia Manson (New York: Berkley, 1996; 326 pp., \$5.99), includes Penelope Wallace's "The world of Uncle Albert" (which starts "My uncle was mad about Sherlock Holmes").

"We all know that the year 1891 was Holmes' worst year," Caroline Gassner suggests, "having to do all that running from Moriarty, baritsu fighting at the edge of a cliff, and faking his death. We would like to know what you think is the *second* worst year of Holmes's life, and why." That will be the theme of this year's "Unhappy Birthday You Bastard Celebration" by The Brothers Three of Moriarty, in Moriarty (of course), in November. You all are invited to send your papers/diatribes/poems/songs/rants to C. B. Gassner (P.O. Drawer G, Corrales, N.M. 87048), to arrive by Nov. 1. The Brothers Three, founded by the late John Bennett Shaw, continue to dishonor Moriarty on or near his birthday (deduced by John to have been Halloween), and all those attending wear name-tags reading "James".

Billy Childish and Thee Headcoats made an appearance at Bimbo's 365 Club in San Francisco on Aug. 8, according to a "nightlife" item noted by Mike Kean in the San Francisco Chronicle. According to the paper, they have made their mark "in the world of alternative music on the strength of Childish's offbeat obsessions (Native Americans, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) and the driving force of their post-punk sound, influenced by such diverse types as Link Wray, Leadbelly, and the Cure."

The University of Iowa Press still offers two excellent books: LETTERS TO THE PRESS (1986), edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green (a 383-page collection of Conan Doyle's letters to newspapers and magazines on non-Sherlockian topics), \$37.95; and THE SHERLOCK HOLMES LETTERS (1987), edited by Richard Lancelyn Green (a 272-page collection of Sherlockian letters to the press by others), \$32.95. shipping is \$3.50 for one book, and \$4.00 for two; the address of the press is 119 West Park Road, Iowa City, IA 52242 <kate-capps@uiowa.edu>.

Further to the mention (May 96 #2) of Mary Frost-Pierson's demonstration at Malice Domestic of the nice things that Mysteries from the Yard was making available America Online, Mary notes that "AOL cancelled MFTY Online after nine months of operation, due to our inability to attract a large enough audience quickly enough." But Mary hopes to be able to open her own online mystery site if she can find a corporate sponsor.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Oct 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" will be the 17th annual program of talks and panel discussions presented by The Six Napoleons and The Carlton Club at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 16. This year's theme will be "50 Years with the Master" (honoring the 50th anniversary of The Six Napoleons); the program begins at 10:00 am with a coffee hour in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at the Library (at 400 Cathedral Street), and there's no admission charge for the festivities.

Australia issued two attractive stamps showing opals last year (Jun 95 #3), and now the series has continued with stamps showing a pearl and a diamond. There are many mentions of pearls and diamonds in the Canon, and it's nice to think that some of the Canonical gems might have been Australian.

Further to the mention (Jul 96 #2) of temporary tattoos, David McCallister has reported (someone else's) real Sherlockian tattoo: a photograph of a rather Brettish Holmes, with Watson, shown on p. 96 in Chris Wroblewski's SKIN SHOWS III (London: Virgin, 1993); the endnotes state that the artist was "Ian of Reading", and that the tattoo is owned by Jim Laird, address unknown.

EXITS & ENTRANCES is the latest volume of verse from the Pequod Press, and consists mostly of Canonical examples of such, save when the author's pro-tean skills lead him astray, and the obligatory homage to Poe." The author also sets type and prints and binds the books. \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) postpaid from John Ruyle, 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.

The new BBC "Sherlock Holmes" videocassette provides a fine opportunity to see two of their 50-minute programs ("The Speckled Band" and "The Illustrious Client") broadcast in 1964, with Douglas Wilmer as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel as Dr. Watson. It is nice to be reminded of what television was like in the 1960s (black-and-white, and slower-paced, and lower-budgeted), and to be able to compare the scripts, direction, production, and acting in the BBC programs with the same stories in the Granada series. The BBC cassette costs £14.99 (shipping extra) from BBC Video, Box 44, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7AE, England (credit-card orders welcome). But (alas): the cassette is available only in the British PAL system (rather than the American NTSC format); the BBC apparently has no plans to distribute the cassette to the American market.

I should note that the Douglas Wilmer programs (and lots of other Sherlockian video) can be borrowed on American-format NTSC cassettes from the lending library maintained by Jennie C. Paton (206 Loblolly Lane, Statesboro, GA 30458-4247). There's a charge of \$5.50 for shipping, and you get to keep a cassette for a day or two, and then you pay the return postage. But there may well be a waiting list for something that's in high demand (such as the Douglas Wilmer cassette, right now).

Oct 96 #2 Basil Rathbone on the Baker Street Irregulars: "They are bores. Why, those fellows do not even recognise Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the creator of Holmes. They say that Watson, Watson, mind you, was his creator. I'm a life member, you know. But I haven't attended one of their ridiculous meetings." Quoted in an interview with Jim Keep in the Australasian Post, Oct. 6, 1960.

Gertrude Mahoney reports that a new catalog from Expressions from Potpourri offers a Limoges porcelain deerstalker, 2.5 in. long, with a magnifying-glass clasp and an even smaller pipe. Item 172882, \$225.00; the address is 120 North Meadows Road, Medfield, MA 02052 (800-338-2699).

Dick Lesh reports that the new catalog from Signals (Box 64428, Saint Paul, MN 55164) (800-669-9696) now offers the cupro-nickel version of the eight one-crown Sherlock Holmes coins issued by Gibraltar (Nov 94 #3), for \$89.90 postpaid.

Walter Kerr died on Oct. 9. In 1939 he began his theatrical career teaching speech and drama at Catholic University, and in 1951 joined the staff of the N.Y. Herald Tribune as a theater critic; when the Herald Tribune stopped publishing in 1966, he moved to the N.Y. Times, retiring in 1983. His body of work won him the Pulitzer Prize for criticism in 1978, and the Walter Kerr Theater in Manhattan was named in his honor in 1990. "He was a man who loved the theater," his friend, theater-caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, once said. "Even if you didn't agree with what he said, you wanted to see the show, because the review was so well written." And some of those well-written reviews were devoted to Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes" (1953), the musical "Baker Street" (1964), the Royal Shakespeare Company's "Sherlock Holmes" (1974 and 1975), and "The Crucifer of Blood" (1978). In 1978 Kerr noted that "Sherlock Holmes is a legendary figure of fiction, so powerful a legend that we take him as almost real: the pretense that he *is* real has spurred countless reincarnations at other hands, has gleefully supported a society devoted to continuing admiration and the further recording of his activities."

The latest issue of Anglofile reports that MYSTERY! A CELEBRATION, by Ron Miller (KQED Books, \$24.95) will be in book stores in November (one would of course assume that Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" will be one of the many programs celebrated). The book also will be available from WGBH (Boston) by mail order (800-255-9424), but it isn't available yet. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

The Credit Lyonnaise (one of the few banks mentioned by name in the Canon) still has problems. The Times [London] suggested earlier that it might be "the world's worst bank" (Aug 95 #8 and Sep 95 #7), and now the Washington Post has reported (Oct. 5) that the chairman of the state-owned bank has called for more government funds to bail out the bank, which flourished in the late 1980s and then ran into collapsing property values in the 1990s. The bank has \$17.4 billion in "dud assets" amassed during its expansion.

Oct 96 #3 Michael Atkinson's THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND OTHER ECCENTRIC READINGS (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996; 192 pp., \$29.95) uses the tools of modern literary theory in (according to the publisher) "a series of flirtations" with nine of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

The Eurotunnel opened in 1994, 81 years after Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote in The Times that a Channel Tunnel "seems to me to be of such importance that I grudge every day that passes without something having been done to bring it to realization," and the tunnel has now captured 45 percent of the freight and passenger traffic between England and France. The tunnel also still is deeply in debt, and last year suspended interest payments to its creditor banks (the Washington Post reported on Oct. 12 that the banks have accepted a deal that swaps debt for equity, and now own 45 percent of the Eurotunnel company).

Milt Halpert spotted an interesting design on a Turkish semi-postal stamp issued in February to raise funds to assist the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I've not been able to find out just what the symbolism of the design is, but they don't seem to be *our* dancing men . . .

Mary Burke found Holmes and Watson (a photograph of Rathbone and Bruce) in one of the collages on display in Hanne Darboven's "Kulturgeschichte 1880-1983" at the Dia Center for the Arts; the collages are arranged chronologically and Holmes and Watson are among the 1940s cinema subjects. The Dia Center is at 548 West 22nd Street in New York, and the exhibit runs through June 29, 1997.

Femmes Fatales has issued a new catalog of gifts to please any mystery fan (including Sherlockians); their address is (Box 3457, Lakewood, CA 90712)

(800-596-3323) <bytocrime@aol.com> <<http://register.com/femfatal>>.

Further to the earlier mention (Sep 96 #5) of the new film based on Steve Szilagyi's book PHOTOGRAPHING FAIRIES, Christopher Roden has reported that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle will appear in the film, played by Edward Hardwicke in a cameo appearance. Clive Merrison, who plays Holmes on BBC Radio, will be in the film as well, playing the theosophist Edward Gardner. There are actors who have played both Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and both Conan Doyle and Inspector Lestrade, but Edward Hardwicke may well be the first to play both Conan Doyle and Dr. Watson.

There are lots of plans afoot for "Lasting Impressions" (the Bootmakers of Toronto Silver Anniversary weekend on June 26-29, 1997), and a flier now is available with a detailed schedule. The address is Lasting Impressions, 30 Elm Avenue #210, Toronto, ON M4W 1N5, Canada <lasting@syndesis.com> <<http://www.edu.yorku.ca/~li>>.

Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941) offers a 1997 Baker Street Pages International weekly pocket calendar and pen gift-set. The calendar is 3.5 x 6 in. with a black cover decorated in metallic green (or medium blue or purple) with a Sherlockian collage and coat of arms. \$6.00 each, plus \$1.50 shipping per order.

Oct 96 #4 John Baesch, recently in London, reported from the Ritz that he discovered an excellent pizza shop at 197 Baker Street. The pizzas include Marinara, Portafino, and Margherita, but no Sherlock. One does wonder what toppings might be suitable for a Sherlock pizza . . .

Mark Alberstat's 1997 Sherlock Holmes Calendar is illustrated with artwork from The Strand Magazine, and displays important Sherlockian birthdays and William S. Baring-Gould's dates for the cases. The cost is US\$12.00 postpaid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.

Luci Zahray reports a six-inch Sherlock Holmes ornament for your Christmas tree in a catalog from Bronner's Christmas Wonderland, Box 176, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 (800-361-6736); \$27.00 plus shipping.

Luci also offers some of the Cadds items from Hugh Scullion: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES JOKE BOOK, by Peter V. Rochford and Hugh S. Scullion [Dec 95 #4] (\$7.00 postpaid); SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: --POLITICALLY CORRECT?, by Hugh S. Scullion [Jul 96 #2] (\$16.00 postpaid); and Sherlockian silhouette stickers (\$2.50 per sheet postpaid) (small size shown here, 81 per sheet; or a larger size, 42 per sheet). Her address is 685 Marylane Drive, Holland, MI 49423.

Kay Sturm notes that Laurie R. King's THE BEEKEEPER'S APRENTICE (the first in her series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes) now is available in a large-print edition (New York: G. K. Hall Large Print Books; \$24.95).

The Commonwealth of Dominica's sheetlet of nine stamps honoring "Legendary Sleuths of the Silver Screen" (Jul 96 #8), with one stamp showing Sherlock Holmes as portrayed by Basil Rathbone, is available from Bick International (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) for \$9.95; first day covers cost \$12.95.

"Reading a Sherlock Holmes story and wondering how long a hansom cab ride is from Baker Street to Kensington?" asked the page-a-day calendar for computer buffs on Oct. 15. The University College of London offers a web page called "The London Guide" at <<http://www.cs.ucl.ac.uk/misc.uk/london.html>>.

Don Pendleton died on Oct. 23. Best known as the author of 38 books in the Mack Bolan "Executioner" series, he also wrote an excellent introduction for the Ballantine paperback of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1975).

Forecast: RIVALS OF DRACULA, edited by Stefan R. Dziemianowicz, Robert E. Weinberg, and Martin Harry Greenberg (from Barnes & Noble in Oct.); with Carole Nelson Douglas' Irene Adler story "Dracula on the Rocks" (reprinted from the 1995 anthology CELEBRITY VAMPIRES).

The first eight audiocassettes in the series MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jun 96 #1) from the fine old 1946-47 radio series that starred Tom Conway and Nigel Bruce still are available (\$9.95 each) from Brilliance Audio at Box 481, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225); and more cassettes are due in the shops in November.

Oct 96 #5 Sherlock Holmes' 143rd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 10, with the traditional festivities in New York. But the festivities actually will begin on Thursday at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Allen Mackler and Charlie Shields will lead participants in the annual Christopher Morley walk, which ends with luncheon at McSorley's. Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369, and from Jan. 7 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).

Friday begins with the Martha Hudson Breakfast from 7:00 to 10:00 in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street; the Algonquin provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to order from the menu (reservations are not required). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$35.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler's open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) is on Friday, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; it is possible that Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.

The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at 24 Fifth Avenue (at 9th Street), and The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will convene for drinks, dinner, and entertainment at 6:30 pm at Bill's Gay Nineties at 57 East 54th Street between Park and Madison Avenues; \$40.00 (Maribeau Briggs, 46 East 29th Street, 2nd floor, New York, NY 10016). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.

On Saturday a posse of purveyors will offer a wide variety of S'iana in a room on the second floor of the Algonquin (also known for the occasion as Covent Garden West) from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; vendor tables are available (Donald B. Izban, 213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107). The Baker Street Irregulars will hold their annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:30 at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the cost is \$35.00 a person until Dec. 28 (checks payable to the Baker Street Irregulars should be sent to Donald E. Novorsky, 5182 Mahoning Avenue NW, Warren, OH 44483); tickets also will be available at the door, at \$40.00 a person.

The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Tom Stix arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$155.00 a night (Wednesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, because no tax is due on reservations made through the BSI. Other charges (such as room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians: your reservations, accompanied by payment (to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (see below) to arrive no later than Dec. 16. Please include names, addresses, and phone numbers of occupants, and the type of room (single, double, or twin) desired.

Note: payments to The Baker Street Irregulars for the Algonquin, the annual dinner, and the cocktail party, can be combined and made with one check (in U.S. funds, please) or by international money order, to be sent to the BSI, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr., 34 Pierson Avenue, Norwood, NJ 07648.

Oct 96 #6 Mary Ellen Rich has once again kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. If you plan to arrive on Thursday, you should confirm the rates, and that the weekend rates include Thursday.

Lexington (511 Lexington Ave. at East 48th St.): \$99 (single-double) (800-448-4471); Radio City Suites (142 West 49th St.: \$97 (studio) \$127 (one bedroom) (212-730-0728); Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$89 (single/double) (212-382-0600); Iroquois (49 West 44th St.): \$85 (single) \$99 double) \$135 (suite) (800-332-7220) [they anticipate some construction at the beginning of January, and wish to warn guests that there may be some disruption]; Edison (228 West 47th St.): \$81 (single) \$95 (double) (212-840-5000); Pickwick Arms (230 East 51st St.): \$80 (single) \$99 (double) (800-742-5945).

The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI or the ASH is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully anonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by checks payable to John H. Watson and mailed (without return any address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, c/o Thomas L. Stix, Jr. (address as above); Tom forwards the checks unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity.

A single page of the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York on Oct. 29 for \$14,950 (including the 15% buyer's premium); the page was owned by Victor Jacobs, and is from Chapter VI (pages 107-109 in the first British book edition).

And there's more auction news: two Conan Doyle manuscripts will be sold at auction at Sotheby's on Dec. 4. "The White Company" (estimated at \$60,000-90,000) and "The Sign of the Four" (\$250,000-\$300,000) are from the collection of the late Redmond A. Burke, and came to him from the 1973 auction of the David Gage Joyce collection; "The Sign of the Four" is complete in 160 pages (the first page is a "fair copy" in Conan Doyle's handwriting), and it is accompanied by four letters from Conan Doyle to J. M. Stoddart (who commissioned the story for Lippincott's). The catalog for the Dec. 4 sale will be available soon, and interested bidders can contact Sotheby's (attn: Paul Needham), 1334 York Avenue, New York, NY 10021 (212-606-7385).

I hope you all wished the Earth a happy birthday on Oct. 25, which was its 6000th birthday, according to Bishop Ussher, who calculated that the Creation occurred on that date in 4004 BC. It also was on Oct. 25 that members of the Geological Society of America began assembling in Denver for their annual meeting, which of course including a dinner for The Practical, But Limited, Geologists on Oct. 29, when the visitors were welcomed by Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients at the Cadillac Ranch in Larimer Square, and we all toasted the world's first forensic geologist. Our next dinner meetings will be in Dallas in Apr. 1997 and in Salt Lake City in Oct. 1997.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Nov 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Further to the report (Oct 96 #6) of the sale of a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", I've now seen the catalog illustration of the page: it's from Chapter VI (from "said to be a young lady . . ." to ". . . hours of darkness when the"), and it's interesting to note that as first written, Holmes directly addressed Sir Henry as "Mr. Baskerville" and as "Baskerville" -- both corrected by the author to read "Sir Henry".

And, still on the subject of manuscripts, J. M. Stoddart dined with Arthur

Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde in London, and commissioned stories from both of them; both stories were published in Lippincott's, and both manuscripts were sold at auction in 1909. "The Sign of the Four" sold for \$105, and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" brought \$1,000; what might the prices be today if both manuscripts went to auction in the same sale?

St. Vincent issued five stamps this year honoring the 100th anniversary of wireless transmission, with portraits of some radio personalities: Fred Allen, Eve Arden, Major Bowes, Walter Winchell, and Hedda Hopper; Hedda Hopper also was a movie actress: she played Madge Larrabee in the John Barrymore film "Sherlock Holmes" (1922).

Plan ahead: The STUD Sherlockian Society's annual meeting and dinner will be held March 7 at the Starlight Inn in Schiller Park (near Chicago), and Brad Keefauver will be the guest speaker; there will be a Solar Pons Brunch on Mar. 8, and a visit to Vincent Starrett's grave at Graceland Cemetery. Additional information is available from F. Dennis France, 8546 North Kedvale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.

Nice news from Minnesota: after a bit of delay, James F. Hubbs has now been reappointed as collection specialist for the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. Carol Johnson is acting assistant curator and Carol Urness is the acting head of the Special Collections and Rare Books department until they appoint a successor to the late Clarence Carter (who spoke at the dedication of the John Bennett Shaw Collection in Oct. 1995). Planning also is under way for construction of the new Minnesota Library Access Center (May 96 #1), where the special collections will be housed.

Kemp R. Niver died on Oct. 15. He had been a private detective, a police officer, and a veteran cameraman when he was hired in the early 1950s by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an archivist and film historian; he used equipment he built himself to transfer some 3,600 movies made between 1894 and 1912 from copyright-deposit frame-by-frame paper photographs to film. All those who have enjoyed the amusing "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900) on film or video owe thanks to Kemp Niver.

Jim Weiss does an excellent job of combining narration and dialogue on his recordings for younger audiences in SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN (Maza/Spec/Musg/Blue) and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! (RedH, plus tales by Poe and Chesterton); cassettes are \$9.95 each, and CDs are \$14.95 each, and other non-Sherlockian recordings are available (shipping is \$2.50 per order). Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510 (800-477-6234).

Nov 96 #2 John Baesch reports some new evidence in the continuing debate about which university Sherlock Holmes attended: Oxford or Cambridge. John notes that the new British film "True Blue" (to be released this year) tells the story of the annual Oxford-Cambridge Boat Race, one of the oarsmen in the Oxford boat is played by Nicholas Rowe, who some years ago was Young Sherlock Holmes.

AT&T has chosen John R. Walter as its new president. Walter is chairman and chief executive of R. R. Donnelley & Sons (the world's largest commercial printer), and the Washington Post (Oct. 24) reports that his favorite books are "mysteries, particularly Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis celebrated their 50th anniversary last month, with an anniversary dinner and an interesting 38-page pamphlet recording the history of the society: Steven T. Doyle's THE ADVENTURES OF THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENTS costs \$4.50 postpaid, from Mark Gagen, 3625-B Glen Arm Road, Indianapolis, IN 46224.

Warren Randall is preparing a new lapel pin called "The Gas Lamp" that will be sold during the January birthday festivities in New York for \$10.00 (the pin is 1.25 in.

in diameter, with the design in red, gold, and black on white); the pin also will be available by mail (\$11.50 postpaid); his address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Sea-tauket, NY 11720-1346.

Tangled Web Audio has extended its series of excellent recordings of the Canon, read by Edward Hardwicke, who does his usual fine job with the stories in SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF BETRAYAL (with Scan/Silv/Copp) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF AVARICE (with Prio/RedH/Blue); each set has two cassettes, and costs \$20.00 postpaid (\$37.00 for two sets); Tangled Web Audio, 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 <tangled@bis.on.ca>. For those want to use credit cards, the cassettes also are available (same prices) from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219).

HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Carol-Lynn Waugh (New York: Berkley, 1996; 304 pp., \$21.95), offers 14 new pastiches, all with a seasonal theme, written by Anne Perry, Barbara Paul, Carolyn Wheat, Carole Nelson Douglas, Edward D. Hoch, and others.

Phil Attwell has noted a "Sherlock Holmes Celebration Cakes" (suitable for all occasions): a luxury two-pound Victorian fruit cake, with brandy, marzipan, and icing featuring a plaque with a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes, delivered to your door anywhere in the country (Great Britain), for £19.50; overseas prices are available on request. Good Food and Cakes, 21-A Market Street, Wellingborough, Northants., England (or you can call Sue or Enid at 01933-227100 to discuss the details).

Further to the report (Oct 96 #2) on the availability of the cupro-nickel version of the eight one-crown Sherlock Holmes coins issued by Gibraltar (Nov 94 #3), Peter Mosiondz, Jr. (Box 1483, Bellmawr, NJ 08099) notes that you can get them from him at a far better price (\$60.00 postpaid); he also offers the silver and gold versions, and you can write to him for details.

Nov 96 #3 "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age," said a hopeful Nathan Garrideb. The Sept.-Oct. issue of Preservation (the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation) has Roland Flamini's fine article about the Chelsea Physic Garden, founded in 1673 by the worshipful Society of Apothecaries. It's the second oldest botanic garden in England (Oxford's was founded in 1621), and when it was threatened with closure in the early 18th century it was rescued by Sir Hans Sloane, whose statue now stands guard over the medicinal herb beds; in 1722 he leased it back to the Apothecaries in perpetuity, for £5 a year, and it was from the Physic Garden that cotton seeds were shipped to the new American colony of Georgia to start the plantations there. In 1977, Sloane's heirs, the Cadogan Estate, hoping to build on the site, challenged the lease, but lost in court. And it is thanks to Sir Hans that each year Sue Minter, the garden's curator, writes a check for £5 to the Cadogan Estate as rent, for three and a half acres of prime land that is now worth millions.

Ben Wood offers a flier for his close-out sale of Sherlockian books, pamphlets, and other material; his address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.

Platinum Press has published THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in facsimile from The Strand Magazine (with Sidney Paget's fine illustrations), separately and as a boxed set. These are reissues of the four volumes published by Schocken Books in 1975 and 1976, but now without the introductions by Steven Marcus, Leslie Fiedler, and Samuel Rosenberg. \$9.98 each or \$40.00 for the boxed set, and if you can't find them locally, there's a toll-free telephone number (800-284-3580).

Megan Follows does a fine job with her audiocassette readings of Laurie R. King's THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE and A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN; each (abridged) audiobook is on two cassettes (issued by Durkin Hayes) and costs \$16.99. And Megan Follows' reading of the third book in the Mary Russell

series, A LETTER OF MARY, will be issued by Durkin Hayes in January when the book is published. If you can't find the cassettes in your shops, the address for Durkin Hayes Audio is 1 Colomba Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

Al Rosenblatt reports that the "Sly Fox" necktie (Jun 92 #6) is available again in a catalog from Chipp II (9 Ethan Allen Lane, Stamford, CT 06903): the pattern shows a brown fox, wearing a green deerstalker and holding a magnifying glass, on a navy (or medium blue) background; \$27.25 postpaid, and they take plastic.

First roses were red, and then roses were pink, and now roses are yellow. The postage stamps have the same design as in the past, but with a new color. And there still are more mentions of roses in the Canon than we have stamps showing roses. Perhaps this one could honor all of the Texans in the Canon.

John McGowan spotted a report from London about a grand resource for those who have access to the world wide web: <<http://www.victoriana.com/>> is the URL for the Resources for Victorian Living web-site, and it's packed with articles and archives and pictures and information, as well as lists of and links to many companies that offer Victoriana for sale.

Nov 96 #4 Sorry about that: Oct. 25, 1996, was not the 6,000th birthday of the Earth (Oct 96 #6). Chris Redmond points out that 4004 BC was only 5,999 years ago. There was no year 0, of course. You'll hear a lot more about that when we get closer to celebrating the beginning of the next millennium, on Jan. 1, 2000. Or perhaps 2001. Or perhaps both.

Jerry Margolin reports that Caliber Comics has published THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE as a one-shot comic-book, with adaptation by Warren Ellis and art by Craig Gilmore; \$2.95. Caliber is at 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170.

Brilliance Audio is continuing its series of audiocassettes produced by Ken Greenwald and his 221A Baker Street Associates with radio programs from the 1946-47 season with Tom Conway as Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Watson; Elliott Reid provides fine new introductions about the old days of radio, and it's grand to be able to hear these hitherto-unavailable programs. Cassettes #9 through #12 are now available; they cost \$9.95 each (with two shows on each cassette). The series title is MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and if you can't find them in your local shops, Brilliance is at Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225).

James Pepper Rare Books have an intriguing new catalog of Peter Cushing's personal copies of his scripts, for films and television shows, produced and unproduced, heavily annotated and sometimes illustrated (alas, there's no Sherlockian material); 2026 Cliff Drive #224, Santa Barbara, CA 93109 <pepbooks@aol.com>.

I wondered (Oct 96 #4) what toppings might be suitable for a Sherlock pizza -- and Alan Saunders offered an excellent suggestion: the plugs and dottles from the previous day's pizzas, carefully collected and dried out on the end of the mantelpiece. And John Baesch, who bears some responsibility for all this, has responded to various suggestions by exclaiming "What inedible twaddle!"

Our new endangered-species sheet shows 15 different animals, and eight of the animals are mentioned in the Canon: the butterfly, caribou, crocodile, ferret, plover, seal, snake, and trout. But which of the eight endangered species is the most likely match to the animal mentioned in the Canon?

Nov 96 #5 PBS-TV broadcast a excellent mini-series on "The Great War" in November (it also is airing in Britain), with some discussion of Conan Doyle in the final episode, which dealt with the increased interest in Spiritualism after the war. And it is a pleasant coincidence that Stephen Davies recently discovered Rudyard Kipling's book SEA WARFARE (Garden City: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1917), which includes "Tools of the Trade" (written in 1916 about the Submarine Service). Kipling tells the story of how the E 14, on patrol in Turkish waters, encountered an enemy ship: "when the crew of the Turkish brigantine full of stores got into their boats by request, and then 'all stood up and cursed us,' E 14 did not lose her temper, even though it was too rough to lie alongside the abandoned ship. She told Acting Lieutenant R. W. Lawrence, of the Royal Naval Reserve, to swim off to her, which he did, and after a 'cursory search'--who can be expected to Sherlock Holmes for hours with nothing on?--set fire to her 'with the aid of her own matches and paraffin oil.'"

which of the eight endangered species is the most likely match to the animal mentioned in the Canon? The woodland caribou, which is mentioned in "The Valley of Fear" ("It was the worst enemy I had among them all--one who has been after me like a hungry wolf after a caribou all these years.").

Paul Martin reports that "Sherlock Holmes Revisited" is available on a 57-minute videocassette from PBS Home Video, Box 751089, Charlotte, NC 28275 (800-645-4727); item A2093, and the cost is \$19.95 plus shipping. This is a reissue of "The Sherlock Holmes Video" (Jan 95 #2), written and directed by Martin Hesp (who also plays Sherlock Holmes in a tour of Canonical locations); the video also offers interviews with Stanley Mackenzie and one of Sherlock Holmes' secretaries.

Former Senator Rudy Boschwitz, a Sherlockian who attended meetings of The Red Circle when he was in the Senate in the 1980s, lost to Democratic Sen. Paul Wellstone, who was elected to a second term on Nov. 5.

Ferdinand "Ferd" Johnson died on Oct. 14. He was only 17 when he enrolled at the Chicago Art Institute, and met cartoonist and teacher Frank Willard, who had just begun drawing his cartoon strip "Moon Mullins". Willard hired Johnson as an assistant at the Chicago Tribune, and they worked together for 35 years; when Willard died in 1958, Johnson took over "Moon Mullins" and drew the strip until he retired in 1991. This cartoon is from Feb. 20, 1979.

Nov 96 #6 He's probably only a distant relative of the Musgraves in the Canon, but: 61-year-old astronaut F. Story Musgrave began his sixth and final shuttle flight on Nov. 19, becoming the oldest human to fly in space. He joined the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1967, and made his first flight in 1983, taking part in the first shuttle-program space-walk; he's an accomplished pilot, with more than 17,000 hours of flying time in 160 different aircraft types, and has made more than 500 parachute jumps. In his spare time he's studying for two master's degrees (to add to the three master's degrees and one doctorate he already has).

The Hounds of the Internet discuss (well, they're invited to discuss) a different story each week, and Chris Redmond has been providing "delicate questions" each week intended "to stimulate discussion, research, controversy, delight and flights of fancy as devotees of Sherlock Holmes explore the stories." For example, his question for "The Illustrious Client" was: "Baron Gruner is, by general consent, among the worst of the villains whom Sherlock Holmes encounters; is it only the whiff of kinky sex in this story that makes him so, or is there something else about him -- his nationality, perhaps -- that makes him the man Sherlockians love to hate?" And, since he now has a question for each of the cases, he offers them all in booklet form, for \$2.00 (US or CA) postpaid; his address is 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, ON N2T 2E1, Canada. The questions make fine discussion topics for societies seeking things to do at their meetings.

THE FLOOR PLANS OF BAKER STREET, by Edward S. Smith, Jr., offers a survey of what was where at 221 Baker Street, on all of the floors, with plans and citations; the 38-page booklet is available from the author (Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596); \$7.50 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada, and \$9.50 to other countries.

It was at the third pillar from the left outside the Lyceum Theatre that Mary Morstan was directed to meet her unknown benefactor. And, further to the report (Apr 95 #2) on plans to restore the long-neglected theater, the Daily Telegraph has reported that the Prince of Wales formally reopened the Lyceum on Oct. 30. The first production at the theater in half a century is a revival of "Jesus Christ Superstar", which opened on Nov. 19. Apollo Leisure, a chain that owns 22 theaters in Britain, spent £14.5 million on the restoration project.

Bill Hyder reports that the first edition of his excellent collection FROM BALTIMORE TO BAKER STREET (Dec 95 #4) has sold out, and that a revised second edition is now available (\$27.00 postpaid) from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada. The revisions are some corrections of errata; those who already have the first edition and would like to have an errata sheet can send an SASE (self-addressed stamped envelope) to William J. Hyder, 5488 Cedar Lane #C-3, Columbia, MD 21044-1220.

Collectors of foreign Sherlockiana will be happy to learn about the first known item of Sherlockiana to have been published in Liechtenstein: Marcus Geisser reports that 5 NEUE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES contains stories (in German) written by 11-year-old Martin K. Hasler; the 30-page booklet costs \$8.00 or £5.00 postpaid (in currency only, please) from the author, whose address is: Dorfstrasse 59, FL-9495 Triesen, Fürstentum Liechtenstein.

Nov 96 #7 Jerry Margolin reports that Caliber's comic-book mini-series THE SEARCHERS (Jul 96 #1) has ended with issue #4 (\$2.95 each). Real-life descendants of various characters created by Haggard, Burroughs, Wells, Verne, and Conan Doyle "band together in a mutual quest for not only their own survival, but that of reality itself." But Conan Doyle's character isn't a Holmes: she's a Moriarty.

William L. DeAndrea died on Oct. 9. He was a fine mystery writer, and his ENCYCLOPEDIA MYSTERIOSA (1994) is a splendid reference work. He also was a long-time contributor to The Armchair Detective, and noted last year that he had once described Sherlockian pastiche as "the acne on the face of the

detective story," admitting that he forgot one very important fact about acne: "in the course of growing up, virtually everybody gets it." And Bill wrote two Sherlockian pastiches, one (in the style of Mickey Spillane) in Marvin Kaye's anthology RESURRECTED HOLMES (1996) and the other in Martin H. Greenberg's anthology HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS (1996).

David Stuart Davies' one-act play "Fixed Point: The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes" was first performed for The Northern Musgraves in 1991, with Davies himself as Holmes, and it now has been adapted for audio by Meredith Granger and issued on a single cassette by Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); \$9.45 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada, \$10.50 to Europe, \$11.00 elsewhere, and credit-cards are accepted (wholesale inquiries welcome). The voices are excellent, as is the play, which offers Watson's reminiscences of his life with Holmes.

Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720) also offers a new lapel pin ("hot off the Prescott presses"); it's silver on gray, 1" wide, and costs \$8.50 postpaid.

Alexander Lebed, formerly the National Security Advisor in Russia (until he was summarily dismissed by President Boris Yeltsin a few months ago), and now regarded by some as the person most likely to be the next President of Russia, was asked at a recent meeting in Washington about his critical comments about various religious groups, including the Mormons. Lebed replied that he had thought the Mormons were a cult or sect that practiced polygamy "because I learned about them from reading Conan Doyle in my youth," and he has since apologized to the Mormons.

If you missed the Sherlock Bloodhound "country companion" offered by Wild Wings a few years ago (Mar 92 #5) you can still buy a similar hand-painted figurine (5.5 in. high) offered in a recent catalog from The Cottage Shop, Box 4836, Stamford, CT 06907 (800-388-7660); \$35.00 plus shipping.

Further to the report (Aug 95 #6) that on the purchase of Christ Cella's restaurant by Ken Aretsky, who had not then yet decided whether to keep the name, but intended to keep the steakhouse genre "with some additions and changes," Tom Stix has forwarded a report from the N.Y. Times (Nov. 8) that reveals that there have indeed been some changes: the restaurant is now the Patroon, the hamburger costs \$23.00, and a porterhouse steak for two costs \$75.00 (without side dishes, which cost \$9.00). The first formal meeting of The Baker Street Irregulars took place at Christ Cella's original location, but not at 160 East 46th Street, where the Patroon is now.

Nov 96 #8 Ken Koftan reports that "Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Adventure of the Clockwork Prince" (a one-act "Victorian romp" by Cleve Haubold, with music by James Alfred Hill, published by Samuel French in 1980) is being produced at the Empire House Restaurant and Theatre in Wichita through December 22. This probably is a dinner theater, and the address is 1817 West Sim Park Drive, Wichita, KS 67203 (316-269-0900).

Antonio Iriarte reports that Jo Soares' O XANGO DE BAKER STREET, a pastiche published last year in Brazilian Portuguese (Feb 96 #4) is now available in Spanish as EL XANGO DE BAKER STREET (Madrid: Ediciones Siruela, 1996; 272 pp., 1,900 ptas.); copies are available from Antonio (Barbara de Braganza 4 (5), 28004 Madrid, Spain) by surface post for \$20.00 (in currency, please). Holmes and Watson investigate the disappearance of a valuable Stradivarius during Sarah Bernhardt's first visit to Rio de Janeiro.

Basil Rathbone was one of six actors featured on a sheet of "official stamps of the stars and studios" issued in 1947; Israel I. Bick (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) offers a full-color reprint of the entire sheet (5 x 8.5 in.) for \$9.95 postpaid.

The shoe horn with a bust of Sherlock Holmes on the handle

(Oct 94 #2) is offered at \$23.95 in the current catalog from the Finck Cigar Company, Box 831007, San Antonio, TX 78283 (800-221-0638) <www.finckcigarcompany.com>.

The Mysterious Bookshop has a new Holiday Catalogue, with a nice selection of Sherlockian books, new and old (and lots of other books, of course); 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840).

Takahiko Endo has kindly forwarded a copy of the catalog prepared for the special exhibit on "Sherlock Holmes and English Bricks" at the World Brick Museum in Maizuru, and the museum must be a wonderful place to visit, even without a Sherlockian display (the special exhibit closes on Nov. 30, so there's still time to see it); much of the Sherlockian material on display is from the collection of Yumiko Shigaki. Maizuru is near Kyoto, and it is a seaport, with many brick buildings, reminiscent of Portsmouth. Also well worth a visit is the Shoso-in, which contains some wonderful Japanese art ("What do you know of the Emperor Shomu and how do you associate him with the Shoso-in near Nara?" Baron Gruner asked during his interview with Dr. Watson); Emperor Shomu who founded this great repository of Japanese art in the 8th century. And the Shoso-in has a home page with some fine pictures at <<http://www.bekkoame.or.jp/~joykun>>.

Don Hobbs notes a Canonical excerpt in THE BOOK OF VICIES: A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC IMMORAL TALES, edited by Robert J. Hutchinson (New York: Riverhead Books, 1996; 280 pp., \$9.00); the excerpt (from "A Study in Scarlet") runs from "well, I have a trade of my own," to the departure of the commissionaire, and is described by Hutchinson as "a character study in pride."

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)

Dec 96 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Further to the report (Jun 94 #6) of the auction sale of the Gainsborough portrait of Georgiana, 5th Duchess of Devonshire (of rather more than passing interest to Sherlockians), Bob Robinson has kindly forwarded a report from London that Ben Macintyre, whose stories about the painting were published in The Times and The N.Y. Times, has now written a book about Adam Worth, the master thief who once stole the painting, and the book has been purchased by Steven Spielberg's production company Dreamworks. The book's title is THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME, which is what some called Adam Worth (whose arrest, conviction, and refusal to surrender the portrait to avoid his sentence of seven years imprisonment made headlines in 1893, shortly before "The Final Problem" was written).

Adam Worth has, by the way, appeared in one film, as noted by Bob: "Harry and Walter Go to New York" (1976); Harry and Walter were con-men, played by James Caan and Elliott Gould, and Adam Worth was played by Michael Caine. We'll have to wait to read Ben Macintyre's book, which is due in May 1997 from HarperCollins in Britain.

Arsene Lupin, the hero of many novels and stories by Maurice Leblanc, was honored by France in a recent set of semi-postal stamps celebrating great characters in French mystery stories. And Lupin succeeded in defeating Sherlock Holmes (or Herlock Sholmes, after Sir Arthur complained). Thanks to Jean-Pierre Cagnat for supplying the stamp.

Noted by Don Hobbs: MURDEROUS SCHEMES: AN ANTHOLOGY OF CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES, edited by Donald E. Westlake (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996; 519 pp., \$25.00); "The Dying Detective" is included in section devoted to the "I Confess" genre.

From the N.Y. Times News Service, via Paul Martin: "the state of euphoria a

historian experiences when unearthing a long-forgotten manuscript may be chemically induced, according to *Linga Franca* magazine. It cites a report in the *Lancet*, a British medical journal. A fungus that grows on moldy books apparently releases spores when disturbed, and the airborne spores can induce hallucinations. Dermatologist R. J. Hay of London suggests that 'It is not inconceivable that intoxication might follow the inhalation of spores from suitable mold fungi in libraries.'" Bibliophiles do sometimes act strangely, and it's nice to know why . . .

Tom Huntington's article about his travel "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" in the Feb. 1997 issue of *Historic Traveler* focuses on Sherlockian sites in London, with lots of fine color photographs; the magazine's address is 741 Miller Drive SE #D-2, Leesburg, VA 22075 (\$3.99).

The Dispatch Box is an interesting newsletter published in English by The Japanese Cabinet (a branch office of The Franco-Midland Hardware Company) with news of Sherlockian events in Japan, and articles such as a report on a new "Sherlock Holmes" cocktail bar in Naha on Okinawa. A subscription costs \$8.00 or L5.00 (currency only, please) for four issues, from Yuichi Hirayama, 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181, Japan.

Dec 96 #2 Bouchercon 27 in St. Paul included a Sunday-morning panel on "The Bottomless Battered Tin Dispatch Box", moderated by Bruce Southworth and with panelists Jon L. Breen, Carole Nelson Douglas, Edward D. Hoch, and Larry Millett, discussing "what makes writing a Sherlockian parody or pastiche so attractive for both new and established writers?" An audiocassette (session 41) is available (\$8.75 postpaid) from Bouchercon St. Paul Program, On Site Taping, 29318 Quail Run, Agoura Hills, CA 91301; \$8.75 postpaid (note: the recording is not complete, and occasionally the sound is defective).

Bouchercon 28 will be held in Monterey on Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 1997 (Box 6202, Hayward, CA 94540); Mike Kean is working on arranging a Sherlockian agenda. Bouchercon 29 will be in Philadelphia in 1998 (dates not yet set); the organizer is Deen Kogan, who has run successful local conventions each fall in Philadelphia.

"A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" is the title of the exhibit, ten years in the planning, that will open at the Baltimore Museum of Art in Oct. 1997 at the start of a five-city tour of North America. Museum directors and sponsors hope that the show will be a blockbuster that rivals the "Treasure Houses of Britain" exhibit at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in 1985-86, and it may well do that: the Victoria and Albert was founded in 1852, and it is the first and largest decorative-arts museum in the world. But the "Treasure Houses of Britain" had enough items with Sherlockian connections on display to warrant a six-page mini-catalog prepared by The Red Circle.

Carolyn and Joel Senter (aka Classic Specialties) have a new issue of *The Sherlockian Times* (their illustrated catalog of Sherlockian books, pamphlets, screen savers, mouse pads, banners, prints, and et ceteras. So new that it didn't get into the catalog is an amusing lapel pin, inspired by Ashley Lynn Decker and executed by Stu Shiffman. It's shown here actual size, with a white background and (of course) the happy face in yellow; the cost is \$11.00 postpaid to North American, or \$11.75 to Europe, or \$12.50 elsewhere. Credit-card orders welcome; their address is Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.

The "fossil apostle of poetic Sherlockism" has prepared another volume of verse "with all the Canonical verve and whimsical jiggery-pokery you have come to expect," finely-printed as always on his Pequod Press. That's John Ruyle (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521); the price is \$40.00 postpaid in cloth, \$20.00 in paper.

Syd Goldberg spotted a 72-minute videocassette called "The Diary of Jack the Ripper: Beyond Reasonable Doubt?" (1993), with an interesting account of the discovery of and debate about the diary of James Maybrick. Michael Winner presents the story, which is narrated by Tom Baker, and at the end of the video Winner suggests that "Perhaps another celebrated Victorian, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, was right: when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." The video is available from Consumer Video Marketing, 60 Cutter Mill Road, Great Neck, NY 10021 (800-530-8035); \$19.95 plus shipping.

Dec 96 #3 Auction news: the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" sold for \$519,500 (including the premium paid by the buyer) at Sotheby's in New York on Dec. 4; the price was well above the catalog estimate, possibly because of increased interest fueled by a nice article about the manuscript in the N.Y. Times the day before the auction. And the manuscript of "The White Company" sold for \$85,000 (also including the buyer's premium). Both manuscripts were owned by Father Redmond A. Burke, C.S.V., Ph.D., who died on May 14 (the 57th anniversary of his Ordination to Priesthood); "The White Company" is now owned by Fred Kittle of Chicago, but the new owner of "The Sign of the Four" has not yet been identified.

Scott Monty reports that there's a floating restaurant called the "Aurora" in Boston, rather larger than Mordecai Smith's steam launch. It's an old harbor-cruise ship moored at 310 Congress Street (right next to the Boston Tea Party exhibit); The Bull-Terriers are planning a dinner meeting there.

Al Gregory notes that the Early Holiday 1996 catalog from Design Toscano, 17 East Campbell Street, Arlington Heights, IL 60005 (800-525-0733) has a Sherlockian chess set in natural bone and mahogany (\$228) or hand-painted (\$448), and a Sherlock Holmes walking stick (\$68.95). The company specializes in "historical European reproductions for home and garden," with armor and tapestries and gargoyles and other delights for those who are thinking of redecorating their homes as the Manor House of Hurlstone, or Baskerville Hall, or Holderness Hall, or some other "picturesque pile" in the Canon.

That sheet of "official stamps of the stars and studio" that included Basil Rathbone (Nov 96 #8) wasn't the only one issued in 1947; another sheet showed twelve actors, including Nigel Bruce, and a full-color reprint of that entire sheet (4.25x8.25") is available (\$9.95 postpaid) from Israel I. Bick (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408).

Russ Geoffrey notes some interesting Sherlockian references in Kinky Friedman's new mystery novel THE LOVE SONG OF J. EDGAR HOOVER (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996).

Fans of "Mystery!" on PBS-TV may recall the BBC Television series "Campion" (based on the stories written by Margery Allingham), and remember that the two-hour program "Police at the Funeral" (1988), in which Inspector Oates finds Albert Campion (played by Peter Davison) dressed in Sherlockian costume. And the solution to the murder of John Franklyn-Robbins had a nice echo from the Canon. There may be more Sherlockian discoveries to be made in Allingham's books, but I'll leave that to members of The Margery Allingham Society, which twice a year publishes an interesting journal called The Bottle Street Gazette. Membership in the society costs £7.00 (or \$10.00) a year; the society's contact is Pamela Bruxner, St. Cuthbert's Cottage, 23 North Street, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9HE, England.

Lisa Oldham's electronic newsletter The Brettish Empire continues to offer interesting material about Jeremy Brett, with the latest issue reporting on the launch party for David Stuart Davies' new biography of Brett, BENDING THE WILLOW. Lisa's e-mail address is <loldham@freenet.columbus.oh.us>, and back issues are posted on the web at <<http://www.infinet.com/~jwolfe/tbe>>.

Dec 96 #4 Further to the item (Nov 96 #6) on astronaut F. Story Musgrave,

who started his sixth and final shuttle flight on Nov. 19, the shuttle Columbia returned safely to Cape Canaveral on Dec. 7. Musgrave, 61 years old, is the oldest active astronaut, and now also shares the record for the longest-lasting shuttle mission.

Ben Wolf ("Vernet, the French Artist") died on Dec. 5. Ben was an artist, writer, teacher, biographer, editor, poet, and bookman, and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (he received his Investiture in 1964) and a Master Copper Beechsmith of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia (whose dinner menus have for many years been decorated with his amusing Sherlockian artwork). He also was an admirer of Conan Doyle, and during a visit to England in the early 1970s discovered Constance Holland, Sir Arthur's last secretary (he called her "Tiny" and that's how she still signed her letters in the 1970s), and brought her to the United States for a tour of Philadelphia and Washington.

Tom Rieschick offers an illustrated flier for his attractive prints of Sherlock Holmes (as portrayed by Rathbone and Brett), and Watson and Moriarty, and Hercule Poirot, and others, and he accepts commissions; his address is 179 Gold Kettle Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Holmes by Hall offers an illustrated flier for their hand-crafted porcelain Sherlockian mugs and teapots; Box 221-B, Flushing, MI 48433.

The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with a good article about what went into assembling the music for the Varese Sarabande CD "Sherlock Holmes: Classic Themes from 221B Baker Street" and a report by David Stuart Davies on British television, including notes on what David Burke, Edward Hardwicke, and Jeremy Paul are up to (unfortunately, nothing Sherlockian). Scarlet Street is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year), and the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. The CD is available from Varese Sarabande, 11846 Ventura Boulevard #130, Studio City, CA 91604 (800-827-3734); \$15.98 plus \$4.50 shipping.

Jerry Bangham spotted an advertisement in Variety (Sept. 30) for "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century: The Future Files" (an animated television series with 26 30-minute episodes) planned by DIC Entertainment in Burbank, in cooperation with Scottish Television. DIC hopes to start production during 1997, aiming for availability on-the-air in the fall 1998 season; you may already have seen DIC's animations on television: they've done "Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?", "Slimer! and the Real Ghostbusters", "Sonic the Hedgehog", and "Madeline" (based on Ludwig Bemelmans' book).

"Underneath it all, those Victorian violets were women of steel," suggests Sonia Fetherston, who recommends an exhibit of Victorian underwear (hoops, corsettes, drawers, pantalettes, petticoats, cage crinolines, chemises, and other assorted hard and soft wear from 1840 to 1900) at the Wadsworth Athenaeum in Hartford, Conn., through Mar. 2; the Athenaeum's address is 600 Main Street, and their textile curator is Carol Dean Krute (860-278-2670).

Dec 95 #5 The latest issue of Anglofile reports that the final episodes of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series will repeat on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV beginning May 8, 1997. And MPI Home Video has reported "healthy sales" of its videocassettes "with a surprising number of people buying the entire set" of 41 "Sherlock Holmes" programs. "The Thin Blue Line" (a BBC-TV sitcom starring Rowan Atkinson as police inspector in suburban London) will air on PBS-TV stations at the end of the year; Alan Saunders has noted that Atkinson's character has a rather nice bust of Holmes on the desk in his office, and in one episode waxes lyrical about the pleasures of spending his lunch break reading a few chapters of Sherlock Holmes. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; \$12.00 a year (Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033).

John Semper offers Frank Giacoia's original black-and-white artwork for the "Sherlock Holmes" newspaper comic strip that appeared on Apr. 15, 1956; the artwork (from "Silver Blaze") shows Fitzroy Simpson being charged with the murder of John Straker, and Holmes and Watson leaving 221B Baker Street to travel to King's Pyland. It's framed and in excellent condition, and costs \$3,000; 10153-1/2 Riverside Drive #392, Toluca Lake, CA 91602 (818-993-6859) <johnsemper@aol.com>.

Marina Stajic has found the Gillette Tavern at the Hale-N-Hearty (381 Town Street, East Haddam, Conn.), quite convenient for visitors to nearby Gillette Castle; the menu notes that the owner, Mary Ellen Klinck, is a justice of the peace, and will be happy to perform weddings at the restaurant.

Walter R. Brooks wrote 26 children's books about Freddy the Pig, with nice illustrations by Kurt Wiese, who appropriately showed Freddy in Sherlockian costume in FREDDY THE DETECTIVE. The Friends of Freddy, founded in 1984, hold conventions, and publish the quarterly Bean Home Newsletter, and show Freddy the Detective on the flier you get if you request information about the society (5-A Laurel Hill Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770); please include a #10 SASE (stamped self-addressed envelope).

I hope you all enjoyed Stephen Davies' nice discovery of Rudyard Kipling's use of "Sherlock Holmes" as a verb (Nov 96 #5). It's an earlier use of the two words as a verb than the earliest citation in the second (1989) edition of the OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY, which notes James Joyce's ULYSSES (1922) for "He had been meantime taking stock of the individual in front of him and Sherlock-holmesing him up."

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine wishes Sherlock Holmes a happy 143rd birthday with the Feb. 1997 issue, with a note on the birthday festivities, the late Harlan L. Umansky's poem "Watson's Mournful Reveries", and reviews by Jon L. Breen of recent Sherlockian books.

Willie Rushton died on Dec. 11. He was a British comedian, satirist, writer, and artist, and a major figure in the anti-establishment comic movement that flowered in the 1960s. He appeared on television with David Frost in "That was the week that was", and was a co-founder of the magazine Private Eye, and in 1973 he played Watson to John Cleese's Holmes in the BBC television comedy "Elementary, My Dear Watson" comedy; he also wrote and illustrated the Watsonian pastiche novel W. G. GRACE'S LAST CASE (1984).

Dec 96 #6 Charles Hamilton Jr. died on Dec. 11. He was a handwriting expert and autograph dealer, and brought the manuscript of "Black Peter" to auction in 1972, when it was happily purchased by Norm Nolan. In 1983, Hamilton was one of the first to describe the alleged Hitler diaries as obvious forgeries; he also wrote about his work in books such as SCRIBBLERS & SCOUNDRELS (1968), and he always had grand tales to tell.

John Bennett Shaw had great fun compiling his list of "the basic 100 books" for Sherlockians, despite understandable frustration in deciding what books to include and exclude from his list, but his list always was just that: a list, rather than a discussion of the books themselves. Carl William Thiel now offers the list, and describes and discusses the books, and offers some suggestions of his own, in THE BASIC 100: AN ANNOTATED COLLECTOR'S GUIDE. It's nicely done, and there's an excellent foreword by Ray Betzner, and the 56-page pamphlet costs \$13.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.

The next "Victorian Holmes weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will be held on Mar. 14-16. There will be a mystery to solve (with prizes for the winners) during a tour of six Victorian homes, and meals, and other fun and games. For more information, contact the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts at: Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404).

Ben Fairbank reports that the Oxford University Press is again offering the nine cloth-bound volumes of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES at a discount. The sale price is \$65.00 for the set, and you also get the nine color postcards showing the cover art; it's item 725 in their catalog (credit cards only), and the toll-free number is 800-230-3242.

"Part of you think it's in poor taste," the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department suggests in their latest mail-order catalog, adding that "part of you wants an XL." Their artwork includes the old skeleton Sherlock, and a new Sherlock-and-magnifying-glass, on T-shirts, mugs, playing cards, and lapel pins. Profits support that department's Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program, and the catalog is available from Skeletons in the Closet, 1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033.

Plan ahead: the next Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 14-16, 1997. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Mary Frost-Pierson, 101 Cemetery Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 <msteries@aol.com>.

Jon Lellenberg has forwarded an article from the British press about a proposal to open a "Sherlock Holmes Experience" in the basement and first two floors at 231-237 Baker Street; architects' plans include moving models of Victorian street urchins, bobbies on the beat, and hansom cabs. A spokesman for the project refused to identify who's behind it, but it's not Grace Riley, director of the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 239 Baker Street; she said that "to have two museums on the same street is ludicrous." She fears that the new museum would be a "state of the art, hi-tech entertainment complex or something. Can you imagine that sort of freak show here?" The property at 231-237, now vacant, is owned by the Abbey National, and the Westminster Council had decided to visit the site before making a decision.

Dec 96 #7 AUGUST W. DERLETH (1909-1971): A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CHECKLIST OF HIS WORKS, edited by William Dutch and others, offers a checklist of his novels, some additions to an earlier bibliography by Alison M. Wilson, a list of some of the contents of the August Derleth Society Newsletter, and other material. The 76-page pamphlet is available from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada); \$13.00 postpaid.

W. Scott Monty (1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127) offers a wrist watch (male or female style) with the emblem of The Bull-Terrier Club on the watch-face (writing in red, the bull terrier in gray and black); \$26.00 postpaid (or \$28.00 if you want your name on the watch face).

A LETTER OF MARY (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996; 276 pp., \$23.95) is Laurie R. King's third novel about Mary Russell, and it's a fine one. The time is 1923, and Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes now are married (yes, to each other), and involved in solving a mystery that's really a mystery, and Mary is more mature, and she's very much a character in her own right. There are some subtleties to amuse mystery fans, and some new insights into the lives of both Russell and Holmes, and a good story, told well.

Rebecca Anderson has kindly provided a list of dates and cities for Laurie R. King's tour promoting her new Mary Russell book A LETTER OF MARY (names of bookstores and times of book-signings are not yet available): Jan. 20-21 (New York), 22 (Boston), 23 (Washington), 24 (Baltimore), 25-26 (Minneapolis), 27-28 (Chicago); Feb. 2-3 (Phoenix), 4 (Tucson), 5-6 (Los Angeles), 7-8 (Portland), 9-10 (Seattle). Attenta: the list is not necessarily accurate; she will be signing at MysteryBooks (at 1715 Connecticut Avenue NW in Washington) from noon to 1:00 pm on January 24.

And Laurie's second Mary Russell novel A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN now is available in paperback (New York: Bantam Books, 1997; 336 pp., \$5.99); this

is a collectible, because it contains a teaser at the end: 13 pages from A LETTER OF MARY. Some paperback publishers are doing this for some of their series (they need to have the next book in hand, of course, or perhaps only the opening pages); if the paperback teaser beats the actual first edition into the shops, then there's a partial first edition for the completists.

Chris Caswell (Baker Street Emporium, Box 2324, Seal Beach, CA 90740) has a new sales list of Sherlockiana, including a life mask of Basil Rathbone, a doormat with a Sherlockian profile in two sizes, and much more.

Edward F. Clark, Jr. ("The Matter of the French Government") died on Dec. 13. He was a Wall Street lawyer, and a fine Sherlockian; his first contribution to our literature won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best piece in the BSJ in 1963, and his scholarship and humor were a continuing delight both in print and at society meetings. He received his BSI Investiture in 1963, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1986; he once described himself as "one of the dwindling array of Edwardians who report for duty in Baker Street," and he was a wonderful link to the days of lamplighters and many other things that we can now only read about.

Dec 96 #8 Michael Atkinson's THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND OTHER ECCENTRIC READINGS (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1996; 198 pp., \$29.95) easily refutes the widely-held belief that pop-cult lit-crit must be deadly dull and packed with academic jargon. The eccentric aspect of his approaches to nine Canonical stories is that he offers an intriguing starting-point for his discussion of each story, such as the kundalini-yoga serpent for "The Speckled Band" and Nietzschean iconoclasm for "The Six Napoleons". Atkinson explains what he's doing, in critical appendices and readable end-notes; three of the chapters are revised and expanded from earlier articles, and six are new, and all are interesting.

It seems quite appropriate that a Sherlockian society in California has produced its own wine glasses, and that's just what The Scowlers and Mollie Maguires of San Francisco had done: the design is in 22 kt. gold, kiln-fired on a clear 8-oz. bowl, with a black twisted stem. \$13.50 postpaid for one, \$26.00 for two, \$44.00 for four, \$86.00 for eight; Charlotte Erickson, Sherlock's Corner, 1029 Judson Drive, Mountain View, CA 94040.

And if you would like some Sherlockian wine in your Sherlockian wine glass, you might consider a Canonically-appropriate French claret, a 1995 Bordeaux produced by Chateau Plain-Point in Saint Aignan, in a 750-ml. bottle with a commemorative Sherlockian label and a Sherlockian profile on the wax seal. \$34.95 postpaid from Chris Caswell, Baker Street Emporium, Box 2324, Seal Beach, CA 90740.

Forecast for February: MURDER, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (Avon); Emma Hudson, housekeeper to Sherlock Holmes, is the detective in this sequel to ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON (Apr 96 #6).

Perhaps the only real problem for those who attend Sherlockian symposiums and workshops and weekends is that all too often one goes home without the papers presented at the gatherings, because the sessions generally aren't recorded and the papers generally aren't published, and it's even worse if there are multiple sessions, and one can't attend all of them. A pleasant exception is the conference organized by The Baker Street Breakfast Club at Bennington College in June 1994. SHERLOCK HOLMES: VICTORIAN SLEUTH TO MODERN HERO (Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 1996; 396 pp., \$34.50) is a thoroughly welcome collection, and the editors (Charles R. Putney, Joseph A. Cutshall King, and Sally Sugarman) have done an excellent job of offering 24 of the papers from the conference, including Nicholas Meyer's fine keynote address on "Sherlock Holmes on Film: A Personal View" (he has never seen a Sherlock Holmes film he didn't dislike, and explains why, with considerable insight

and humor).

Robert C. Hess has a new sales list of Sherlockiana, and a nicely-illustrated flier of British souvenirs, gifts, and collectibles; his address is 559 Potter Boulevard, Brightwaters, NY 11718.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW #119, Washington, DC 20007-4830 (telephone: 202-338-1808) (Internet: pblau@capaccess.org)