

Jan 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The birthday festivities in New York were pleasantly free from rain, sleet, hail, ice, and snow, and they started as usual on Thursday with informal events, but without an Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's (because by the time that Hugh O'Lunney's new premises were located it was too late to publicize a Thursday gathering, but it's likely that there will be one next year).

Friday's celebrations began with the Mrs. Hudson Breakfast in the Oak Room at the Hotel Algonquin, and continued at 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 Edith Meiser persuaded William Gillette to play Sherlock Holmes on the radio in 1930. And Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop was a nice opportunity for collectors to browse and buy.

The Baker Street Irregulars gathered at 24 Fifth Avenue, where Ray Betzner toasted Bev Wolov as \*The\* woman during the pre-dinner cocktail party (Bev then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have received that honor), and the evenings' entertainment included the usual traditions (Bob Katz's toast to the Second Mrs. Watson may or may not have proved that there weren't any Mrs. Watsons), and a carefully orchestrated roast of Tom Stix by family, friends, and former friends (roastees are not allowed to disown family).

Tom then awarded Irregular Shillings and Investitures to William J. Hyder ("A Most Valuable Institution"), Richard J. Kitts ("The Battered Tin Dispatch-Box"), Kenneth C. Lanza ("His Last Bow"), Theodora Niver ("Carina"), Roy E. Pilot ("Chemical Laboratory of St. Barts"), Paul G. Singleton ("Covenant Garden"), Margaret Smedegaard ("Criterion Bar"), and Dorothy K. Stix ("Martha"). And then Tom announced that after serving as head of the BSI for eleven years, one more than he had planned, he was resigning the post and handing over the gavel to Mike Whelan.

The Baskerville Bash also took place on Friday evening, at Bill's Gay 90's, in a sold-out private room and with an agenda that included papers by Linda Anderson re-telling of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from the perspective of the curly-haired spaniel and by Peter McIntyre on substance abuse in the Canon, busking by assorted pearl-necked queens, and an all-in performance of a new dance called the Barcarena (led by Francine Kitts to the tune of "Bad Dog, No Biscuit")

On Saturday morning the huckster room at the Algonquin was as usual packed with dealers who happily offered a wide variety of Sherlockian wares to a large crowd of collectors who just as happily added to their collections. And Saturday afternoon's cocktail party at the National Arts Club offered attractive surroundings, fine food and drink and conversation, and brief entertainment that included David Stuart Davies' one-man reenactment of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (in only seven minutes) and a hard-fought auction that raised \$2,250 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 Philip K. Shreffler (who received an attractive certificate and a check for \$500).

Jan 97 #2 The festivities continued into the evening, of course, but on a more informal basis, and the Aunt Clara Sing at O'Lunney's, was devoted to raucous singing, drinks and cigars, and the usual honors to the late Bill Rabe and others uncounted (or at least unreported). And the Canonical Capricorns toasted Sherlock Holmes and others born under that sign. And some still were partying on Sunday, here and there. And why not?

Mike Whelan will use the title "Wiggins" as head of The Baker Street Irregulars (as did Tom Stix); he received his Investiture ("Vincent Spaulding") in 1974, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1992, and has lived in Chicago and San Francisco and Cleveland and Indianapolis, and been active in Sher-

lockian societies in all those cities, and he's been an able business manager of The Baker Street Journal. Mike has asked that mail concerning the BSI be sent to him at his post-office box address: Michael F. Whelan, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601.

Plan ahead: the next "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Nov. 1-2. Additional details are available from Robert E. Thomalen, Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 <crwk02a@prodigy.com>. And if you want to plan even farther ahead, "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held on Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 1998 (Bob reports with justified pride that the 1998 program lacks only two speakers to be complete).

Cornelis Helling ("The Reigning Family of Holland") died on Mar. 10, 1995. He liked to explain that he had first found Sherlock Holmes in the back room of the shop of a pork-butcher, where at the age of ten or eleven he and a friend read the Canon in Dutch (and surely there could be no better place to first read "The Adventure of Black Peter"). He was an advocate, a fervent admirer of Jules Verne, and an energetic Sherlockian; he founded The Crew of the S.S. Friesland in 1952, and was a member of many other societies (he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1961), and he contributed to our literature from the 1940s to the 1970s on both sides of the Atlantic.

Some European countries will be issuing stamps this year tied to the theme "tales of horror" (since 1997 is the bicentenary of the birth of Mary Godwin, wife of Percy Bysshe Shelley and the author of FRANKENSTEIN, and the centenary of the publication of Bram Stoker's DRACULA), and Great Britain will issue a set of four stamps in May honoring (by nice coincidence) the four books featured in last year's television mini-series "Nightmare: The Birth of Victorian Horror" (the other two books being DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES). Nicola Davies kindly forwarded the report by James Mackay in The Times (Jan. 7).

PRIVATE EYE: DETEKTIV-ROLLENSPIEL IM VIKTORIANISCHEN ENGLAND is a German role-playing game created by Thilo Bayer and published by B&B Productions (Postfach 12, 74386 Talheim, Germany); the 96-page rule-book (DM 22.00) is illustrated with Sherlockian artwork, with two pages about Sherlock Holmes, and there are five adventures (#5 is "Auge um Auge" and costs DM 12.00). Okay: "Auge um Auge" is "An Eye for an Eye" and you (and your friends) will need to know German to play the games. Christian Swoboda will be happy to supply the rule-book and adventure #5 for \$27.00 postpaid (currency only, please); his address is Birkengasse 68/6/19, 3100 St. Poelten, Austria.

Jan 97 #3 Reported by Lisa Oldham: Laurence Jarvik's PBS (Rocklin: Forum/Prima, 1997; 376 pp., \$25.00) offers a history of the Public Broadcasting System, with a chapter on "Mobil's Masterpiece" that covers both "Masterpiece Theatre" and "Mystery!" and includes lots of behind-the-scenes gossip, some of it about Joan Wilson (who produced both series, and was Jeremy Brett's second wife, and apparently got "Mystery!" started by pirating mystery programming away from Alistair Cooke).

A Sherlockian silhouette has long been used by Crime Solvers on its posters and fliers, and now it can be seen on the world wide web, where there's a "most wanted" site with pictures of perps and felons and such. The site URL is <<http://www.mostwanted.org>>, and the S'ian silhouette will be found at <<http://www.mostwanted.org/va/FairfaxCoPD/>>.

The trivia question was: name two actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes (Apr 96 #2). And the answer was: Patrick Horgan (who has played Holmes and William Gillette) and Nicol Williamson (who has played Holmes and John Barrymore). And there is a third: Christopher Plummer, who has played Holmes and is now on tour in the one-man show "Barrymore" (written by William Luce). The play premiered at Stratford, Ontario last fall, and will be at the Mechanic Theatre in Baltimore Feb. 10 through Mar. 2, and is due on Broadway in March.

"The man must have gone down like a pole-axed ox before that terrible blow." That's from "Black Peter" (other mentions of oxen, or more accurately, parts of oxen, can be found in "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Lion's Mane"). And here's our newest Lunar New Year stamp, honoring the Year of the Ox.

President Clinton welcomed this year's recipients of National Medal of Arts (the government's highest honor for individual artists, writers, and scholars) at a White House dinner on Jan. 9, and one of the honorees was Stephen Sondheim, creator of many of the most memorable of modern musicals, and the author of the song "I Never Do Anything Twice" featured in the movie "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).

Further to the mention of the upcoming exhibit "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" at the Baltimore Museum of Art in October (Dec 96 #2), there will be a different exhibit on "The Victorians: British Painting in the Reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington from Feb. 16 through May 11. The latter exhibit will be the first survey of Victorian art ever mounted in the U.S., and it will be on display only in Washington.

Jim Suszynski reports some things to look for: a work shirt with Scooby Doo and Shaggy in Sherlockian costume on the pocket (\$38.00 at Warner Brothers stores); a British short-hair calico cat sculpted by Priscilla Hillman in Sherlockian costume made by ENESCO (\$17.50); a "101 Dalmatians" Timex watch showing a dalmatian with deerstalker and magnifying glass (\$39.95); and a coaster for Sherlock Holmes Best Bitter in a set of 25 British Pub Coasters from Pub World Collectibles (\$7.95) (there's a Pub World Collectibles Club, The Old Coach House, 92 Lodge Road, Feltham, Norfolk PI26 4DN, England).

Jan 97 #4 FAREWELL, MY DUMMY, by Phillip and Robert King (London: B. T. Batsford, 1996; 128 pp.) is a new collection of bridge-problem pastiches similar to their earlier THE KINGS' TALES (Aug 96 #4); Holmes and Watson appear in "The London Bridge Mystery" (Jeffrey Archer, Jane Austen, and Raymond Chandler are among the authors whose styles are used in other stories). Available from Trafalgar Square, Howe Hill Road, North Pomfret, VT 05053 (800-423-4525); \$20.95 postpaid.

J. D. Salinger's HAPWORTH 16, 1924 will be published next month by Orchises Press (a small press owned by an English professor at George Mason University), and it will be Salinger's fifth book, and first new one since 1962. Actually, the story has been published once before in The New Yorker (June 19, 1965), but the reclusive author refused to allow a reprint until now. The 20,000-word story is a letter from seven-year-old Seymour Glass to his family; he's at summer camp, and young Glass writes that "my love for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle ... is an absolute certainty!"

For those who can cruise the web with a graphics browser: Andy Solberg has reported a web page touting the current exhibition on sea nettles at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, with a picture of the Lion's Mane; the URL is <<http://www.cris.com/~Stocksda/naib/jelly.htm>>. And Willis Frick notes a home page displaying pictures of various recreations of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street, at <[http://www.thehistorynet.com/HistoricTraveler/articles/1997/0297\\_text.htm](http://www.thehistorynet.com/HistoricTraveler/articles/1997/0297_text.htm)>.

Karl Showler reports that he has been able to clear the waiting list for THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK (Sep 96 #2); this is a boxed set of Kenneth K. Clark's BEEKEEPING (1951) and a 28-page pamphlet explaining how Remsen Ten Eyck Schenck used Clark's book to create one of the most delightful of the Sherlockian bibliohoxes. The set is available from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England; \$60.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please).

The Emperor Napoleon III ordered the construction of the Hotel du Louvre in 1855 to accommodate visitors to the world Fair, and it was the first Grand Hotel in France; it was mentioned in "The Bruce-Partington Plans" and it is the official rendezvous for Holmesians in Paris, and it will be the focus of "L'affaire de l'Hotel du Louvre" planned by The Societe Sherlock Holmes de France for May 8-11. Details of the celebration (and it will be a grand affair indeed) are available from the society (26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris. France).

Slylock Fox appears in Sherlockian costume on all 90 cards (presumably reprinted from Bob Weber Jr.'s comic strip) in the box of SLYLOCK FOX BRAIN BOGGGLERS (Great American Puzzle Factory #784), issued in 1996 and available in toy stores now.

John McGowan notes that the Nando Times has reported that PBS has ordered eight new episodes of "Wishbone" (which may get a try-out in prime time), but there's no word on whether one of the new shows will be Sherlockian. In the meantime, fans of "The Original Cracker Jack" can check supermarket shelves for packages proclaiming that there is a "Wishbone" prize inside: there are 24 different prizes, but I don't know if one of them is S'ian).

Jan 97 #5 H. R. F. Keating's CRIME & MYSTERY: THE 100 BEST BOOKS, first published in 1987 (Feb 88 #1) has been reissued in paperback (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1996; 219 pp., \$9.95); Keating comments on his selections, from Edgar Allan Poe to P. D. James, and Conan Doyle is noted for THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

Brenda White and her husband Jesse Rhodes started creating Disney collectibles in 1989, and have done (very) limited editions of charger plates, pull-toys, tile table-tops, and one-of-a-kind vases. And her full-color 16" charger plate showing Ratigan (from "The Great Mouse Detective") is #7 of an edition of 10, and is available for \$2,000 at The Walt Disney Gallery (attn: Antonio), 711 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212-702-0702).

THE BOOK OF FICTIONAL DAYS: 1997 ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR is a new project, and an intriguing one, restricted to honoring fictional events and characters rather than authors (Sherlockians may be familiar with that, of course). The calendar notes, for example, that Dec. 27 is when Commissionaire Peterson's goose coughed up the Blue Carbuncle. \$12.45 postpaid from Bob Gordon (6224 Bury Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55436); Bob will also be happy to hear from anyone who wants to nominate other fictional events, at that address or at <bgordon@fona.com>.

Bernard J. O'Heir died on Jan. 25. It was just over twenty years ago, when Bernie was a sergeant in the Air Force, that he began to focus his interest in old movies into an enthusiastic admiration of Basil Rathbone, and when he was stationed in California he interviewed many people who had known and acted with Rathbone. Bernie collected, naturally, and he pursued anything and everything related to Rathbone's stage, screen, radio, and television career. He was able to find and preserve many unique items, and he gladly shared both his discoveries and his enthusiasm with his friends and fellow-admirers of an actor who was far more than just Sherlock Holmes.

Tom Rieschick's attractive Sherlockian artwork is now available on greeting cards as well as prints, and you can request his illustrated flier; his new address is 4549 Windsor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814 <trieschick@aol.com>.

"Sherlock's Secret Life" is a new play, written by Ed. Lange and scheduled at the New York State Theatre Institute in Troy, N.Y. There will be preview performances on Mar. 14 and 15, and the play will open on Mar. 16 and close on Mar. 26; the address of the box-office is 155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180 (518-274-3256). And there are plans for a limited run in Queens, N.Y. in April, and for a longer run at the Fulton Opera House in Lancaster,

Pa., in the 1997-1998 season. Altamont's Agents have made arrangements for a theater party on Mar. 15; more information is available from Cheryl Hurd, Box 2048, Scotia, NY 12302 <hurdc@sage.edu>.

David A. Bankes and Anthony R. Santoro of Christopher Newport University are guiding another tour through "Gardens, Country Houses, and Museums in England" on May 19-30, with "adventures custom-tailored for Sherlock Holmes buff" as an option; details are available from TravelMates (attn: Ginger Shriver), 12482 Warwick Boulevard, Newport News, VA 23606

Jan 97 #6 "20-100" is the cryptic title chosen for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of The Blustering Gales from the South-west and the 100th anniversary of their favorite story (which of course is "The Devil's Foot"); the celebration will be held on Mar. 22 in Burbank, and additional details are available from Paula Salo, 4421 Pacific Coast Highway, Torrance, CA 90505.

Guernsey has issued a set of stamps that honors "100 Years of Cinema" and portrays five famous detectives: Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes, Margaret Rutherford as Miss Marple, Warner Oland as Charlie Chan, Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlow, and Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. The mint set is offered here by Israel I. Bick (Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408) for \$9.95; there also is a first day cover (\$14.95), presentation pack (\$12.95), and prestige booklet containing a competition pastiche (\$29.95); plus \$3.00 for shipping (credit card orders welcome). Maurice Tanner (180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CR0 2LA, England) offers his own color-cachet first day cover of the Rathbone stamp (£9.99 postpaid in U.K. or £10.99 overseas) and a set of two different maximum cards (£6.99 or £7.99); sterling checks or money orders only, or credit cards with a 30p surcharge (an illustrated flier is available in return two IRC or a \$1.00 bill).

Doug Elliott reports that the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library will celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Bootmakers of Toronto with a special exhibit of original Sherlockian art by Sidney Paget, Frederic Dorr Steele, Gahan Wilson, and others, from the collections of Dr. Peter Lemiski and the Library; the exhibit will be open from June 26 to Aug. 2.

THE BAKER STREET COMPANION, by Paul Lipari (Kansas City: Ariel Books, 1996; 128 pp., \$3.95), is an interesting mini-book (1.9 x 2.3 inches), with brief chapters on the Canon, and Sherlockians, and Basil Rathbone; distributed by Andrew and McMeel, 4900 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64112.

Best wishes to all on George Washington's Birthday (which of course we now celebrate on President's Day). A repeat question from six years back: on what date and in what year was George Washington actually born?

And a few commercials: the revised 16-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, \*The\* Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.15 postpaid. The 76-page list of 704 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for the 413 active societies, costs \$3.80 postpaid. A run of address labels for 345 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 16-page list of Irregulars and others is available from me as e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis Frick's web site 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)

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Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The question was: on what date and in what year was George Washington born? And the answer is: Feb. 11, 1731. Well, yes, his official birthday now is Feb. 22, but that's because Britain in 1752, adopted the Gregorian calendar in all of their possessions, including the American colonies, and there was a loss of eleven days, and Feb. 11 became Feb. 22. And yes, we celebrated the bicentennial of his birth in 1932, and you might think that means that he was born in 1732, but the change to the Gregorian calendar also involved shifting the start of the new year from Mar. 25 back to Jan. 1. And why is this of significance to Sherlockians? "What was the month? The sixth from the first." So the first month when the Musgrave ritual was created wasn't January, and the sixth from the first wasn't July.

Mollie Panter-Downes died on Jan. 22. She wrote a "Letter from London" for The New Yorker for 45 years, discussing British society and politics and culture, and her report on the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House (in the July 7, 1951, issue) offered both splendid reporting and delightful reading.

For those who enjoyed Derek Jacobi as Alan Turing in "Breaking the Code" on "Mobil Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV on Feb. 2 (and for those who may want to watch it when it repeats): Richard Johnson played Dillwyn Knox, the second of the four Knox brothers (Ronald, the founder of our grand Sherlockian game, was the youngest). Dilly Knox was recruited by Naval Intelligence as a cryptographer in 1915, and continued that work in the Foreign Office, and was Turing's superior at Bletchley Park when the British broke the Enigma cipher. Penelope Fitzgerald's THE KNOX BROTHERS (London: Macmillan, 1977) is a fine biography of all four brothers.

I had a bit of fun during the birthday festivities in January presenting people with a cultural-literacy test, showing them a ring that video shops are giving to customers who buy a new film. And about half (but only half) of those tested recognized the Phantom's death's-head ring, and the symbol feared by evildoers everywhere, all those years in the comic strip, and now in the movie. But that wasn't the cultural-literacy test; try your hand at the real question: what was the symbol on the Phantom's other ring?

Leonard Nimoy played Sherlock Holmes on educational television in "The Interior Motive" in 1975, long before VCRs were as widely owned and used as they are now; I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has a recording of this show.

WHICH WAY DID THE BICYCLE GO? is an imaginative collection of mathematical mysteries by Joseph D. E. Konhauser, Dan Velleman, and Stan Wagon (Washington: Mathematical Association of America, 1996; 235 pp., \$24.95). And the first problem in the book is a discussion of a real Canonical mystery (from "The Priory School"): how do you tell from a set of bicycle tracks which way the bicycle was going? It turns out that there is a mathematical answer to the question, and it's explained neatly in the book (which also has some nice Sherlockian cover art by Max Carl Winkler). \$29.50 postpaid from the MAA, Box 91112, Washington DC 20090 (800-331-1162).

Feb 97 #2 Herb Caen died on Feb. 1. He was in many ways the ultimate San Franciscan (although he was born in Sacramento), and began his journalism career as a columnist on his high-school newspaper; he started his six-days-a-week column in the San Francisco Chronicle in 1938, and when he retired last year, 75,000 people attended a farewell party arranged by the city. He loved to write about his city and its people, and once in a while about the local Sherlockians: on Jan. 4, 1996, he tipped his hat to Ray de Groat ("exiled to Seattle") and praised his Christmas toast, "Geese on earth, goosewill to all."

And the answer is: the symbol on the Phantom's other ring was the symbol of his protection, which was a nice thing to have,

whether in the jungle or elsewhere. Chrys Kegley knew, and knew as well that Maggie Schpak, of the Curious Collectors of Baker Street, designed both rings worn by the Phantom in the film.

Henry Irving claimed credit for suggesting that William Gillette bring his play "Sherlock Holmes" to London in 1901, and earlier achieved considerable success playing Corporal Brewster in "Waterloo" (dramatized by Conan Doyle from his short story "A Straggler of '15"); the Lyceum (well known to those who have read "The Sign of the Four" was his theater, and the restaurant in the newly renovated theater is named in his honor. And British enthusiasts have founded The Irving Society, there are four meetings planned for 1997, and a twice-a-year newsletter; membership costs £15.00 a year (in sterling only, please) to the society, c/o Brien Chitty, 69 Harcourt Street, Newark-on-Trent, Notts. NG24 1RG, England.

The current issue of Anglofile reports that Britain's year-end honors list included a baronetcy for composer Andrew Lloyd Webber; his musical "Cats" (1981), was adapted from T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS and features the song "Macavity". Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).

"Time Exposures" is an interesting Canadian television series (with 26 30-minute episodes) about a modern family who wind up time-traveling through history; it first aired in 1989 on CTV, and it's now running on WAM! cable (a children's network owned by Encore), and in three episodes they have an encounter with Sherlock Holmes (played by Philip Linfield); watch for the three S'ian episodes on Mar. 15, 22, and 29. If any of you get WAM! cable, please record the shows off-the-air.

Plan ahead: the seventh annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Oct. 3-5. Membership is limited to 400 and full registration costs \$50.00, and you can write to Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147. You can also plan well ahead: Bouchercon 29 will be held in Philadelphia on Oct. 1-4, 1998, with Deen in charge of arrangements (she has done it before and done it well); Bouchercon is the world mystery convention and it's a grand affair indeed, and it will be at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia, and full registration is \$100 (checks payable to Bouchercon 29, same address).

Feb 97 #3 "The hospital's head pediatric nurse is also an ex-prostitute whose former madam turns up dead after revealing that she's going to publish a tell-all book" was the TV Guide synopsis for "Diagnosis Murder" on CBS-TV on Jan. 9, and it's well worth watching for when it runs again: Dick Van Dyke takes a cue from a Sherlock Holmes story in solving a mystery, and says, "I only steal from the best."

A bibliographic query about the first American edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1892): is there a copy of the first edition (with the date 1892 on the title page) that does not have the misprint "if had" (rather than "if I had") on page 65, line 4? The mistake was corrected in later editions (which have an undated title page), but one sometimes sees the misprint cited as distinguishing the first issue of the first edition. But if the mistake wasn't corrected in the first edition of the book, there would be only one issue. Does anyone have a second issue?

The Torists International are celebrating their tenth anniversary this year and they have an imaginative schedule for those in or near Chicago: visits to the Chicago Stock Exchange in March, Sportsman's Park in June, the Adler Planetarium in September, and the Chicago Athletic Association in December. Information about the society and its meetings is available from Claudine Kastner, 810 Burning Bush Lane, Mount Prospect, IL 60056.

Sheldon Wesson died on Dec. 12. He was for many years director of press relations for the American Iron and Steel Institute in Washington, and the poet laureate of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), and an enthusiastic printer with a basement full of hand presses and type. His scholarship and wit were a mainstay of The Red Circle, and some fine examples of both will be found in the pages of The Baker Street Journal.

NIGHTMARE: THE BIRTH OF HORROR, by Christopher Frayling (London: BBC Books, 1996; 224 pp., £17.99), was published to accompany the BBC mini-series that was broadcast here in Oct. 1996, and it's far more than merely a repeat of the material in the television shows: Frayling explores FRANKENSTEIN, DRACULA, DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and offers new information on the genesis of the Dartmoor tale, and some splendid illustrations, including (for the first time) the first page of Chapter XI of the manuscript, and B. Fletcher Robinson's inscription in the copy of the first edition of the book he presented to coachman Harry Baskerville "with apologies for using the name!"

Forecast: THE FINAL ADVENTURES OF SOLAR PONS, from Arkham House in July, edited and introduced by Peter Ruber, including some of Derleth's own unpublished Solar Pons stories; and THE SOLAR PONS ENCYCLOPEDIA, by Robert Brooks, from Arkham House in November.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTED EDITION was first published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in 1974 in nine volumes, with introductions by authors such as Eric Ambler and Kingsley Amis, and it has been reissued by Leopard in Britain at £2.99 or £3.99 per volume; Geoff Jeffrey has noted that all nine volumes are available here (\$7.95 each) from Edward R. Hamilton, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000 (and the Hamilton catalog of discount and bargain books has many other Sherlockian titles).

Feb 97 #4 New from the Folio Society: SHERLOCK HOLMES: SELECTED STORIES, selected by Joe Whitlock Blundell and with an introduction by Richard Lancelyn Green, with 11 of the stories and illustrations by Francis Mosley (reprinted from the set of the complete short stories published by the Society in 1993). Available to members of the Society for \$34.95; if you'd like to join, the address is: 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001 (800-353-0700).

There also is an exhibition honoring "Folio Society Fifty Years 1947-1997" at the King's Library (at the British Library in Great Russell Street), and an attractive poster designed by John Lawrence that shows many of the characters in the Society's book, including (of course) Sherlock Holmes.

Washington Post columnist Bill Gold died on January 26th. It was on Sept. 13, 1949, that he noted in his column "The District Line" that Karen Kruse was hoping to find some fellow-Sherlockians in Washington ("for the benefit of the younger set," he noted, "it might be well to explain that Holmes was a sort of script writer for Basil Rathbone"); three people responded to her call, and the four of them founded The Red Circle of Washington.

Cerebro (Box 327, East Prospect, PA 17317 (800-695-2235) continues to offer a wide variety of attractive cigar box labels; their new catalog includes a pictorial Sherlock Holmes outer label (\$30.00) and a Sherlock Holmes inner label top sheet (\$8.00).

The proprietor of the Pequod Press reports that THE ADVENTURE OF THE WOODEN NEZ PERCE embroils Sherlock Loams in a mystery surrounding an effigy of the legendary Chief Joseph (and that no animals were harmed in its writing or production; hand-set and printed, as always, and available for \$40 (cloth) or \$20 (paper) from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Richard J. Sveum, who is president of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University in Minnesota, was in New York for the birthday festivities and for a discussion of the status of and plans for their



John Bennett Shaw and other collections. Many Sherlockians have donated to the Library, but continued support is always welcome; the Friends plan to publish a quarterly newsletter, with reports on the collection and on some of its interesting material, and the first issue is due this spring. If you are not already on their mailing list, you are invited to write to him at: 466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

Jack Kerr spotted a second pastiche by Michael Mallory, "The Adventure of the Glass House" (told by Watson's wife Amelia), in the fall 1996 issue of *Murderous Intent* (Box 5947, Vancouver, WA 98668); \$5.00. Another story, by Richard A. Lupoff, is illustrated by Stu Shiffman, who has drawn a Sherlock Holmes PEZ dispenser (and perhaps there will be a real one, some day).

Megan Follows has recorded Laurie R. King's *A LETTER OF MARY* on two audio-cassettes in a set now available from Durkin Hayes (\$16.95), and the reading is a fine one (*THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE* and *A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN* are also available); if you can't find them at your local shop, the address for Durkin Hayes Audio is 1 Colomba Drive, Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

Feb 97 #5 This year's program for University Vacations includes "Light upon the Moor" at Brasenose College (Oxford), Devon, and Cornwall on Aug. 17-27, with a week of lectures and a stay at the Manor House Hotel, with due attention to Arthur Conan Doyle. 10461 N.W. 26th Street, Miami, FL 33172 (800-792-0100) <univac@icanect.net>.

George B. Koelle died on Feb. 1. He was a distinguished scientist, and an inventor of electron-microscope methods that became a standard in the field of pharmacology, and served as chairman of the department at the University of Pennsylvania from 1957 to 1981; he was elected to the National Academy of Science in 1972. George also was a Master Copper Beechsmith of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and used his medical expertise in writing his essay on poisons in the Canon for the society's *LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES*.

The Pleasant Places of Florida will celebrate their 25th anniversary with a "Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium" at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach on May 2-4. Write to Carl L. Heifetz, 3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685 <72642.3220@compuserve.com> for more information.

Spotted by Victoria Robinson: a German hand-painted porcelain Sherlock Holmes stein (with full-relief calabash pipe, pipe pewter thumblift, flat pewter lid under the deerstalker hat), 6.75" high, \$130.00 plus \$6.00 shipping, in the new catalog from The Cottage Shop, 11 Largo Drive South, Stamford, CT 06907 (800-965-7467).

If your local pipe shop stocks Dr. Grabow pipes and accessories, you can ask for a copy of the small booklet (with nice Sherlockian artwork) called "The Case of the New Pipe Smoker" (noted recently by eagle-eyed Siobhan McElduff).

Richard M. Caplan's "DR. WATSON, MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES" (Shelburne: Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 1996; 171 pp., \$24.00) offers a fine demonstration of how much fun a Sherlockian can have mixing the Canon with an area of expertise: Caplan's area of expertise is dermatology, and he has over the years discussed that aspect of the Sherlock Holmes stories in articles in medical journals and in *The Baker Street Journal*, all reprinted here. But there is much more in this book: a series of letters from written by Young Stamford to his wife, from 1882 to 1913, and tells some fine stories about his travels and the people he meets (including Holmes and Watson, more than once). The publisher's address is Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$27.00 postpaid.

Reported: Martin Gardner's essay on "The Irrelevance of Conan Doyle" (first

published in 1976 in BEYOND BAKER STREET: A SHERLOCKIAN ANTHOLOGY) has been reprinted in his THE NIGHT IS LARGE: COLLECTED ESSAYS, 1938-1995 (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996).

Mary Beth Myles spotted a Russ Teddy Town "Sherlock" plastic bear in S'ian costume, 5" high, holding a pipe and a magnifying glass, it's item 13739 from Russ Berrie and Co. (Oakland, N.J.), and it cost \$10.50 at her local Hallmark shop (but note that it's not a Hallmark item).

Feb 97 #6 TERCER ANUARIO DE LA SOCIEDAD DE MENDIGOS AFICIONADOS is the third casebook of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, and nicely done, with 296 pages of Sherlockian scholarship and pastiches by members of the society, with an interesting exploration of "El Sultan de Turquia" and a section of studies devoted to "La Finca "Copper Beeches'" and much more. It's all in Spanish; \$20.00 postpaid (in currency only, please) from Miguel Gonzales-Pedel, San Vidal 15, 28017 Madrid, Spain.

Further to the earlier mention of Ed. Lange's new play "Sherlock's Secret Life" (Jan 97 #5): if you can't get to Troy in March, there will be one performance of the play at Christ the King Regional High School in Middle Village, Queens, N.Y., on Apr. 11; the box-office telephone number is 718-366-7400 ext 246.

Leo Rosten died on Feb. 19. He was teaching English to immigrants when he met the man who inspired a 1935 series of New Yorker stories called "The Education of H\*Y\*M\*A\*N K\*A\*P\*L\*A\*N" (which later became a series of books and a Broadway musical). His classic THE JOYS OF YIDDISH (1989) still is a standard reference work, and in HOORAY FOR YIDDISH! (1982) he discussed the use of the word "bread" as a substitute for "money" (also noting the more straightforward English, "as in Conan Doyle, say: A blackmailer tells Sherlock Holmes, 'Here's how I make my humble bread.'"). And his novels SILKY! (1979) and KING SILKY! (1980) starred private investigators Sidney Pincus and Michael X. Clancy, operating as Watson and Holmes, Inc.

CSA Telltapes (101 Camberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England) has issued a two-audiocassette set VINTAGE MURDER STORIES (available earlier as CLASSIC TALES OF MURDER) with five stories (including Conan Doyle's "B.24") read by Brian Cox; £9.49 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).

Cynthia Wein (65 Briarwood Lane, Plainview, NY 11803) offers an artistic hand-painted Sherlockian design (in black on a 7.5 in. red circle) on short-sleeved white T-shirts (\$26.00), long-sleeved white or gray T-shirts (\$29.00), and white or gray sweatshirts (\$34.00), in sizes M/L/XL (add \$3.00 for XXL); all prices postpaid.

If you're considering a summer holiday in England: The Sherlock Holmes of London's EastCoast Expedition is scheduled for July 4-6, with a tour of the countryside where the German spy-master Von Bork lived in the years before the outbreak of war in 1914. Additional information is available from Margaret Bird, 193 Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey KT2 5DD, England.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist on Apr. 9, at Tony's Wine Warehouse, 1111 Oak Lawn Avenue, in Dallas, for a five-course ten-wine dinner and the usual toasts, and the price is \$50.00 a person; if you would like to join us for the festivities, please contact Don Hobbs at: Box 36329, Dallas, TX 75235 <dhobbs@zluh.org>. And if you'd like an excuse for a visit to Oklahoma, I will lead the first-ever geological expedition to the summit of Holmes Peak (near Tulsa) on Apr. 12; Staff Davis (2144 North Elwood Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74106) is the ring-leader of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa.

Feb 97 #7 And are you wondering where Leo Rosten found that quote in the Canon? He didn't; it's his humorous (but plausible) invention.

Some invented quotes are more plausible than others: William Safire, in his column "On Language" in the N.Y. Times Magazine (Feb. 16), notes a comment made by Neil Simon on one of the many meanings of "Aha!" as "when you know something but find it unnecessary to share, as for example, Sherlock Holmes picking up an object and exclaiming, 'Aha!' to which Watson asks, 'What is it Holmes?' 'I'll let you know when we get to Blenheim Castle. Quickly, Watson. To Victoria Station.'"

And yes, Neil Simon got "Blenheim Castle" wrong, too; it's Blenheim Palace, built by Sherlock Holmes/John Neville/John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough (and trivia experts know that the first "Masterpiece Theatre" series was "The First Churchills", not "The Forsythe Saga").

The Mycroft Holmes Society celebrated their 25th anniversary last year, and have now celebrated that celebration with A SILVER JUBILEE: 25 YEARS OF THE MYCROFT HOLMES SOCIETY OF SYRACUSE, edited by Joseph A. Coppola, and offering a collection of announcements, articles, papers, reminiscences, poetry, and puzzles from the society's archives. 195 pages (cloth-bound); \$27.24 postpaid to U.S. addresses (\$31.00 elsewhere), from Joseph A. Coppola, 103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066. Joe also reports that sets of three commemorative covers with the official USPS postmark are available; \$5.00 postpaid.

Michael Atkinson's THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Dec 96 #8) has been nominated for a Mystery Writers of America "Edgar" for Best Critical/Biographical work.

The Beeman's Christmas Annual for 1996 offers 40 pages of scholarship (and a few advertisements), including William R. Cochran's interesting reminiscences on society history, and Brad Keefauver's imaginative explanation of why the empty house was so conveniently vacant. \$10.00 postpaid from The Occupants of the Empty House (105 Wilcox, Ziegler, IL 62999).

MURDER, MRS. HUDSON, by Sydney Hosier (New York: Avon Books, 1997; 210 pp., \$5.50) is a sequel to his ELEMENTARY, MRS. HUDSON (Apr 96 #6); this time Emma is hired by journalist-and-would-be-politician Winston Churchill to find, follow, and thwart an international terrorist and assassin. Emma is again assisted by a friend's powers of astral projection, and by Holmes' apparent willingness to do without a housekeeper.

Jim Suszynski notes that the May issue of Cracked has a small illustration of Sherlock Holmes by John Severin (in the last panel of the spoof "Goose-dumps").

COMMANDING VIEWS FROM THE EMPTY HOUSE: COLLECTED WRITINGS BY THE OCCUPANTS OF THE EMPTY HOUSE, edited by William R. Cochran and Gordon R. Speck (Indianapolis: Gasogene Book, 1996; 192 pp., \$18.75), is just what the subtitle states; the best papers from the society's 16 years of monthly meetings are scholarly, unscholarly, and occasionally scandalous, and there's a reprint of the script for Lee Eric Shackelford's two-act play "Holmes and Watson". \$21.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268).

Feb 97 #8 Angela Lansbury received a special life achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild on Feb. 22, and a tribute narrated by Glenn Close, who recalled that she was acting on Broadway in "The Crucifer of Blood" when she first met Lansbury, who in 1979 was starring in "Sweeney Todd" (and each night Close was able to get to the other theater in time to watch the end of "Sweeney Todd"). Close had an added incentive, of course: she was dating Lansbury's co-star Len Cariou.

Reported by Jack Kerr: SCI-FI PRIVATE EYE, edited by Charles G. Waugh and Martin H. Greenberg (New York: Roc, 1997; \$5.99), with reprints of Poul Anderson's "The Martian Crown Jewels" and Philip Jose Farmer's "A Scarlet in Study".

Scott Monty finds imaginative venues for meetings of The Bull-Terriers: the Apr. 20 dinner will be held at The Castle at Boston University; details on the meetings are available from Scott (1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127) <wsmonty@bu.edu>.

Luci Zahray has found an amusing Sherlockian poster and bookmarks in a new catalog from Upstart, Box 800, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 (800-448-4887); the bookmarks cost \$6.25 for a package of 200, but if you want just one, send a #10 SASE to Luci (685 Marylane Drive, Holland, MI 49423).

Luci also reports a new catalog from Dale Seymour Publications, Box 5026, White Plains, NY 10602 (800-872-1100), with Sherlockian artwork on the covers of two books by Wade H. Sherard III: LOGIC NUMBER PROBLEMS (for grades 7-12) and LOGIC GEOMETRY PROBLEMS (for grades 9-12); \$10.50 each.

C. Frederick Kittle's "There's More to Doyle Than Holmes!" in the winter 1997 issue of The Pharos offers a fine overview of ACD's life and career; spotted by Bob Katz. The magazine is published by the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (525 Middlefield Road #130, Menlo Park, CA 94025).

Carolyn Hoehn reports that the Public Domain Players are performing William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in Austin, closing on Apr. 5. The box-office address is 807 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701 (512-474-6202).

More and more people are hearing about the Irregulars; Tom and Dorothy Stix report that they had a phone call recently from someone who wanted to know if they would like to buy some irregular jeans.

Further to the item about the set of stamps issued by Guernsey (Jul 97 #6), Gordon Palmer notes that the stamp that shows Warner Oland as Charlie Chan actually shows Warner Oland as Fu Manchu (in "Daughter of the Dragon").

THE JEWELLED PEACOCK OF PERSIA, by Jake and Luke Thoene (Nashville: Moorings/Ballantine, 1996; 155 pp., \$5.95), is a nicely-written juvenile, about three of Sherlock Holmes' young street-urchin assistants pursuing a case of their own; it's the third in a "Baker Street Mysteries" series (the others are THE MYSTERY OF THE YELLOW HANDS and THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA).

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

Mar 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Kathleen A. Shiel notes that there will be Sherlockian programming at the Fantasticon U.K. convention in Harrowgate on May 24-26, 1997. Two Watsons will be participating: Edward Hardwicke (from the Granada television series) and Michael Williams (from the BBC radio series). Additional details are available from Catherine Richardson (38 Planetree Avenue, Fenham, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 9TH, England); the convention's web-site is at <<http://www.aber.ac.uk/~mlr95/>>.

A moment of silence, please, for Sherlock H. Lincoln, who died aged 77 (of cancer of the stomach and liver) in Pittsfield, Mass., on Feb. 5, 1895. He was a farmer from Plainfield, Mass.

It's unlikely that Brad Keefauver wrote all of the material in the 32 pages of the first issue of The Holmes & Watson Report, since one of the putative authors is known to be armed and dangerous, but it isn't at all surprising that he includes a staff guitarist on the masthead. And a voice of sanity, but no one familiar with Brad's work would take that seriously. \$14.00 in North America for six issues a year, or \$20.00 elsewhere; Brad's address is 1421 West Shenandoah Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.

Simon Callow's excellent biography ORSON WELLES: THE ROAD TO XANADU (Apr 96 #1) has been reissued as a paperback (New York: Penguin USA, 1997; 680 pp.,

\$14.95).

Reported: HOUDINI!!!: THE CAREER OF EHRICH WEISS, by Kenneth Silverman (New York: HarperCollins, 1996; 465 pp., \$35.00); a new biography (and the three exclamation points really do appear in the title), with some discussion of the relationship between Houdini and Conan Doyle.

Thanks to all who reported portraits of Holmes and Watson on the cover of the Mar. 1997 issue of the TV Guide Crossword Puzzle Book (devoted to TV detective puzzles, and with some Sherlockian clues in the puzzles).

Fans of Christopher Lee's will want to watch him as the sinister Grand Master of the Templars in a new BBC/A&E six-hour dramatization of Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe" on A&E cable on Apr. 20-22 (with a repeat on Apr. 25-26). Reported by Anglofile (a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment); Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).

Edward Hardwicke is splendid as always reading four CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES ("The Dying Detective" and tales by Sapper, G. K. Chesterton, and Edgar Wallace) on two audiocassettes in a boxed set issued in 1992, and Patrick Malahyde does an excellent job with four CLASSIC RAILWAY MURDERS (by Baroness Orczy, Maurice Leblanc, Victor Whitechurch and E. Conway, and Freeman Wills Crofts) on two audiocassettes, and Brian Cox also performs well on VINTAGE MURDER STORIES [issued earlier as CLASSIC TALES OF MURDER] (Conan Doyle's "B.24" and stories by P. C. Wren, Arnold Bennett, Jack London, Robert Barr, and Sapper). Each set is £9.49 postpaid from CSA Telltapes (101 Camberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England); credit-card orders accepted. And Tangled Web Audio offers CLASSIC RAILWAY MURDERS for \$20.45 postpaid; 3380 Sheridan Drive #167, Amherst, NY 14226 (800-336-5746).

Mar 97 #2 Irene Mikhlin has uncovered a Russian parody SHERLOCK HOLMES I VCE-VCE-VCE, by Jack Kent, illustrated by Nikolai Lebedev (Moscow: MiK, 1994); the title is translated (roughly) as "Sherlock Holmes and Practically Everybody" and Holmes and Watson (and Miss Marple, Nero Wolfe, Inspector Maigret, Perry Mason, Father Brown, and others) find themselves in a castle out on the moors, defending themselves against a murderer who is killing them off, one by one.

Elizabeth Kastor reported in the Washington Post (Mar. 1) on a new series of "Smelly Old History" books written by Oxford University history professor Mary Dobson and due next month in Great Britain from the Oxford University Press. They are scratch-and-sniff books intended to make history more interesting to kids. ROMAN AROMAS, TUDOR ODORS, and VICTORIAN VAPORS will each have five scratch-and-sniff panels (head-on-a-stake, presumably one of the Tudor odors, is described by Kastor as part overripe meat, part glue), and two of the Victorian vapors will be: machine oil and urine.

David Stuart Davies' BENDING THE WILLOW: JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES (Chester: Calabash Press, 1996; 192 pp., £19.99) is a splendid tribute to the actor and to the Granada series and the people who worked on it; there are many grand stories about how the series was conceived and brought to the screen, about problems and resolutions, about successes and occasional failures, all told by an author who is a fine writer and who talked often with those who worked on the series. Available from the publisher (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada) <ashtree@mail.netshop.net>; US \$35.75 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).

Connie Steffan reports a new Sherlock Holmes hand-painted pewter thimble (with a lift-off hat) in a new catalog from Gimbel & Sons Country Store (Box 56, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538); \$19.95.

Karl and Betty Showler, whose interest in all things related to bees and beekeeping led to their THE CASE OF THE HOLMES BEE BOOK (Jan 97 #4), have also laid in a supply of THE OXFORD SHERLOCK HOLMES volume of HIS LAST BOW (in which Holmes' apiculture is mentioned); if you need

only the one volume (in cloth), it costs \$15.00 postpaid (checks payable to Karl Showler, please) from B & K Books, Riverside, Newport Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5BG, England.

Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" premiered in Dublin in 1985 with Tom Baker as Holmes, and Paxton Whitehead starred in the play in Williams-town, Mass. in 1994. And Al Jacoby reports that Whitehead will do the role again at the Globe Theater in San Diego from Sept. 14 to Oct. 25. The box-office address is Box 2171, San Diego, CA 92112 (619-239-2255).

The exhibition of "The Victorians: British Painting in the Reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington is fine indeed; it's the first major survey of Victorian art ever mounted in the U.S. and it will be on display only in Washington (through May 11). It is interesting to see the best artists of the era, from Turner to Whistler, and the way they reflected the culture that surrounded them. And there a bit of minor Sherlockiana: a mention of Conan Doyle and "A Study in Scarlet" in the chronology of Victorian Britain in the exhibition brochure.

Mar 97 #3 The first issue of "Le registre de l'hotel Dulong" has arrived from Sylvain Policard, with four pages of Sherlockian news from the Lyonnaise branch of La Quincaillerie Franco-Midland (including an article about the meeting between Lyon notable Dr. Edmond Locard and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle); you need to read French, but free copies are available from Sylvain Policard (2 rue Jean-Noel, Lyon VIe, France).

David L. Hammer is a stamp collector as well as a Sherlockian cicerone, and two of his pastiches have been reprinted from MY DEAR WATSON: BEING THE ANNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1995) in The American Philatelist, Nov. 1996 and Mar. 1997; Box 8000, State College, PA 16803 (\$2.25 each).

Sorry about that: there was a typo in my (Feb 97 #3) query about the first issue of the first American edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES). The first issue (dated 1892 on the title page) has a misprint "if had" on page 65, line 4; and later issues (without the date 1892 on the title page) have "if he had" on page 65, line 4. And so far no one has reported a copy with the date 1892 on the title page and "if he had" on page 65, line 4 (so the date on the title page will suffice to identify the first edition).

Great Britain has issued a booklet of stamps showing ten flowers drawn by the best of the nation's classic botanical illustrators, including an iris drawn by G. D. Ehret (who was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1757); it's an English Iris (\*Iris latifolia\*) not the Duke of Balmoral's Iris, but it will do until someone issues a stamp showing a horse named Iris.

Brian Stableford's THE HUNGER AND ECSTASY OF VAMPIRES (Shingletown: Mark V. Ziesing Books, 1996; 207 pp., \$25.00) is an imaginative tale of time travel and vampires, involving Count Dracula, H. G. Wells, Nikola Tesla, Sir William Crookes, M. P. Shiel, and others (who include an unnamed detective who lives in Baker Street, and his unnamed doctor friend). Available from the publisher (Box 76, Shingletown, CA 96088); \$29.00 postpaid (a limited and signed edition costs \$64.00 postpaid).

Further to the review of Richard M. Caplan's new book (Feb 97 #5), an article about him and his chronic condition ("Sherlockianism") written by Lynda Leidiger appears in the spring 1997 issue of the Iowa Alumni Quarterly (100 Alumni Center, Iowa City, IA 52242).

"The Holmes Brothers are one of my favorite bands!" someone posted recently to the newsgroup alt.fan.holmes. And the Holmes Brothers have been playing blues and gospel for more than 30 years, in New York and on tour; they are Sherman and Wendell Holmes, and they've been recording since 1989, and they wrote the soundtrack for the film "Lotto Land" (1995), and their new album

is "Promised Land" (Rounders 2142), reviewed recently in People magazine as being "the real article: rugged, honest and undeniably soulful."

BBC Radio/BDD Audio now have eight two-cassette sets of the Merrison/Williams radio series in the shops: three volumes of MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$15.99 each), three vols. of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.99 each), and two vols. of ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$16.99 each).

Mar 97 #4 Kiwi Carlisle notes that the St. Louis Art Museum is celebrating Italian art, and that an exhibit on "In the Light of Italy: Corot and Early Plein-Air Painting" includes the "View at Tivoli" by Claude Joseph Vernet [grand-father of Sherlock Holmes' granduncle Horace Vernet]; the exhibit closes on May 18.

Alfred Sheinwold died on Mar. 8. He began playing bridge "to escape dull philosophy lectures" while a student at City College of New York, and went on to become one of the best players in the world. He wrote 13 best-selling books on the game, and his syndicated column "Sheinwold on Bridge" ran in more than 200 newspapers (and for more than 25 years he enjoyed including Sherlock Holmes in occasional bridge columns).

The Reichenbach Irregulars will convene the first Sherlock Holmes Symposium ever held in Switzerland, at Wartensee Castle near Rorschach, on Lake Constance, on Sept. 12-14. This will be an international affair, and details are available from Marcus Geisser, 40 avenue de la Gare, CH 1003 Lausanne, Switzerland <mgeisser@access.ch>.

The Northern Musgraves will celebrate their tenth anniversary at Stonyhurst College in Lancashire on Aug. 22-24. Arthur Conan Doyle was at the school 1870 to 1875, and there are echoes of the school to be found in the Canon. The weekend will include talks and a dramatic presentation, and additional details are available from Christine Fell, 13 Greavestown Lane, Lea, Preston, Lancs. PR2 1PD, England.

Dave Galerstein reports that anyone who missed the Feb. 1997 issue of Historic Traveler with the article on Sherlockian sites in England (Dec 96 #1) can order it using their toll-free number (800-829-9555); \$5.00.

Some statistics from the U.S. Postal Service, which in 1996 handled 43% of the world's mail; Japan, the second largest carrier of cards and letters, handled 6%. In 1966 the U.S.P.S. processed 182.7 billion pieces of mail; our 32c first-class rate is among the lowest in the industrial world (in Japan the rate is 70c, and in Germany it's 64c).

Stan Drake died on Mar. 10. He created the award-winning comic strip "The Heart of Juliet Jones" in 1953, and in 1989 switched to drawing "Blondie" (created by Chic Young in 1930), which is syndicated in thousands of newspapers worldwide in 55 languages. This strip appeared on Oct. 8, 1994.

Mar 97 #5 Howard Einbinder reports that 221B BAKER ST.: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TIME MACHINE (Sep 96 #6) has been discounted to \$29.95 in the latest catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI

54481 (800-544-7297); this is a new version of the board game first marketed by the John N. Hansen Co.

Connie Steffan reports a sheet of wishbone stickers (including wishbone in Sherlockian costume) at a Hallmark shop (\$1.95 for 8 sheets). But so far no one has reported a Sherlockian toy in the specially-marked packages of Crackerjack.

The agenda at the Mar. 14 meeting of The Red Circle of Washington included a demonstration by Frank Young of a new CD-ROM disk that has the "Complete Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (including his novels, essays, short-story collections, histories of the Boer war and World War I, and much more). It has the text in eight-bit ASCII (so it will run on any computer, regardless of the operating system), and it includes a program that will enlarge the text (helpful for those whose vision isn't the best), and another program that will read the text aloud, and it allows a universal text search (so it takes only a minute to determine that Conan Doyle mentioned "Vernet" in a non-Sherlockian work). There are 311+ text files (more than 32 megabytes); a bit of final proof-reading and engineering will complete the project, and the disk should be ready to ship at the end of July, with a likely price of \$95.00 postpaid. If you would like to be informed when it's ready, you can write (but don't send any money yet) to E-CODEX, Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310. E-CODEX has already produced similar disks for Herman Melville and James Joyce (\$45.00 each postpaid), and if you're wondering why the Conan Doyle disk will cost more, it's because he wrote a lot more than either Melville or Joyce.

Marvin Lachman will receive a Raven award from the Mystery Writers of America on May 1 (the Raven is a special award for outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing). Marv is a fine editor, critic, and reviewer; he worked with Chris Steinbrunner's on the DETECTIONARY (1971) and the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION (1976), and has written about Arthur B. Reeve and Craig Kennedy in "The American Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet Impersonation" in the Mystery Reader's Newsletter (Dec. 1969).

David Kahn's THE CODEBREAKERS: THE STORY OF SECRET WRITING (1967) is widely and wisely regarded as the best book ever written about codes and ciphers, and those who deal with them (including Sherlock Holmes and the dancing men cipher); there's now a 30th-anniversary edition, revised and expanded (New York: Scribner, 1997; 1,181 pp., \$65.00).

Eleanor Wolff died on Mar. 7. She was Julian Wolff's wife, and a gracious hostess in those long-ago days when the January cocktail party in New York was held in their apartment on West Side Drive. She genially allowed her dining room to serve as Julian's editorial and business office, and she had a kind smile that served as a welcoming beacon to more than one generation of Sherlockians. She was honored The Woman in 1965, and in 1987 received The Baker Street Irregulars' unique gilded Queen Victoria Medal, recognizing her "long service as the BSI's most devoted camp-follower."

Mar 97 #6 The amusing Italian/Japanese "Sherlock Hound" animations first appeared in 1984, and they have been reissued by Just for Kids (Celebrity Home Entertainment) with two 24-minute stories on each cassette (and there are at least four cassettes); \$2.88 each in toy stores. And Jim Vogelsang reports that there also are at least two single-story cassettes; \$1.50 each.

Carol Wenk continues to preside over The Mini-Tonga Scion Society for Sherlockian miniaturists; membership (including three issues of the newsletter) costs \$7.00 a year (\$8.00 to Canada, \$11.00 elsewhere), and if you'd like to have more information, send a #10 SASE to Carol at Box 770554, Lakewood, OH 44107.

Patrick Kirkby, historian at the Royal Victoria Country Park at Netley, has



written of plans for a special "Netley Veterans Reunion and Display" on May 14, 1998; they expect that many medical and nursing veterans to attend, and there are expectations that Dr. John H. Watson will be among them (since it was at Netley Hospital that he took the course prescribed for surgeons in the Army). Admission will be by ticket only, but arrangements can be made for visiting Sherlockians; if you think that you might be able to join the festivities, please write to Patrick W. Kirkby, 2 Colson Road, Winnal, Winchester, Hants. SO23 0EX, England.

Jerry Margolin spotted Mr. Mxyzptlk (the imp from the 5th dimension) wearing Sherlockian costume in one panel of Superman Adventures #6 (Apr. 1997); \$1.75 in the comic-book shops. This is a new comic book, based on the new animated television series.

Tom Galbo reports that the graphic books (comic-book series reprints) of A CASE OF BLIND FEAR and SCARLET IN GASLIGHT, written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen, have been reissued by Caliber Comics with new covers. \$12.50 each in the stores; \$16.00 each postpaid from the publisher (225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170).

Baskerville Holmes and his girlfriend Tanya Franklin died on Mar. 18 in an apparent murder-suicide, according to police in Memphis. He was 6'7" and the star forward for the Memphis State Tigers, and played in the Final Four in 1985; he was picked by Milwaukee in the second round of the NBA draft in 1986, but didn't succeed in professional basketball. He was named by his mother, who liked the Basil Rathbone film, and saw it again not long before he was born.

Ralph E. Vaughan's PROFESSOR CHALLENGER IN SECRETS OF THE DREAMLANDS brings Professor Challenger into a science-fantasy dreamworld of H. P. Lovecraft; the 63-page pamphlet is illustrated by Earl Geier and costs \$10.95 postpaid from Gryphon Publications, Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228.

Ronald Howard died on Feb. 16. He began his film career as a child, acting with his father Leslie Howard in "Pimpernel Smith" (1941), and he was only 36 years old when he starred as a younger-than-usual Sherlock Holmes in the first Sheldon Reynolds television series broadcast in 1954 and 1955; one of the 39 half-hour episodes includes the seldom-filmed first meeting between Holmes and Watson, and they're still grand fun to watch.

Mar 97 #7 Murray Shaw, author of the excellent series of children's books MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, wrote and illustrated an imaginative new Sherlockian story two years ago (Dec 95 #2); all the characters are cats, and the tale now is available again in a revised edition with a new title: THE CASE OF THE MISSING KIPPERED HERRING; the booklet has 31 pp. and hand-colored artwork, and costs \$11.24 postpaid (3601 North 5th Avenue #106, Phoenix, AZ 85013).

Tom Stix has forwarded an item from the N.Y. Times (Mar. 13) about the impending sale of the Algonquin Hotel to Olympus Real Estate of Dallas and the Camberley Hotel Co. of Atlanta. Aoki, a Japanese company, bought the hotel ten years ago for \$29 million (Jun 87 #4) and then spent \$22 million on renovations; the new owners will pay about \$30 million for the hotel and plan to spend \$4 million to renovate its 165 rooms and to extend the lobby back into what now is the Rose Room. And they hope to revive the hotel's literary heritage, in part by creating a Round Table Foundation to offer scholarships for young writers (the Algonquin's famous Round Table was in the Rose Room, of course, and there won't be a Rose Room any more). The new owners also expect to raise the rates, and to keep the hotel for only five to seven years.

Reported by Stu Shiffman: Beaten's Christmas Annual, "chock full of goodies [by Stu Shiffman], British Grub, nifty stuff" (64 pages for \$12.00 postpaid from David Haugen, 1244 107th Place NE, Kirkland, WA 98034); checks payable to Sound of the Baskervilles, please.

The Piltdown hoax was in the news again this month in England, and so was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: on Mar. 20 the Linnean Society celebrated National Science Week by staging a debate between Richard Milner (who believes that Conan Doyle was the culprit) and Brian Gardiner (who doesn't). Milner, a historian of science at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, provided evidence for Robert B. Anderson's article in the spring 1996 issue of *Pacific Discovery* (Apr 96 #6), and Gardiner, a professor at King's College and president of the Linnean Society, wrote the article in *Nature* (May 23, 1996) that identified Martin A. C. Hinton as the prime suspect (May 96 #6). Articles in the *Daily Telegraph* and *The Times* did not indicate who won the debate.

Penelope Wallace died on Jan. 13. She was the daughter of Edgar Wallace, and the first woman to become chairman of the Press Club (a post her father had held the year she was born), and chairman of Crime Writer's Association and organizer of the first Crime Writers' International Congress; she wrote novels and short stories, including one with pleasant Sherlockian allusions ("The world According to Uncle Albert"), and she was the founder and president of the Edgar Wallace Society, which has just published the 113th issue of its newsletter *The Crimson Circle*. If you'd like more information about the society, write to Kai Jorg Hinz, Kohlbergsgracht 40, 6463 CD Kerkrade, The Netherlands.

It's not quite the Order of the Legion of Honour that Holmes received, but Charlton Heston (who has played Holmes on stage and television in "The Crucifer of Blood") now is a Commander in the Order of the Arts and Letters, the highest civilian decoration awarded by the French Ministry of Culture.

Mar 97 #8 John McAleer's *REX STOUT*, first published in 1977, is a splendid biography of a fine writer and a fascinating man (and Stout was an important figure in the early years of *The Baker Street Irregulars*); the book won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978, and it's still available in a reprint (San Bernardino: Brownstone Books/Borgo Press, 1994; 622 pp., \$57.00 cloth, \$47.00 paper).

Plan ahead: The "Fourth Occasional Sherlockian Cruise" has been scheduled for June 1998, from New York to Bermuda (and back), and the organizers are Irving Kamil, Susan Rice, Mary Ellen Rich, and Dorothy Stix; if you'd like to be on the mailing list, you can write to the Cruise Committee, Box 96, Norwood, NJ 07648. The cruise will feature Sherlockian events at sea, and pink sand beaches and shopping ashore.

The Crime Writers of Scandinavia's annual Scandinavian Mystery Conference will be held in Aalborg on May 9-11; additional details are available from Jan B. Steffensen, Sdr. Tranders Bygade 23, DK-9220 Aalborg Oest, Denmark <jbs@db.dk>.

Tim O'Connor has spotted a new edition of *SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT*, edited by Mike Resnick and Martin H. Greenberg, published in paperback in 1995 by DAW Books (Mar 95 #2), and now by MJF Books (seen so far only at Barnes & Noble, where it's available at a "special value" price of \$8.98); 26 new science-fiction stories.

Auction news: the manuscript of "How the Brigadier took the field against the Marshal Millefleurs" (22 leaves, bound in red morocco gilt) is lot 44 in the Apr. 17 sale at the Swann Galleries, 104 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010 (212-254-4710); the estimate is \$4,000-6,000.

David Stuart Davies is the new editor of the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette* (which actually is the *Sherlock Holmes Gazette & Classic Detective Magazine* but is focused firmly on the Sherlockian world), and the latest issue is #18, with 48 pages of articles, columns, reviews, and letters. The contents include part 4 of Michael Cox's continuing series on the behind-the-scenes story of the Granada series, Catherine Cooke's discussion of the Sherlockian aspects

of T. S. Eliot, part 1 of David Stuart Davies' well-illustrated series on Sherlock Holmes in silent films, a report by Barbara Roden on Conan Doyle's western wanderings in Canada in 1914, and much more. \$7.50 postpaid from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219); L3.50 postpaid from the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (49 Purfield Drive, Wargrave, Berks. RG10 8AR, England); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

William Schley-Ulrich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Lizzie Borden Connection" ran in three installments in The Lizzie Borden Quarterly (July 1996, Oct. 1996, Jan. 1997); Holmes was in Vermont rather than southern France during the Great Hiatus, and was asked by a cousin to come to Fall River to look into the case. \$9.00 for the three issues (Bristol Community College, 777 Elsbree Street, Fall River, MA 02720-7391).

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

Apr 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Christopher and Barbara Roden have acquired the unsold copies of the splendid facsimiles of the manuscripts of "The Dying Detective" and "The Lion's Mane" (Sep 91 #7 and Sep 92 #6) and the reprint of Lord Donegall's "Baker Street and Beyond" columns from The New Strand (Nov 93 #4). The manuscript facsimiles are available in both the deluxe and standard editions, and all of the books are offered at bargain prices; more information is available from the Calabash Press, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <ashtree@mail.netshop.net>.

Calabash also reports THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SPECKLED BAND (188 pp.), with new essays on the story and on Conan Doyle's dramatization. \$30.00 cloth or \$21.00 paper; shipping charges vary (same address).

Douglas G. Greene continues to issue excellent collections of mystery short stories from his aptly-named publishing house, Crippen & Landru. The only Sherlockian item published so far is Edward D. Hoch's DIAGNOSIS IMPOSSIBLE (Mar 96 #1), which has a nicely appropriate allusion in a story about Dr. Sam Hawthorne, but there are many other fine authors in his catalog; write to Crippen & Landru at Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 <crippenl@norfolk.info.net> <<http://www.avalon.net/~scott/cl/>>.

Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced by the Actors' Repertory Company at the Courtyard Playhouse in Rolling Hills Estates (in southern Calif.) from Apr. 25 through May 31; the box-office address is Box 2512, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274 (310-544-6555).

Irving Kamil (32 Overlook Avenue, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010) offers self-adhesive silhouettes of Sherlock Holmes (4" x 6") in black or white; \$5.00 postpaid.

Non-Sherlockian, but: try your hand at listing the U.S. states whose names contain only four letters.

Nate the Great continues his sleuthing, deerstalkered and assisted by his dog Sludge, in an amusing children's series that now offers 17 titles, of which the most recent is NATE THE GREAT AND THE TARDY TORTOISE, by Marjorie Weinman Sharmat and Craig Sharmat, illustrated by Marc Simont (New York: Delacorte Press, 1995; 42 pp., \$13.95); nicely done, as usual.

John McPhee's essay "The Gravel Page" (the title was taken from the Canon) appeared in The New Yorker last year (Jan 96 #5), with a fine explanation of forensic geology, and acknowledgement of Sherlock Holmes' contributions to the science he invented; and it's included in his IRONS IN THE FIRE (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997; 216 pp., \$22.00).

Baron Barclay Bridge Supplies (3600 Chamberlain Lane #230, Louisville, KY 40241) (800-2740-2221) <baronbarclay@baronbarclay.com> have a new catalog with just about anything a bridge player might want, including books such as Philip and Robert King's THE KINGS' TALES (Aug 96 #5) and FAREWELL, MY DUMMY (Jan 97 #4), and a reprint of RIGHT THROUGH THE PACK, by Robert Darvas and Norman de V. Hart (1947), all with Sherlockian bridge pastiches.

Apr 97 #2 Baker Street W1 offers prizes for pastiches: "In 2,000 words or less, recreate the master detective as he and Dr. Watson solve yet another baffling mystery." All authors will win a postcard portrait of William Gillette, and the grand prize is a framed original Gillette signature dated 1906 (and the pastiche will be published in the Jan. 1998 issue of the journal); entries will not be returned, and someone needs to write a good pastiche, because if none of the entries is deemed suitable, no prize will be awarded. The deadline is Oct. 15, 1997, the journal's address is 110 South El Nido Avenue #41, Pasadena, CA 91107; entries should be typed and double-spaced, and please don't forget to include your name, address, and telephone number.

"Pinky and the Brain" is an animated television series, and a comic book, and the May issue (#11) of the comic book includes a Sherlockian tale ("The Final Narf"); \$1.75.

For those who have access to the world wide web, there are three URL's that will be helpful: <<http://www.amazon.com>> is an American company, and it can supply just about any American book in print; the home page includes a fine search engine. <<http://www.bookpages.co.uk>> is a British company, and can supply just about any British book in print; the home page includes a fine search engine. <<http://www.bibliofind.com>> offers access to dealers in used and rare books; you can post your want-list, and wait for offers.

U.S. states whose names have only four letters are: Iowa, Ohio, and Utah. But: are there any more U.S. states whose names contain only four letters?

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star arranged a fine welcome in Dallas for The Practical, But Limited, Geologists and some other travelers from afar (both in Texas and other states), and an excellent dinner (with five courses and ten wines) at Tony's Wine Warehouse on Apr. 9, when the usual toasts were offered to the world's first forensic geologist. And it was nice indeed to be escorted by Don Hobbs and Jim Webb to Fort Worth (visitors from Dallas no longer are required to carry passports) to see the original manuscript of "The Dancing Men" at Barber's Book Store (both owned by Brian Perkins).

Additional honors were paid to Sherlock Holmes on Apr. 12, when a stalwart dozen geologists and Sherlockians participated in the first-ever geological expedition to the summit of Holmes Peak, in Osage County on the outskirts of Tulsa. A threatened blizzard failed to materialize, but the temperature was about eight degrees above freezing, so the time actually spent at the summit (elev. 1032 ft.) was as brief as possible; the climbers then quickly retreated to a sheltered slope to toast both Sherlock Holmes and Richard S. Warner (Head Sherpa of the Holmes Peak Preservation Society), who was present to accept plaudits for all the work that in 1984 resulted in official government approval for the naming of the peak in honor of the great detective. Also participating in the expedition were Nellie Brown (expedition entomologist), Charles J. Mankin (Oklahoma's state geologist), M. Charles Gilbert (director of the school of geology and geophysics at Oklahoma University), and Vic Lahti (who manages to be both a geologist and a member of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa). It also is nice to report that the U.S. Geological Survey recently reprinted the topographic map of the Sand Springs quadrangle, and that Holmes Peak's name is now shown on the map.

Apr 97 #3 The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet in San Francisco this year, for afternoon tea and Sherlockian entertainment, at the Holiday Inn (Union Square) on June 29 at 4:00 pm, and it will be as always a nice gath-

ering for Sherlockians and librarians and anyone else who wants to join the festivities. The cost is \$17.00 (checks payable to Marsha L. Pollak, and please enclose an SASE); Marsha's address is: Sunnyvale Public Library, Box 3714, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3714.

More U.S. states whose names have only four letters are: Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' interesting interview with Christopher Lee (about Peter Cushing), the news that Steven Spielberg's "The Lost World: Jurassic Park" will be released by Universal on Memorial Day weekend, and Forrest J Ackerman's note on plans for a film of Robert A. Heinlein's THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS (the book features a computer named Mycroft). And there's an advertisement for Haunted Hollywood's "Monster Bash" convention honoring Forry Ackerman's 80th birthday, with guests who include Sara Karloff (daughter), Bela Lugosi Jr. (son), and Ron Chaney (grandson), on July 18-20 in Ligonier (just east of Pittsburgh); Haunted Hollywood, Box 213, Ligonier, PA 15658 <bat@b4futures.net>. Scarlet Street is published quarterly (\$20.00 a year); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

There's more news about the set of stamps due from Great Britain on May 13 honoring Tales of Terror: the Hound will appear on the 43p stamp, which will be nice for those who get airmail from Britain, and "the grisly hound is shown head-on with huge jaws baring the fearsome fangs" in the ink-and-watercolor design by Ian Pollock (the image will be highlighted with fluorescent ink which glows under ultraviolet light). There will be a postcard showing the stamp (25p), and a presentation pack (L1.70) that has a brief history of the four classic tales, by Christopher Frayling (who produced the four-part "Nightmare" television series broadcast here on Arts & Entertainment cable last October); the other stamps in the set will show Dracula, Frankenstein, and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Many other countries will be issuing stamps honoring Tales of Terror this year, but so far only Great Britain is reported to be paying tribute to The Hound of the Baskervilles.

There will be at least one fancy first day cover for the set: Roger Johnson has sent an illustrated flier from A. G. Bradbury (3 Link Road, Stonegate, Leicester LE2 3RA, England): L10.00 for a full-cover cachet, with a special Princetown postmark; L12.50 signed by Edward Hardwicke or Tom Baker; L5.00 for a full-cover cachet with only the Hound stamp (add L1.00 per order for shipping).

Tom Huntington reports that his article "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" in the Feb. 1997 issue of Historic Traveler (Dec 96 #1) will be reprinted in the May issue of the Japanese edition of Playboy. This may well be the first Sherlockian item ever to appear in the Japanese edition.

Apr 97 #4 "Gun" is a new six-part one-hour anthology series that debuted on ABC-TV on Apr. 11, produced by Robert Altman and following a pistol as it passes from hand to hand. Sherlockians should look for a repeat of the second program, which starred Martin Sheen as a cop whose last case involved the death of a Japanese businessman.

David McCord died on Apr. 13. He was a poet and an author, and received the first honorary doctor of humane letters degree ever granted by Harvard University. His collection ONE AT A TIME (1977) won the first national award for excellence in poetry for children from the National Council of Teachers of English; an earlier anthology WHAT CHEER (1945), reprinted as THE POCKET BOOK OF HUMOROUS VERSE (1946), included Philip H. Rhineland's "It's Very Unwise to Kill the Goose (Sherlock Holmes)" (the poem was reprinted in the Oct. 1955 issue of The Baker Street Journal).

Kevin Reed's THE ADVENTURES OF COCKROACH BONES offers three of his parodies about Cockroach Bones and Dr. Waspon, including their encounter with Arachne Adder and the King of Bulimia; the 20-page pamphlet costs \$8.00 postpaid from the author (191 North Ridgeway Street, Anaheim, CA 92801).

Auction news: the manuscript of "How the Brigadier took the field against the Marshal Millefleurs" (22 leaves, bound in red morocco gilt) sold for \$8,500 (plus 15% buyer's premium) on Apr. 17 at the Swann Galleries in New York. It was purchased by C. Frederick Kittle, who owns other Conan Doyle manuscripts, and a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual, and whose collection will eventually be given to the Newberry Library in Chicago.

For those who would like to make their own Sherlockian costumes, THE CUT OF MEN'S CLOTHES, 1600-1900, by Norah Waugh (London: Faber and Faber, 1964) (New York: Theatre Arts Books, 1964), is reported to be a fine source, and includes a pattern for a Sherlock Holmes coat.

Nice news from the August Derleth Society: the latest issue of their newsletter includes Peter Ruber's report that April Derleth has found a lot of unpublished material, including an early (1938-43) Solar Pons novel (missing the first chapter), an unfinished Solar Pons short story, and two Solar Pons science-fiction stories written jointly with Mack Reynolds; Peter is editing the material for publication by George A. Vanderburgh. Membership in the society costs \$20.00 a year (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583).

Ben Macintyre's THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, THE REAL MORIARTY is now due from HarperCollins in June (L18.00); this is an expanded version of his stories in The Times and the N.Y. Times when the famous Gainsborough portrait of the Duchess of Devonshire, once stolen by Worth, went to auction three years ago (Jul 94 #6).

Connie and Jeff Gay, directors of Dreamland Productions, report that their Murderwatch Mystery Theatre performs twice a night on Saturdays at Baskervilles Restaurant (adjacent to Moriarty's Pub) at the Grosvenor Resort at Walt Disney World; the restaurant has a replica of the sitting-room, and the shows often allude to Holmes and Watson, and sometimes their detective is Shirley Holmes. And you get a \$4.00 discount on dinner if you reserve in advance: Box 1114 Goldenrod, FL 33273 (407-827-6534) <mwmt@aol.com>.

Apr 97 #5 Nice news from the sport of kings: Neil Travis Honaker reports that My Dear Watson won the fourth race at Keenland (in Lexington, Kentucky) on Apr. 20, paying \$11.40 to win, \$5.80 to place, and \$3.60 to show. It would be nice indeed if there were horses so aptly named when Sherlockians go to the track to attend runnings of The Silver Blaze.

Unexpected casting: Ernest Dudley's play "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (in which Eille Norwood starred in 1923) was recently produced in Newcastle upon Tyne, with Michael Cashman as Holmes and Frederick Pyne as Watson, and Nicholas Smith as Milverton. Nicholas Smith has been seen here for many years on some PBS-TV stations as the bald, jug-eared, store manager in the British series "Are You Being Served?" (and if you've seen the series you will know how unexpected he is a Milverton).

Mel Gibson's film "Braveheart" (1995) aired on cable not too long ago, and likely has been seen by many of you, in theaters and on television. What's the connection between the film and something mentioned often in the Canon?

Well, those plans to make a film of Heinlein's THE MOON IS A HARSH MISTRESS may not be real plans: it turns out that the magazine Locus had a report in Jan. 1996 that Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks SKG had bought the film rights to the novel. A film certainly would need some interesting special effects (since much of the story takes place on the Moon at one-sixth gravity).

Laurie R. King is on the cover of the winter 1997 issue of The Armchair Detective; the contents include Charles L. P. Silet's interview with Laurie

(and her essay on "The Mystery of God Talk"), and an excellent discussion of Sherlockian miniatures by Scott and Sherry Rose Bond. Subscriptions are \$31.00 a year (four issues); 459 Park Avenue #252, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076.

Novel Explorations ("where fiction and travel merge") offer an interesting assortment of literary tours, including "The Great Detectives" on July 3-12 with due attention to Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle. And there will be "Suspense, Mystery, and Intrigue on the High Seas" on the Norwegian Cruise Line's "Norway" on Jan. 31-Feb. 7, 1998 (with stops at St. Thomas and St. Maarten, and Carole Nelson Douglas as one of the workshoppers). Details on these and other tours are available in their fliers; their address is 10590 Twin Rivers Road, Columbia, MD 21044 (800-432-6659) <novelexp@erols.com> <<http://www.erols.com/novelexp/>>.

Reported: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FALL RIVER TRAGEDY, by Owen Haskell; with a reprint of Lizzie Borden's inquest testimony. Available for \$20.00 post-paid from Murder by the Book, 1281 North Main Street, Providence, RI 02905 <kbbooks@aol.com>; credit-card orders welcome.

The prolific Pequod poet presses on, and John Ruyle promises that his new SHERLOCK UNBOUND will contain verses both whimsical and tragic, all hand-written, hand-set, and hand-printed; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper), and his address is 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

Sorry about that: it was Frank Darlington who proposed the Christmas toast "Geese on earth, goosewill to all!" (Feb 97 #2), reported by Ray de Groat to Herb Caen.

Apr 97 #6 Tickets still are available for The Red Circle of Washington's theater party for "The Case of the Purloined Patience" at the Folger Elizabethan Theatre on Aug. 2 and 2:00 pm. Our discount price is \$26.50 per ticket (checks payable to Mary V. Burke); Mary's address is 2515 South First Place, Arlington, VA 22204.

What's the connection between "Braveheart" and something mentioned often in the Canon? Well, William Wallace's arch-enemy (played by Patrick McGoohan) was the English king, Edward Longshanks, who is better known now as Edward I. Edward's first wife was Eleanor of Castile, and when she died in 1290 he erected beautiful memorial crosses wherever her bier rested on its trip from Nottinghamshire to Westminster; one of those memorials was at Charing Cross (where a replica can be seen today), and Charing Cross is mentioned often in the Canon. As is Eleanor, for that matter, although not by name: Sherlock Holmes alluded to her when he asked (in "The Sussex Vampire") "Was there not a queen in English history who sucked such a wound to draw poison from it?" (Eleanor is said to have sucked poison from her husband's wounded arm, in 1272).

"These stunning beauties have cast a spell over millions," according to an advertisement by the National Aquarium in Baltimore for its exhibition of "Jellies: Phantoms of the Deep" (Jun 96 #4); if you'd like to see a lion's mane, you've got until January 1998, when the exhibition closes.

And further to the discussion of Holmes Peak, there's Sherlock Crater on the Moon, also named in honor of Holmes, and asteroids have been named in honor of Holmes and Watson and Moriarty. But I'm not aware of any other feature on Earth, either natural (mountain, river, lake, or whatever) or man-made (street or avenue, perhaps) actually named in honor of Holmes or anyone else in the Canon. Does anyone have a friend who's naming streets in a new sub-division somewhere?

N. C. Wyeth illustrated three of Conan Doyle's short stories for Scribner's Magazine in 1910 and 1911, and THE WHITE COMPANY for the Cosmopolitan Publishing Co. in 1922. And THE WHITE COMPANY is one of fourteen volumes in a series of leather-bound "Classics of Adventure Illustrated by N. C. Wyeth" now available from the Easton Press, 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857

(800-367-4535); \$48.25 per volume for the series.

Baker Street W1 is published three times a year, reporting on Sherlockian activities west of the Mississippi, and costs \$9.00 a year. The Sept. 1996 issue has 44 pages, and focuses on pastiches, with a fine tribute to August Derleth by William A. S. Sarjeant.

Sam Moskowitz died on Apr. 15. He was tireless researcher in the fields of science fiction, fantasy, and horror, and a fine editor as well; in 1939 he organized the first World Science Fiction Convention (now a major event in the sf world), and his "Studies in Science Fiction" series in the magazine Science Fantasy in 1959 included a warm tribute to Conan Doyle.

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

May 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The first issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has arrived, with a fine description of the collections, and a look at some of its material, and a nice tribute to John Bennett Shaw. If you would like to be on the mailing list, you should write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

Why are dinosaurs so popular with kids? Well, they're big, and they're bad, and they're dead (so they can't hurt you). And the U.S. Postal Service knows they're popular, and our new souvenir sheet honors "The World of Dinosaurs" with 15 different stamps (and some scenery); one of them shows a Stegosaurus, in Colorado 150 million years ago (a Stegosaur is one of the dinosaurs mentioned in Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD).

Pat Ward reports that the Indianapolis Civic Theater will offer "The Crucifer of Blood" on Nov. 7-23, 1997; the theater is in the Indianapolis Museum of Art, at 1200 West 38th Street #1-X, Indianapolis, IN 46208, and the box-office telephone number is (317-923-4597).

Eve Titus, author of the "Basil of Baker Street" series, offers inscribed copies of the out-of-print hardcover editions, and the almost-out-of-print paperback editions, and other Sherlockian material. If you would like to have a copy of her sales list, send Eve a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope (Mayfair Towers #10-H, 9195 Collins Avenue, Surfside, FL 33154).

Sherlockian change-ringers interested in joining a special-interest Sherlockian society are invited to write to Pam Verrey (408 Koko Isle Circle, Honolulu, HI 96825 <verrey@kestrok.com>.

Jon Lellenberg spotted Adam Hochschild's interesting article "Mr. Kurtz, I Presume" in The New Yorker (Apr. 14); Hochschild wonders why "most scholars think there was no real Kurtz," and notes that "Zaire's history is full of them." The campaign against mistreatment of the natives in the Congo was launched in 1903 by Edward Morel and Roger Casement (who was then British Consul at Kinshasa), and in 1904 Casement returned to London and contacted several writers, including Arthur Conan Doyle, who wrote THE CRIME OF THE CONGO (1909) and later tried to save Casement from execution after the 1916 rebellion against the British in Dublin, and Joseph Conrad, who had written HEART OF DARKNESS (1899). You'll know about Kurtz if you've read Conrad's book or seen the television film (1994), or seen the film "Apocalypse Now" (1979) that was based on Conrad's book but set in Vietnam. Hochschild has identified some of the Belgian colonial administrators Conrad may have met in the Congo in 1890, and who may well have contributed to his portrayal of his character Kurtz.



THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK, by Charles A. Mills (Alexandria: Apple Cheeks Press, 1990; 49 pp., \$5.00 postpaid), is still available, offering a brief culinary tour of the Canon, with discussion of food, drink, and clubs, as well as recipes (Aug 90 #3); Box 217, Alexandria, VA 22307.

May 97 #2 Further to earlier reviews of abridged readings of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell, Debbie Clark notes that unabridged readings by Jenny Sterlin also are available, from Recorded Books Audio, 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304). The cassettes play on normal machines; THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE costs \$17.50 (rental)/\$85.00 (purchase); A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN is \$16.50/\$67.00; and A LETTER OF MARY is \$13.50/\$49.00.

Mike Royko died on Apr. 29. He went to work for the Chicago Daily News in 1959 as a police reporter, and became a columnist in 1963, eventually working for almost all of Chicago's major papers (when he quit the Sun-Times in 1984 he announced that "no self-respecting fish" would want to be wrapped in a newspaper owned by Rupert Murdoch); he became a Chicago institution, championing the common man and the Chicago Cubs, and in 1986 he used Holmes and Watson in a column about the mugging of TV anchor Dan Rather, admitting that "I'm more of a bumbling Watson than a cerebral Holmes."

The Caliber comic-book mini-series THE SEARCHERS (Jul 96 #1 and Nov 96 #7) has picked up again: Jerry Margolin spotted THE SEARCHERS: APOSTLE OF MERCY #1 (\$2.95) with one Sherlockian panel reprinted from the earlier series (if the new series continues, a descendant of Moriarty may turn up again, too).

Bunny Yeager was a model and a beauty queen before becoming a photographer herself, and her work has been seen in Playboy for decades; she now offers a series of collector's cards, and one of models in "The Girl in the Hat" (set no. 1) is "Sherlock Holmes' Apprentice" (it's a lot larger and more colorful than shown here. The set of twelve cards costs \$19.95 postpaid, and you need to say that you're more than 18 years old (Bunny Yeager, 9301 N.E. 6th Avenue #C-311, Miami, FL 33138).

Congratulations to Ben Wood, on his Two-Shilling Award, which he received during the Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium held this month in St. Pete Beach. The award is made by The Baker Street Irregulars "for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty," and Ben has certainly earned it; he received his Investiture ("A Scandal in Bohemia") in 1979, and served for many years as the BSI's Chaplain, and as sparking-plug for The Pleasant Places of Florida.

The Mysterious Bookshop has a new 88-page spring-summer catalog, with three pages of Sherlockiana; 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net> <<http://www.mysteriousbookshop.com>>.

The continuing saga of St. Bartholomew's Hospital (the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson) has taken a welcome turn for the better: the Conservative government's campaign to close the hospital (Apr 96 #1) ended with the recent Labour election victory. According to a story in The Times on May 9 (at hand from Christopher Roden), Tony Blair made a pre-election promise to halt planned hospital closures, and the new government has begun a full-scale review of London's health needs. Frank Dobson (the new Health Secretary) said: "This government will not end up endorsing the previous government's policy. I am not dealing with individual cases at present, but I will make my decisions at the end of the review."

May 97 #3 Admirers of August Derleth's work will enjoy RETURN TO DERLETH: SELECTED ESSAYS, VOLUME TWO, edited by James P. Roberts and illustrated by Eugene Gryniwicz; 96 pp., with Basil Copper's six-page "The Game's Afoot: August Derleth and Solar Pons" (about Derleth's stories and Copper's continuation of the saga) and essays by other enthusiasts on Der-

leth's life and work in other genres. Available from the White Hawk Press, 950 Jenifer Street, Madison, WI 53703; \$8.00 postpaid.

Bill Serow suggests that visitors to Paris may enjoy an exhibition of "The World of Sherlock Holmes" at the Louvre des Antiquaires (an antique-dealers cooperative) at 2 place Palais-Royale through Sept. 15; eight displays (including the sitting-room) have been arranged with the help of the Sherlock Holmes Society of France.

I've now had a chance to hear (and meet) Billy Childish and Thee Headcoats (Sep 96 #8), at the Black Cat in Washington during the band's recent east-coast tour, but on this occasion only the drummer wore a deerstalker. The band's music is mainly punk rock, played well and highly regarded by fans, and record titles include "Sound of the Baskervilles" and "My Dear Watson" and other Sherlockian allusions, although Billy Childish seemed rather intrigued, or perhaps merely amused, to meet a Sherlockian after the show. He explained that it was Don Crane, leader of the British rhythm-and-blues band Downliner Sect, who first wore a deerstalker (which he called a headcoat) while performing, and influenced Billy Childish, who was born in 1959 in Chatham, Kent, and now has many songs and records to his credit (as well as paintings and poems). Billy's band was formed in 1979, and records for Damaged Goods (P.O. Box 671, London E17, England); album jackets often have S'ian artwork. The band has a home page at <<http://www.psychogarage.demon.co.uk/childish/>>, and there's a discography at <[http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Patrick\\_Davies/headcoat.htm](http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Patrick_Davies/headcoat.htm)>.

Steven Spielberg's "The Lost World" is doing well at the box office, but it remains to be seen whether it will do as well as "Jurassic Park" (which has grossed more than \$900 million since 1993 and is the highest-grossing film in history). A colorful poster for the 1925 film based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's book led into the story about this year's film in the May 23 issue of Entertainment Weekly.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FALL RIVER TRAGEDY, by Owen Haskell (North Providence: Lazarus Press, 1997; 174 pp., \$15.00), brings Holmes to Fall River in 1893 to investigate the murders of Lizzie Borden's parents, and to meet Lizzie after the trial at which she was acquitted, and to reveal his solution to the mystery. The book includes 69 pages of Lizzie's testimony at the coroner's inquest (she didn't testify at the trial), and it's easy to see why she wasn't convicted, after such a confused and confusing investigation. \$17.00 postpaid from the author (1 Homes Street, North Providence, RI 02904).

Congratulations to Michael Atkinson, whose THE SECRET MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES has won a Mystery Writer of America "Edgar" for Best Critical/Biographical work. The book is a fine refutation of the widely-held belief that pop-cult lit-crit must be deadly dull and packed with academic jargon (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1996; 198 pp., \$29.95).

May 97 #4 Robert F. Fleissner's "The Old English Mr. Holmes: A Study in Critical Method" notes some parallels between "Beowulf" and the Canon in the 1996 annual volume of the academic journal In Geardagum (published by the Society for New Language Study); \$5.00 postpaid from Ray Tripp, Box 100596, Denver, CO 80210.

Forecast from Signet in August (\$5.99): FIRST CASES 2: FIRST APPEARANCES OF CLASSIC AMATEUR SLEUTHS, edited by Robert Randisi; with a reprint of Carole Nelson Douglas' "Parris Green" (in which Irene Adler and Penelope Huxleigh meet Oscar Wilde in 1886), reprinted from MALICE DOMESTIC 2 (Aug 93 #3). Midnight Louie's Scratching Post-Intelligencer also notes that Carole had edited MARILYN: SHADES OF BLONDE (forecast from Forge in July, \$23.95); Carole has written a dramatic monologue for the book, portraying what Marilyn would be doing were she alive and well today at age 70, and plans to present the monologue, with costume and props during a panel at Bouchercon in Monterey at the end of October. The newsletter is available

from Carole (Box 331555, Fort Worth, TX 76163) <cdouglas@catwriter.com>; she also has a home page at <<http://www.catwriter.com/cdouglas>>.

Michael J. Smigowski has executed a striking lithograph that shows a young Sherlock Holmes, working on a chemical experiment in 1878, waiting patiently to become an unofficial consulting detective; the signed prints (17 x 23 in.) are available from the artist (One Melissa Drive, Pembroke, NH 03275), and they cost \$50.00 postpaid (he also offers a nicely-illustrated free flier).

"Only the stupidest of intellectuals wouldn't realize that Alice in Wonderland and Sherlock Holmes are among the blessings that English writing in its many forms has given to the world." C. P. Snow, on England's literary legacy, in the Saturday Review (June 11, 1977).

The set of four British stamps honoring "Tales of Terror" (Apr 97 #3) are available from the U.S. Postal Service: the presentation pack (805719) is \$2.95, a block of four of the "Hound" stamp (805712) is \$2.90, and a full pane of 100 "Hound" stamps (805714) is \$71.40; add \$1.00 for shipping. The address is: Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center, Box 7247, Philadelphia, PA 19101-9014 (800-782-6724); credit-card orders welcome.

Pat Ward reports that Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" will be preformed at the Indianapolis Civic Theater (at the Indianapolis Museum of Art) on Nov. 7-23. The box-office address is 1200 West 38th Street #1-X, Indianapolis, IN 46208 (317-923-4597).

Stafford G. Davis ("Horace Harker") died on May 10. He had a long career in corporate communications, and was the founder and the True Perceiver of The Afghanistan Perceivers of Tulsa, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1980. He worked hard to keep the memory green in Oklahoma, where he even managed to persuade the residents of Watson that their town had been named for Sherlock Holmes' friend and chronicler.

May 97 #5 Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding starred in "Move Over Moriarty" in England last year (Jul 96 #8), playing all the roles (including Holmes and Watson) and winning praise from the critics; now they're in the United States, at the Santa Fe Stages, where the comedy will have its North American premiere on June 4-14. The box-office address is 105 East Marcy Street #107, Santa Fe, NM 87501 (505-982-6683).

Carolyn and Joel Senter's latest sales list ("Quick Watson...!" #3) offers some nice Sherlockian books, audio, video, pins, a new Sherlockian map of England drawn by Jan Walker, and much more; Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219.

HENRY IRVING'S WATERLOO, by W. D. King (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993; 303 pp., \$40.00), is a fascinating and rewarding book. Arthur Conan Doyle adapted his story "A Straggler of '15" (1891) into the one-act play "A Story of Waterloo" and sent it to Henry Irving, who quickly bought the rights to the play and made it famous, performing it hundreds of times in London and on tour from 1894 until his death in 1905. But today it is best known (and often remembered only) for the scathing review that George Bernard Shaw gave Irving's performance when the play opened in London in 1895. One of the reasons why King's book is so fascinating and rewarding is that King stresses the fundamental change from the "actor's theater" that Irving represented so well to the "author's theater" that Shaw was about to launch and lead. And the book is full of real people, including Ellen Terry and Bram Stoker and Edward Gordon Craig and Napoleon, and King tells his and their story well, offering a fine look at what drama was like a century ago.

A video-taper alert: "The X-Files" starts in reruns on the FX cable channel on Aug. 19, five nights a week. The first season's 12th episode ("Fire") had Muldur's old flame, now a Scotland Yard detective, enlisting his aid in tracking down an arsonist who is able to ignite things simply by touching them. And there are Sherlockian allusions in the episode, which should be broadcast on Sept. 3, if the schedule is correct.

It was many years ago that John Bennett Shaw prepared calling cards for Mr. Sherlock Holmes and Professor James Moriarty (long enough ago that Richard M. Nixon was president of the United States, accounting for John giving the White House telephone number as the Washington contact for Moriarty). But whose were the London numbers he gave for Holmes (01-486-5555) and Moriarty (01-236-5555)? Does anyone remember? Or were they non-working even then?

May 97 #6 John Ruyle, preferring to believe that Sherlock Holmes shares the birthday of Arthur Conan Doyle rather than Felix Morley, has celebrated May 22 with BEEING THERE, a new collection of Sherlockian verse, handset and printed at the Pequod Press; \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper) from John (521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707).

The weather was delightful for the 27th running of The Silver Blaze (Southern Division) at Pimlico on May 24, when it was nice indeed to find a horse named Dr. Doyle entered in the seventh race (we also learned that Dr. Doyle had been scheduled to run the day before, but had been scratched so that he could run the next day). It was even nicer when Dr. Doyle won handily, but he was an odds-on favorite and paid only \$3.40/\$2.60/\$2.20. Unfortunately, The Silver Blaze was the fourth race, in which many Sherlockians had backed Lulu's Boy, who had won the same race in 1991 and missed a chance to be our only double-winner by finishing sixth. Screen Star was an easy winner, and the traditional trophy was presented by Gwen Knight, of Philadelphia.

The sixth annual Watsonian weekend (celebrating Dr. Watson and the Battle of Maiwand) begins with a regimental dinner at Knickers Restaurant in Des Plaines, Ill., on July 18, and continues with the 38th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Course on July 19, and concludes with brunch at the Destiny restaurant in Des Plaines. More details are available from Fred Levin, 8242 North Ridgeway Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076.

Edward Mulhare died on May 24. He began his acting career in Ireland in 1942, moving to London and then to New York, where in 1957 he succeeded Rex Harrison at Henry Higgins in "My Fair Lady". He had starring roles in the television series "The Ghost and Mrs. Muir" and "Knight Rider", and in 1977 was to star as Holmes (with Ben Wright as Watson) in "The Sherlock Holmes Radio Theatre", a radio series planned by KIIS (Los Angeles); Glenhall Taylor wrote twelve scripts for the series, and seven were recorded, but the series never made it onto the air.

Lisa Oldham's electronic newsletter "The Brettish Empire" continues to run installments of her excellent survey of Jeremy Brett's stage career. Her address is <loldham@freenet.columbus.oh.us>; back issues can be read on the web at <<http://www.infinet.com/~jwolfe/tbe>>.

John Hillen has kindly forwarded news of a new production by the California Artists Repertory Theatre: "Alice in Wonderland" will be performed at the Hollywood Entertainment Museum at 10:00 and 7:00 on June 14. The play is adapted and directed by Peggy Webber, and stars Samantha Eggar (Alice) and David Warner (Lewis Carroll), John Astin (the White Knight), Louis Nye (the Mock Turtle), Parley Baer, Elliott Reid, and others; the Museum's address is 7021 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood, CA 90028 (213-960-4806). CART was founded 48 years ago by Peggy Webber, who has had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television; she worked on the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series in the 1940s, and she and Parley Baer and Elliott Reid have contributed to the audio reissues produced by Ken Greenwald at 221A Baker Street Associates (and distributed by Simon and Schuster and Brilliance Audio).

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

Jun 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

David L. Hammer's A DANGEROUS GAME: BEING A TRAVEL GUIDE TO THE EUROPE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 1997; 277 pp., \$19.95) is as delightful as his four earlier travel books (three devoted to Britain, and one to North America), and like the others it is a reasonable substitute for having the author himself as one's guide. But only reasonable, since he so obviously enjoys his journeys and his research, and it is easy enough to imagine how much fun it would be to join one of his expeditions. The book is written with style and humor, and recommended; \$22.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256).

Leslie Klinger will repeat his six-week, Monday-evening, extension course on "Sherlock Holmes and His World" at the University of California in Los Angeles from Oct. 6 through Nov. 10; details are available from the UCLA Extension (310-825-9971) <<http://www.unex.ucla.edu>>. "A serious course," Les notes, with "lots of reading!"

A new postage stamp honors Bugs, the world's most famous Bunny, and he's famous enough that the postal service didn't even need to put his name on the stamp. And yes, there is a mention of a bunny in the Canon (revealed on the next page).

Further to the item about the sale of the Algonquin Hotel (Mar 97 #7), John Baesch has kindly forwarded a flier for the newly renovated landmark (which for many years has been the informal headquarters for the January birthday weekend) is run now as a Camberley Hotel); the Algonquin's Camberley Club Suites feature "a personal library of significant works, current periodicals, fresh fruit, a decanter of American sherry, complimentary soft drinks and special Algonquin Beer."

Malcolm Payne died on May 30. He was the founder of The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment, and had a close association with Windlesham (since his father, aunt, and uncle had worked for Sir Arthur); he put together an interesting museum collection of Conan Doyle material, now shown at Groombridge, and in 1993 edited and published RECOLLECTIONS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE BY RESIDENTS OF CROWBOROUGH, with reminiscences by his relatives and others who were employed by the family.

Jo Soares' pastiche O XANGO DE BAKER STREET has been published in Brazilian Portuguese (Feb 96 #4), and in Spanish (Nov 96 #8), and Olaf Maurer reports that there now is a German translation: SHERLOCK HOLMES IN RIO (Frankfurt: Insel Verlag, 1997; 320 pp., DM 39.80); this may well set a record for modern Sherlockiana in languages other than English before there's an English translation (which is forecast from Pantheon in paperback in November as A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK).

The Canadian television series "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" (Sep 96 #3) began airing on YTV cable on Feb. 24, with thirteen 30-minute episodes

starring Meredith Henderson as the 12-year-old great grandniece of Sherlock Holmes., but there's no news about possible broadcast in the United States. In the meantime, Jamie Hubbs notes, the electronically enabled can visit an Internet web site at <<http://www.ytv.com/shows/shirley/index.asp>>.

Jun 97 #2 FRITZ SPIEGL'S BOOK OF MUSICAL BLUNDERS AND OTHER MUSICAL CURIOUSITIES (London: Robson Books, 1996; L16.95) includes a 8-page discussion titled "Sherlock Holmes mistreats his mahogany violin" in which Spiegl concludes that Holmes was far less a musician than Watson made him out to be. Spiegl also notes that Holmes' violin must have been the most remarkable instrument ever to come out of the Cremona workshops: when (in "The Norwood Builder"), "during a fit of exasperation, Holmes 'flung down the instrument' into a corner, it came to no harm. It was 'made of mahogany'. Solid, no doubt." But there's no mention of a mahogany violin in my copy of the Canon.

The Wigmore Street Post Office is a nicely imaginative electronic journal published on the Prodigy computer service, and some of the best of its fun and games and scholarship now is available ink-on-paper in MELANGE DE WSPO, edited and published by Mel Hughes; the 100-page anthology is available for \$23.45 postpaid from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (credit-card orders welcome).

Yes, there is indeed a Canonical mention of a bunny. Two bunnies, in fact, in "Shoscombe Old Place" ("me and Stephens, quaking in the bushes like two bunny-rabbits").

Hal Prince produced the play "They Might Be Giants" in London in 1961, and directed the Broadway musical "Baker Street" (1965), and tells tales about both shows (and many others) in CONTRADICTIONS: NOTES ON TWENTY-SIX YEARS IN THE THEATRE (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1974. It's an interesting and amusing book, and of course Prince has had many more years in the theater: his production of the musical "Candide" is the last show he covers in the book, and his revival of "Candide" is running now at the Gershwin Theatre in New York.

"I was once janitor and sweeper-out of the laboratory at York College," said Jefferson Hope (in "A Study in Scarlet"). And the City College of New York (founded in 1847 and honored on a recent postal card) is a reasonable candidate; all of the actual York Colleges in America were founded in 1890 or later.

Phillip Gold (221Books) has sent a nice mail-order catalog of Sherlockian books, and it's available for the asking; 760 Carlisle Canyon Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361 <[221books@interloc.com](mailto:221books@interloc.com)>. One item not included in the catalog is the Sherlock Holmes Presskit distributed by Leo Gutman in the 1970s when he was marketing the Rathbone/Bruce films: there are more than 120 loose pages, mostly reprints of articles, photographs, and period advertisements, and a letter from Gutman; \$150 postpaid.

Michael Phillips, manager of The Sherlock Holmes Public House & Restaurant, has provided a copy of their sales list of souvenirs and other Sherlockiana (and of course they welcome tourists who want to dine or drink or view the recreation of the sitting-room); 10-11 Northumberland Street, London WC2N 5DA, England <[sherlock@popmail.dircon.co.uk](mailto:sherlock@popmail.dircon.co.uk)>, and they have a home page on the world wide web <<http://users.dircon.co.uk/~sherlock/>>.

Jun 97 #3 "Movie Studios Pursue Elusive Girls Segment" was the headline on a story by Jeff Jensen in the June 2 issue of Advertising Age about Hollywood plans for marketing film properties this fall: Disney will release "The Little Mermaid" for the second time, Twentieth Century-Fox will have its first animated musical "Anastasia", and Paramount will release "Fairy Tale: A True Story" (which you have heard about before as

"Illumination" and before that as "The Golden Afternoon", starring Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Houdini). Viacom hopes it can do for fairies what Universal has done with dinosaurs, and the brand name "Fairies of Cottingley Glen" has been licensed to Playmates Toys, Gibson Greeting Cards, and Random House. "It's a brand that can outlive a single movie and create a distinct world that can produce future line extensions," said Viacom's vice president for strategic property development. Tom Huntington, who spotted the story, also reports that the film is scheduled for release in October.

Marsha Pollak spotted a forecast in Publishers Weekly (Apr. 14): AGAINST THE BROTHERHOOD, by Quinn Fawcett, due from Forge in October, is the first in a new series featuring Mycroft Holmes.

The University of Minnesota held an Official Ground Breaking Celebration on May 9 to celebrate the start of work on the new Minnesota Library Access Center that will house the university's special collections (including the Sherlock Holmes Collections). Dick Sveum reports that university president Nils Hasselmo and university librarian Tom Shaughnessy described the center and its collections, and politicians discussed their battles with the governor and the state legislature, and then shovels moved dirt, and pictures were taken. Serious construction begins this summer, and the collections will move to the new center in 1999. If you'd like to be on a mailing list for the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON, by Larry Millett, in paperback from Penguin in July (\$9.95); a reprint of last year's pastiche (Sep 96 #5) in Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to help save the Great North Railway from an insane arsonist.

Congratulations to Christopher Plummer, who on June 1 won a Tony Award for best actor in a play, for his performance in "Barrymore" (he is one of the very few actors who have played Sherlock Holmes and an actor who has played Sherlock Holmes). The Tony Awards are given by The American Theatre Wing and the League of American Theatres and Producers.

Jerry Margolin is offering to sell some of his animation cels. Additional information is available from Jerry at 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland OR 97219 (503-293-7274) <jerry@bidtek.com>.

At hand from John Pforr is a flier for the next "Victorian Holmes weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Oct. 31-Nov. 2. There will be a Sherlockian mystery to solve, a tour of eight Victorian homes, meal, and other fun and games. Additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204-0340 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278).

Jun 97 #4 Cracker Jack fans now have more than one Sherlockian "wishbone" prize to look for: the first one reported was a small portrait of wishbone as Sherlock Holmes (one of a 12 different character portraits), and Don Hobbs' son now has found a fancier "dog tag" with two portraits of wishbone (one in Sherlockian costume) under a piece of ridged plastic that allows you to see one or the other depending on the viewing angle (again, this is one of a dozen different prizes, so you get to eat lots of Cracker Jack before you get to the Sherlockian prize). There seems to be no official name for the process; some have suggested "switch cards" or "flickers" (or one can just say "what they had before holograms").

Brilliance Audio's continuing series of cassettes produced by Ken Greenwald and his 221A Baker Street Associates offers more of the splendid old radio shows from the 1946-47 season with Nigel Bruce as Watson and Tom Conway as Holmes; Elliott Reid introduces one of the cassettes with discussion of the Baker Street Irregulars and modern Sherlockian societies, and other introductions offer a nice round-table discussion by Holmes, Mycroft, Moriarty,

Irene Adler, and Conan Doyle (played by Hank Garrett). Cassettes #13-#16 are now available, at \$9.95 each (with two shows on each cassette). MORE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is the series title and if you can't find them in your local shops, Brilliance is at Box 887, Grand Haven, MI 49417 (800-222-3225).

THE STRANGE CASE OF MRS. HUDSON'S CAT: AND OTHER SCIENCE MYSTERIES SOLVED BY SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Colin Bruce (Reading: Addison-Wesley, 1997; 254 pp., \$23.00), offers explanations of the more important paradoxes of classical and modern physics (and resolutions for most of them), with a cast of characters that includes Holmes, Watson, Mycroft, Prof. Challenger, Summerlee, Mrs. Hudson, and her cat; this is serious science, presented with style and imagination.

Ben Wood offers a sales list for Sherlockian stamps (From Great Britain and Guernsey) and Sherlockiana (needlework, booklets and other souvenirs); his address is Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222.

Stan and Jan Berenstain continue to include Sherlockian allusions in their Berenstain Bears series: David McCallister has spotted THE BERENSTAIN BEARS AND THE GALLOPING GHOST (New York: Random House, 1994; \$2.99); Brother and Sister are enjoying the adventures of the great bear detective, Grizzlock Holmes, and his faithful assistance, Dr. Bearson.

David also noted an article by John de Lancie in the July issue of Starlog, about the audiobook series "Alien Voices" (distributed by Simon and Schuster): the first show is "The Time Machine" with Leonard Nimoy as the Time Traveller; "Journey to the Center of the Earth" is due in July, starring Nimoy and de Lancie; and "The Lost World" comes next, with Armin Shimerman as Challenger and Dwight Schultz as Malone.

Plan well ahead: the next STUD Sherlockian Society annual banquet will be held on Mar. 6, 1998, at the Starlight Inn in Schiller Park (near Chicago), with David L. Hammer as featured speaker, followed as usual by a Solar Pons Breakfast in Oak Park on Mar. 7; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, write to Dennis France, 8546 North Kedvale Avenue, Skokie, IL 60076-2113.

Jun 97 #5 Andrew Joffe's fine one-act chamber opera "Tobermory" (based on the story by Saki) was produced in Washington and New York last year (with Andrew as the director and a Giant Rat of Sumatra lurking on the set). It will be performed again (with a different director and cast) at the Lake George Opera Festival on Aug. 9, 11, and 13; the box office is at Box 2172, Glens Falls, NY 12801 (518-793-3859).

Maurice Tanner (180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon, Surrey CR0 2LA, England) offers his own color-cachet first day cover of the recent British "Hound of the Baskervilles" stamp with two different pictorial postmarks (L7.99 each postpaid in U.K. or L8.99 overseas), and combination FDCs with the Guernsey Rathbone stamp also with two different pictorial postmarks (L10.99/L11.99), and maximum cards for the four "Tales of Terror" stamps (L9.99/L10.99); you can pay with sterling checks or money orders, or with credit cards with a 30p surcharge (an illustrated flier is available in return for two IRCs or a \$1.00 bill).

Susan Cohen has forwarded a flier from the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which will sponsor a workshop they call "The Skeptic's Toolbox '97" at the University of Oregon at Eugene on Aug. 21-25; the workshop topics will include Houdini and Conan Doyle, Piltown Man, dowsing, and the Oregon Vortex. The flier (with Sherlockian artwork) is available from CSICOP (Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226).

Auction news: an auction of "English Literature and History" at Sotheby's on July 17 will include a copy of the first edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (estimated at L500-700), and a lot with eleven signed letters and cards (ten by Arthur Conan Doyle and one by his widow) to Lord Gorrell



(mostly about publishing and the Psychic Bookshop (estimated at L800-1000); the sale will be in the Aeolian Hall in London, and Sotheby's address is: 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England.

The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment offers a lapel pin as part of its ongoing effort to raise money for a life-size statue of Sir Arthur in Clokes Corner in Crowborough Close. The pin is in antique pewter and 1" high, available from Brian Pugh (20 Clare Road, Lewes BN7 1PN England; L6.00 postpaid in the U.K. or L7.00/\$14.00 elsewhere (dollars in currency only, please).

Gary Thaden has forwarded David Thompson's article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Hunter" in the July issue of Biblio: The Magazine for Collectors of Books, Manuscripts and Ephemera; the article deals with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Price and their books about spiritualism. The magazine is found in many used-book stores (\$4.95), and published from 845 Willamette Street, Eugene, OR 97401.

Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) offers copies of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION: VOLUME 2, with 100 pages of stories, cartoons, poems, and plays written by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few pieces have appeared elsewhere. \$13.00 or CA\$18.00 or L9.00 postpaid by airmail; \$9.00/\$12.00/L6.00 postpaid by surface mail. Payment by personal checks or currency is welcome.

Jun 97 #6 Sherlockians planning to attend Bouchercon 28 in Monterey on Oct. 30-Nov. 2 will be happy to know that the convention will include two Sherlockian symposia, on "Sherlock Holmes and the Golden State" and "Victorian Gentlemen's Clubs and the Sherlockian Canon (including a woman's Point of View)". And the Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula will host a reception for visiting Sherlockians on Oct. 31 (5:00 to 7:00 pm); if you plan to attend the reception, please contact Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

Plan ahead: 221Beach ("a fun-filled Sherlockian spring break of canonical games, contests and camaraderie at the Jersey shore"), is planned for Apr. 17-19, 1998, in Spring Lake, N.J.; if you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Dick Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 <rkitts@aol.com>.

Congratulations to Al Rosenblatt, who has been selected as a member of the 1997 U.S. Maccabiah Masters Squash Team. The Maccabiah Games, sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee, have been held in Israel every four years since 1932, and more than 5,600 athletes from more than 56 countries will participate in this year's Games in July.

Hugh S. Scullion's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE MANUAL offers indexes to Canonical murderers, smoking and tobacco, ships, wrongful arrests, characters and places mentioned, and other topics; the 28-page pamphlet is \$13.00 postpaid (checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please) from Cadds Printing, 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England.

Tom Huntington's "On the Trail of Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 97 #3) ran in the June issue of the Japanese edition of Playboy; he's very fluent in Japanese (the article first ran in the Feb. 1997 issue of Historic Traveler).

The house at 12 Tennyson Road, South Norwood, is again available, sporting a "for sale" sign, according to a message posted to the Internet news group alt.fan.holmes. It was the home of Arthur Conan Doyle from 1891 to 1893, and four years ago (Sep 92 #4) was offered for L350,000.

Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England) has sent its summer 1997 catalog of Sherlock Holmes material, with a long list of in-print pastiches, scripts, and Doyleana (most also are available from

Empire Publishing Services, Box 1344, Studio City, CA 91614).

Carolyn and Joel Senter describe THE FORMIDABLE SCRAP-BOOK OF BAKER STREET as "being a compendium of creations, contributions, and offerings from, of, and about Sherlockians everywhere," and that's a fine description indeed: the book includes photographs and program and reports from events they have attended, and material submitted by others, and it offers an interesting view of the world of today's Sherlockians in 292 pages. \$35.50 postpaid (US \$38.50 to Canada) from Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcome, and orders from outside North America will be charged actual shipping costs.

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

Jul 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

I've long sought to identify an actor or artist earlier than Basil Rathbone who portrayed Sherlock Holmes with a calabash pipe. William Gillette used a curved or "bent" wooden pipe rather than the straight pipe shown in the illustrations by Paget and Steele, most likely because he realized (as any actor would) that lighting and smoking a straight pipe puts the hand right in front of the actor's face, whereas a bent pipe doesn't). And Robert S. Ennis has located just such an earlier calabash, and has reported on it in a fine article in the June issue of The Baker Street Journal: the calabash and a deerstalker are shown in a photograph of Robert Woolsey in an advertisement for the film "The Nitwits" (1935), which also had Bert Wheeler and Betty Grable in the cast. Alas, the film seems not to be available on videocassette, although it may be found on a now-withdrawn laserdisc, and it's certainly something to watch for in the television listings.

And as always I am happy to recommend The Baker Street Journal, published quarterly at \$18.95 a year (\$21.50 a year outside the U.S.); you can subscribe for up to three years, subscribers outside the U.S. can use Visa or Mastercard, and the address is: Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

Venezuela's giant sandstone mesas (called tepuis) were featured in a one-hour program "Islands in the Sky" in the PBS-TV series "Nature" in 1989, (with mention of their having inspired Conan Doyle's "The Lost World"). And John Hillen spotted an Associated Press story by Bart Jones (June 26) about the campaign by Indians and environmentalists against a government plan to run a high-voltage power line through Canaima National Park, which is the home of Angel Falls (the world's tallest waterfall) and many tepuis. Canaima, the sixth largest national park in the world, was declared a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization in 1994. The power line will serve gold mines in the state of Roraima, across the border in Brazil, and there are plans to expand mining into the Imataca forest reserve near Canaima.

THE FINAL PROBLEMS: SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY TRIVIA, by Cort Reynolds, is a 78-page booklet with more than 800 Canonical questions that can be used for a four-player board game or by those who just want to test their expertise; \$11.25 postpaid from Cort Reynolds, 108 West Lima Avenue, Ada, OH 45810.

Brian Keith died on June 24. He launched his acting career in 1924 (at the age of 3) in the silent film "Piper Malone" and went on to star in the television series "Family Affair" (1966-1971) and "Hardcastle & McCormick" (1983-1986). He also guest-starred on the premiere of Angela Lansbury's television series "Murder, She Wrote" in 1984; the episode was "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" and he played Capt. Caleb McCallum, who attended a costume party dressed as Sherlock Holmes and who may or may not have been the intended victim of a murderer (Jessica Fletcher figured it out, of course).

The Book-of-the-Month Club still offers members its SHERLOCK HOLMES SET of nine hardcover volumes of the Canon (Mar 94 #3) at \$44.95; the set consists

of reprints (A STUDY IN SCARLET and THE SIGN OF THE FOUR from editions published by Orange Judd in 1907, and the other seven volumes from first American editions). The club's address is Camp Hill, PA 17012-0001.

Jul 97 #2 The "Lasting Impressions" symposium in Toronto on June 26-29 was thoroughly enjoyable, and a fine way to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Bootmakers of Toronto, who planned and publicized the festivities for two and a half years and offered an instructive example of how much fun this sort of gathering can be both for those who do the work and those who benefit from it. There were interesting papers, and plenty of entertainment, and one of the nicest aspects of the schedule was the "down time" when there were no speeches and papers, and when participants could visit the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, chat with friends old and new, or play tourist in an interesting city. And there were pleasant surprises, such as a chance to hear from Zora Buchanan, who as a World War II refugee from Glasgow wound up on Long Island, sitting on Christopher Morley's knee, and growing up with his children.

The Arts & Letters Club was graced by an impressive Commissionaire: Sahni Singh, a veteran of the British and Indian armies, who manned the door and was just as martial as one could expect any Sikh to be. The Bootmakers also arranged for Lasting Impressions vintages: an Estate Reisling 1995 and a Gamay Noir 1996 from Stoney Ridge Cellars in Winona (Ontario), available throughout the weekend. And the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library's exhibition of "Images of Sherlock Holmes" was truly impressive, offering a chance to see original art by Paget, Steele, and others from the collection of Peter A. Lemiski, as well as the manuscript of Arthur Conan Doyle's play "Angels of Darkness" from the Library's own collection.

And there was an active huckster's room, for browsers and buyers. One nice item, mentioned before (Nov 96 #6) is REDMOND'S DELICATE QUESTIONS, a booklet with thought-provoking questions, one for each case in the Canon, that make splendid discussion topics for societies seeking things to do at meetings. The booklet costs \$2.00 (US or CA) postpaid from Chris Redmond, 523 Westfield Drive, Waterloo, ON N2T 2E1, Canada.

Clifford S. Goldfarb's THE GREAT SHADOW: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, BRIGADIER GERARD, AND NAPOLEON (Ashcroft: Calabash Press, 1997; 232 pp.) is a detailed and interesting examination of all of Conan Doyle's writings about the man who terrified and ruled most of Europe in the early years of the 19th century, and who was still both hated and admired at the end of the century, when he appeared in or influenced many of Conan Doyle's short stories, novels, and plays. Goldfarb discusses both the writings and their author, and his research and sources, and does it well. Available from the publisher (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V8K 1A0, Canada) <ashtree@mail.netshop.net>; \$27.75 postpaid (air) or \$26.00 (surface); CA\$32.75 to Canada; \$34.40/\$24.00 elsewhere (credit-card orders welcome). The trade edition is in wrappers, but there's also a limited and signed edition in cloth; ask Calabash about cost and availability.

L'UNIVERS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES is an attractive 99-page booklet published to accompany the exhibition (which closes on Sept. 15) at the Louvre des Antiquaires in Paris (May 97 #3); it's an excellent anthology of scholarship by members of the Societe Sherlock Holmes de France (all in French), with caricatures by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, and an intriguing Sherlockian discovery in one of Camille Pissarro's paintings. Available from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada; \$30.00 postpaid.

Jul 97 #3 The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club (they're the largest Sherlockian society in the world) will celebrate its 21st anniversary with an international convention next year, on Mar. 21 in Kamakura and Mar. 22 in Tokyo. There will be presentations and exhibitions and sightseeing, and speeches by foreign guests from the United States and Great Britain, and it will be an excellent opportunity to meet Japanese Sherlockians; details are available from Mitch Higurashi, 3-13-7-305 Nishikubo, Musashino, Tokyo 180,

Japan (fax 81-422-55-3356) <hgd02506@niftyserve.or.jp>.

The 1997 running of The Silver Blaze at Meadowlands (that's the new venue for the New York event) will be held on Sept. 20. Additional information is available from Stephen L. Stix, 1150 NC 50 US 117, Faison, NC 28341.

Robert Mitchum died on July 1. His film career began in the 1940s, in a Hopalong Cassidy western, and he went on to star in films that ranged from the thriller "Cape Fear" to the warm-hearted "Heaven Knows, Mr. Allison". Deborah Kerr once told him, "You know you can't act, and if you hadn't been good-looking, you would never have gotten a picture," and he never denied it ("Taking acting lessons," he said, "is like going to school to learn to be tall"). In the television film "Jake Spanner, Private Eye" (1989) he played a retired private detective, and in one scene tried to get information from a car-rental clerk, who asked his name; Mitchum replied, "Holmes, Mycroft Holmes."

The American Chemical Society's "peg" poster (16" x 22") with the Sherlockian maxim about it being a capital mistake, etc.) was first produced in 1977, and Jennie Paton notes that it's still available (item HS07) from ACS Education Products, Dept. 1195, Box 2537, Kearneysville, WV 25430 (800-209-0423); \$3.00 each (plus \$4.00 shipping per order).

An alert for Sherlockian miniaturists: Miniature Collector magazine will showcase Sherlockian miniatures in an issue to be published next spring, and has asked readers to submit photographs or transparencies by Sept. 1; there was an announcement in the July-Aug. issue, and clues to a Sherlock Holmes quiz in the Sept. issue (now on the newsstands). You can send your material to the editor, Barbara J. Aardema, 1060 West Norton Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49441.

Ted Friedman's nicely-illustrated two-page article on Jean Baptiste Greuze and stamps showing his paintings appeared in Topical Time (July-Aug. 1997); the issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 65749, Tucson, AZ 85728.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN EDINBURGH, by Charles Hall and Peter Blythe, offers interesting discussions of Sherlockian and Doylean plays performed in Edinburgh (mostly during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe), Conan Doyle's speeches and lectures in Edinburgh, and memorials to him in Edinburgh, with amusing artwork by Hall. The 48-page booklet (published in 1995) costs L4.95 postpaid to Britain (or L5.95 by surface post elsewhere) from Charles Hall, 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW, Scotland, Great Britain; dollar payments in currency only, please.

Jul 97 #4 Charles Kuralt died on July 4. He worked as a journalist and columnist for the Charlotte News and joined CBS News in 1957, becoming host of "CBS News Sunday Morning" and the highly popular "On the Road with Charles Kuralt", winning three Peabody awards, ten Emmys, and the George Polk Memorial Award for national television reporting. "I try to avoid anything that's relevant or significant or newsworthy," he once said, and he made a career of showing that anything interesting can be important. He recorded a "Newsnote" for CBS radio in 1984 noting that "Tomorrow is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday, and lucky for us too," and he ended his warm tribute by suggesting that "Sherlock Holmes is an inspiration, a triumph of the mind in art, and we continue to follow his trail--always in admiration, always a dozen paces behind."

The Bootmakers also celebrated their 25th anniversary with LASTING IMPRESSIONS, which includes a revised version of Cameron Hollyer's splendid "The Curator's Egg" (a delightfully personal history of Cameron's work at the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection), Christopher Redmond's "Sherlock Holmes from Sea to Sea" (an annotated list that ranges from Adventuresses to Yukon), a

chronology of what happened at all the meetings of the Bootmakers), and a bibliography of papers presented at the meetings. 413 pp., \$35.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.

Articles in the Edinburgh press, at hand from Jon Lellenberg, report a new summer-long exhibition on "Arthur Conan Doyle: The Edinburgh Connection" at the Writers Museum in Lady Stair's Close in Edinburgh.

Katherine McMahon, the last known survivor of those who solved the famous Sherlock Holmes crossword puzzle in the Saturday Review of Literature in 1934 (she's "Lucy Ferrier" in the Baker Street Irregulars), will celebrate her 90th birthday on Aug. 8, recovering from hip-replacement surgery. You can send birthday greetings to her at 516 Solano Drive NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108; birthday cards would be welcome, and audio greetings even more so, since she can't see, but can play cassettes (if you have any extra commercial sherlockian cassettes, she can play those, too).

The Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System [HOLMES] was created more than a dozen years ago (Apr 85 #6), and is now widely used, but needs updating. According to a story in The Times (July 2), at hand from John R. Clark, six police forces in the United Kingdom are now testing HOLMES 2, which is both more sophisticated and easier to learn and use. HOLMES 2 is expected to go online throughout the U.K. next spring.

The Norwegian Explorers will hold a "Founders Footprints" 50th-anniversary conference at the Holiday Inn Metrodome in Minneapolis on Aug. 7-9, 1998. Additional information is available from Bruce Southworth, 1621 Lafond Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104 <bruces1@mindspring.com>.

Conan Doyle praised Wilkie Collins' "fine stories of mystery" (in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES), and we'll have a chance to see a new BBC dramatization of his "The Moonstone" on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV on Nov. 2; the stars are Patricia Hodge, Greg Wise, Keeley Hawes, and Antony Sher. The advance warning comes from Anglofile, a monthly newsletter with detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).

Jul 97 #5 A reminder: the seventh annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair and Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn (Independence Mall) in Philadelphia on Oct. 3-5. Membership is limited to 400 and full registration costs \$50.00; write to Deen Kogan, Detecto-Mysterioso Books, 507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147.

Orval C. Graves ("Whitaker's Almanac") died on June 18. He earned degrees in English and Religion, and enjoyed the works of Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett, and his special interests in the Canon included air guns and sundials. He was executive director of the YMCA in Sequoia, Calif., in the 1970s, and after teaching a seven-week Sherlock Holmes course at a community college in Redwood City he founded The Knights of the Gnomon there. He received his investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

Marisa Babjak-wiggins continues to offer interesting Sherlockiana in her femmes fatales mail-order catalog (Box 4457, Lake-wood, CA 90712) (800-596-3323) <byteocrime@aol.com> <<http://register.com/femfatal>>. And her new catalog, ready by the end of August, will offer a boxed set of Christmas tree ornaments (Watson, Holmes, and an English Bobby); \$139.00 plus shipping; Marisa kindly offers a 10% discount to newsletter readers who mention the mag-

ic word (Scuttlebutt). Not in the catalog, but shown in a separate flier available on request, are some expensive Sherlockian statues, steins, jars, bottle openers, and chess sets.

The trivia-question list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes who also have played actors who have played Sherlock Holmes continues to lengthen: there were Patrick Horgan (who has played both Holmes and William Gillette) and Nicol Williamson and Christopher Plummer (who have played both Holmes and John Barrymore), and now there's a fourth, noted by Bill Nadel: Kevin McCarthy, who played both Holmes and William Gillette in programs on the CBS Radio Mystery Theater (1977-1982).

Donald Girard Jewell's THE METEOROLOGICAL HOLMES: A MONOGRAPH ON WEATHER AND FORECASTING IN THE TIME OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, illustrated with artwork of the period, is the ninth volume in his interesting Sherlock Holmes Natural History Series; you can order the pamphlet from the Pinchin Lane Press, 4685 Geeting Road, Westminster, MD 21158 (\$16.95 postpaid).

An interesting "Third Ear Radio Theatre" dramatization of THE LOST WORLD is available on two cassettes from Ziggurat Productions (Box 292, Topanga, CA 90290); \$20.50 postpaid.

Peter Calamai reports that Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" will be produced by the Sunshine Festival Theatre Company in Orilla on Aug. 14-30; the box-office address is 20 Mississauga Street West, Orilla, ON L3V 6K8, Canada (705-326-8011). Peter also notes that Orilla has other attractions, including the home of Stephen Leacock, the Canadian humorist whose parodies included some nice Sherlockiana.

Jul 97 #6 When in the Berkshires: the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, Mass., has a fine exhibition "Uncanny Spectacle: The Public Career of the Young John Singer Sargent" on display through Sept. 7, showing paintings from the first decade of his career (a decade that ended in 1887 when he had moved from Paris to London, and was already painting striking portraits).

Rolf J. Canton has contributed often to the newsletter of The Norwegian Explorers, and his essays and poems have been collected in THE MORIARTY PRINCIPLE: AN IRREGULAR LOOK AT SHERLOCK HOLMES (Lakeville: Galde Press, 1997; 264 pp., \$19.95), along with new material that includes the scripts for two radio plays and a fine assortment of photographs taken at Explorers' meetings and conferences. \$23.95 postpaid from the publisher, Box 460, Lakeville, MN 55044 (800-777-3454) <pgalde@minn.net>.

The summer-fall issue of Mary Higgins Clark Mystery (now on the stands and in grocery stores) has John T. Lescroart's pastiche "The Adventure of the Giant Rat of Sumatra".

Brad Keefauver proudly promises "the best day you'll ever spend in Peoria, Illinois" on Sept. 27, when locals (and visitors) can shop the Central Illinois Book and Paper Fair in the morning and then proceed to the Downstate Illinois Sherlockian Invitational, which will involve a Knowledge Competition in the afternoon, and the 20th annual 2704 Banquet of The Hansoms of John Clayton in the evening. The festivities also will include a Literary Competition and a Sherlockian Scion Sing-Off, and additional information is available from Robert C. Burr (4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 60614) <rcburr@hrn.bradley.edu>.

CRIME THROUGH TIME: ORIGINAL TALES OF HISTORICAL MYSTERY, edited by Miriam Grace Monfredo and Sharan Newman (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 1997; 373 pp., \$6.9), is an anthology offering 21 new short stories, including Laurie R. King's "Mrs. Hudson's Case" (with Mary Russell) and M. J. Trow's "Exit Centre Stage" (with Inspector Sholto Lestrade).

Nice news indeed for fans of "The Lost World" (the 1925 film, not the movie made from Michael Crichton's book): a long article by Scott MacQueen in the June issue of Cinefex (at hand from Roy Pilot) reports on the discovery of a copy of the film at Filmovy Archiv in Prague. Work on a 35mm black-and-white preservation negative is now underway at the Haghefilm laboratory in

the Netherlands; the Czech print was edited by local censors, but MacQueen believes that the new preservation negative will contain 90 percent of the full footage (the Lumivision laserdisc issued in 1991 has only 65 percent of the footage). Hugh Hefner, who earlier helped preserve the films Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce made for Universal, has contributed funds for the new project, but additional donations are requested by Ed Summer, editor of Dinosaur Interplanetary Gazette <<http://www.users.interport.net/~dinosaur>>. The address for Cinefex is Box 20027, Riverside, CA 92516; \$8.50. And for those who might be in or near Rochester, N.Y., on Aug. 8, that's when the George Eastman House is planning a preview screening of the new version.

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

Aug 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The second issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has an excellent tribute to E. W. McDiarmid (who continues to work with the collection), and a look at hansoms, Canonical and otherwise. If you would like to be on the mailing list, write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <[sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu)>.

Scott Monty has noted that Massachusetts police have recovered a blackened clump of beeswax bearing the crest of King Charles I, which was affixed to the first page of the charter of Massachusetts Bay Colony, which was stolen from the state archives in 1984; the page was recovered in 1985 but without the seal, which has now been reunited with the charter. It's unlikely that the police motto was "we may find something else of Charles the First," but it certainly turned out that way.

Steven T. Doyle, editor and publisher of The Sherlock Holmes Review, has decided to stop publishing the magazine at the end of 1997 (the two final issues will be mailed later this year). And the fifth Sherlock Holmes Review Symposium in Indianapolis on Nov. 21-23, will be the last one. But he'll continue his work with Mark Gagen on the Wessex Press and the Gasogene Press. Details are available from Steven at Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077 <[73551.3254@compuserve.com](mailto:73551.3254@compuserve.com)>.

Jack Kerr notes a discovery at his local Royal Doulton outlet: a series of "Pigtails" from Holland Studio Craft Ltd. (King Street, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs. ST4 3EP, England) that includes a "Detective" with magnifying glass and deerstalker; item PT262, product code 31-580-195, \$8.50.

Jack also has seen SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON, by Larry Millett, in paperback from Penguin (\$9.95); a reprint of last year's pastiche (Sep 96 #5) in which Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to help save the Great North Railway from an insane arsonist.

"Triumphs and Misfortunes: The Life of Sherlock Holmes" (a new play by Lynn C. Miller) is scheduled at the Heller Theater (5328 South Wheeling, Tulsa, OK 74105) on Oct. 16-18 and 23-25, 1997; the box-office telephone number is 918-746-5065.

Doctor Who Magazine is running a continuing series on the influences on and sources for the television series, and Stephen Cartwright's discussion of the Sherlockian echoes (and there are a lot of them) is in issue #253 (July 2, 1997); I don't know if there's an American distributor, but the cover price is \$5.99, and the magazine is published from Box 503, Leicester LE94 0AD, England.

LESTRADE AND THE DEVIL'S OWN, by M. J. Trow (London: Constable, 1996; 190 pp., £15.99), has a grabber of an opening: it's 1913, and Superintendent Sholto Lestrade is being sentenced to hang for the crime of murder. Well, of course he didn't do it, and the novel (Trow's sixteenth in his series

about Lestrade) explains how he got to be framed, and exonerated, and the book has the all the broad humor that one expects from Trow.

Aug 97 #2 It's nice to think of it as a memorial to the late John Bennett Shaw (whose Baker Street Irregulars investiture was "The Hans Sloane of My Age"), but of course it's a memorial to the original Sir Hans Sloane: according to an article at hand from John Baesch, a statue of Sir Hans has been returned to Sloane Square in Chelsea.

The Conclave of Richmond Pipe Smokers will hold its 13th Annual Pipe Smokers' Exposition & Celebration at the Holiday Inn in Richmond, Va., on Oct. 10-12, and this year will honor Sherlock Holmes (as "the master pipe smoker and the world's foremost consulting detective"). There will be Sherlockian exhibits, and a "Mystery of the Pipe"; details are available from the Conclave (Box 34023, Richmond, VA 23234) <corpipemsk@aol.com>. And there is Sherlockian artwork on the cover of the exposition flier.

If you've been trying to order THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK (May 97 #1) and have gotten post-office rejects, the new address for Apple Cheeks Press is: Box 7134, Alexandria, VA 22307. The Alexandria post office seems unable to forward mail from the old box to the new box.

Ralph Cosham (who is playing Dr. Watson in the Interact Theatre Company's "The Case of the Purloined 'Patience'" at the Folger Elizabethan Theatre in Washington) also does a fine job reading five stories (Musg/RedH/Houn/Spec/Fina) on the new boxed set of six audiocassettes SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES. If it's not available in a local store (Richard Wein found it at Price Club /Costco for \$19.95), it's offered by the publisher (Entertainment Software, 300 Madison Avenue South #203, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110) (800-688-7406) priced at \$34.95.

And for those who've not yet seen the amusing show at the Folger, the run has been extended through Sept. 7, and the box-office telephone number is 703-760-9863; Sherlock Holmes is excellent as "the very model of a crack Victorian supersleuth," and The Red Circle had a fine time at our theater party this month.

Richard Wein also notes that the new catalog from What on East, 2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552) has a brew kit with the makings of a gallon of Sherlock Holmes Porter (G570); \$15.95. The box design also is available on T-shirts (P300T) and sweatshirts (P300S) for \$16.95 to \$28.95.

The new issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' warm tribute to the late Ronald Howard, a series of fine articles about the film "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), and the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. Scarlet Street published quarterly) costs \$20.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

A reminder: Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" premiered in Dublin in 1985 with Tom Baker as Holmes, and Paxton Whitehead starred in the play in Williamstown, Mass. in 1994. Whitehead will be doing the play again at the Globe Theater in San Diego from Sept. 14 to Oct. 25; the box-office address is 1363 Old Globe Way, San Diego, CA 92101 (619-239-2255).

Aug 97 #3 The seventh issue of The Shosoin Bulletin has arrived from The Men with the Twisted Konjo, with 200 pages (in English) of articles, poetry, pastiches, and illustrations by contributors from Japan and nine other countries (one of the new contributors is Margarline Lau, from Hong Kong, with translations of prefaces in Chinese editions of the Canon published in 1903 and 1916). Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes are the editors, and the cost is \$12.00 postpaid (to U.S. or Canada) from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32240; and L5.50 postpaid (to



Britain and Europe) from John Hall, 20 Drury Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS18 4BR, England; please send checks in U.S. dollars to Mel, or checks in sterling to John (or currency from any country).

Carl Heifetz reports that Ben Wood (Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222) offers a new sales-list of his interesting Sherlockiana (a self-addressed stamped envelope would be welcome); the list also is available by e-mail from Carl <microdoc@gte.net>.

Raymond Jackson died on July 27. He was the London Evening Standard's political cartoonist for more than 30 years (signing his cartoons "Jak"). In 1968 he caricatured Sir Paul Gore-Booth, then highest-ranking civil servant in the Foreign Office, when The Sherlock Holmes Society made its first pilgrimage to Switzerland, and Sir Paul, dressed as Holmes, was photographed wrestling with Moriarty at the edge of the Reichenbach, and made headlines in most British (and many other) newspapers.

Aug 97 #4 Bill Dorn's A SHERLOCK HOLMES CALENDAR FOR 1998 is illustrated with varied Canonical artwork, and relies primarily on Ernest B. Zeisler's dates. \$8.95 postpaid (or \$9.45 to Canada, \$11.45 elsewhere), from William S. Dorn, 2120 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210. Bill also offers an illustrated sales list of Sherlockian note cards and Christmas cards in color and in black-and-white.

Mark Alberstat's 1988 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.

The poster for the "Images of Sherlock Holmes" exhibition at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library is handsome indeed, showing (in full color) Sidney Paget's artwork for "The Three Students" ("with his neck craned, he looked into the room"), and it's a fine opportunity indeed to see how much better the originals are than the illustrations in the Strand. The poster is available for CA\$15.00 to Canada, or US\$15.00 to other countries, mailed unfolded, and you can send your orders to Sarah Visser, Communications and

Development Department, Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada; checks payable to the MTRL, please.

The July-Aug. 1997 issue of the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library News has a one-page story on the exhibit, and on the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection (with a nice photograph of ACD and his family at a picnic in Canada in 1923). If you'd like your own copy of the newsletter (free), write to Victoria Gill <vgill@gwmail.mtrl.toronto.on.ca> or at the MTRL address above.

Audio Editions Books on Cassette, Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604 (800-231-4261) <info@audioeditions.com> offers Ralph Cosham's SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES (Aug 97 #2) at \$34.95; three two-cassette sets (four shows each) from the Merrison BBC series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at \$16.99 each; six four-cassette gift sets (eight shows each) from the Rathbone/Bruce radio series at \$25.00 each; and 16 volumes of the Conway/Bruce radio series at \$9.95 each. And lots of non-Sherlockian material as well.

A videotaper alert: the Fox television series "The X-Files" is in syndication on FX cable now, so you'll have a chance at the episode "Fire" due to air on Sept. 3 ("Mulder must overcome his fear of fire to take on the hot-headed pyrokinetic serial killer"); there are a few Sherlockian and Doylean allusions.

Reported by Paul Martin: a picture of the Sherlock Holmes Pub on the cover of CHEAP EATS IN LONDON, by Sandra A. Gustafson (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1997; 3rd edition; 240 pp., \$12.95).

"Sherlockian Wisdom and Ventricular Ectopy" is the name of 48-minute educational documentary film released in 1987, according to the All-Movie Guide (a web-site where Warren Randall found it listed). "Learn the symptoms and diagnosis of ventricular ectopy. Treatment, particularly therapy, is also discussed." Does anyone know anything else about the film? The name and address of the company that made it? There's no record at the Copyright Office at the Library of Congress, nor in the Internet Movie Data Base.

Aug 97 #5 The Patchwork Playhouse (711 East Main Street, Lexington, SC 29072) has occasionally been performing original two-act Sherlockian plays since 1994; their current schedule includes "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" (Oct. 2-18, 1997) and "The Case of the Crooked Man" (Feb. 5-21, 1998), and their box-office telephone number is 803-951-2100.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle appears as a character in the Dark Horse comic book TARZAN #13 (\$2.95); it's a to-be-continued story, so he may turn up in the next installments.

Francine Kitts has noted the New School's fall 1997 catalog, which includes Irving Kamil's 13-session Thursday-morning course on "The World of Mystery Fiction" (starting Sept. 18), and Arthur Liebman's evening presentation on "Dracula: The Count's 100th Birthday" (on Sept. 19). Additional information is available from the New School, 66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011 (212-229-5690).

The board game 221B BAKER ST.: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TIME MACHINE, issued last year at \$34.95 (Sep 96 #6), is now offered at \$14.99 (item 50578) in the summer catalog from Smart Shopper, Box 64494, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-736-3055).

Dave Scott is coordinating reservations for a murder-mystery dinner at Baskerville's Restaurant in The Grosvenor Hotel in Orlando on Sept. 27 -- and by special arrangement the group will be allowed inside the hotel's replica of the sitting room at 221B Baker Street. Details are available from Dave (Box 463, De Land, FL 32721) (904-740-9559) <davescot@ix.netcom.com>.

Phil Swiggum is selling his Holmesian collection, which includes the Crowborough edition of Conan Doyle's works, bound Strands, a run of Norwegian

Explorers publications, and much more. His asking price is \$6,000 and his address is 8500 Parrish Avenue, Otsego, MN 55330.

The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn, The Tigers of San Pedro, other local Sherlockian societies will present "Holmeswest 97: Three Days with the Master" at the Occidental College Library in Los Angeles on Sept. 26-28. Details are available from John Farrell, 25314 Woodward Avenue, Lomita, CA 90717 (818-703-8708) <holmeswest@bigfoot.com>.

"Back in my younger days, it kept me out of some speeding tickets," said a 70-year-old retired businessman in Marion, Ill. "They would say, 'I can't give a ticket to Sherlock Holmes.'" And that is indeed his name, according to a story in the Decatur Herald and Review (July 27), kindly forwarded by David M. Rush.

THE CURSE OF THE BRONZE LAMP, by Carter Dickson [John Dickson Carr], has been reported in a reprint from Carroll & Graf (\$4.95); the book is dedicated to Ellery Queen, with a cryptic reference to Mr. James Phillimore and his umbrella.

Forecast: THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME, Ben Macintyre's biography of Adam Worth (Dec 96 #1), published earlier in Britain (HarperCollins, £18.00), is due soon in the United States (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$24.00).

Aug 97 #6 There were many things that made the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series such a great success, and one of the most important was careful preparation and attention to detail on the part of producer Michael Cox. Part of that preliminary work was the creation by Cox, associate producer Stuart Doughty, and researcher Nicky Cooney, of an 80-page detailed production guide, extracted from the Canon and issued as a stapled handbook to those who worked on the series. And now that background bible is available to those who would like to see their work, with a new foreword by Cox, in the Calabash Press' THE BAKER STREET FILE: A GUIDE TO THE APPEARANCE AND HABITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON (105 pp., \$18.70 postpaid); different prices to other countries, and by air; the publisher's address is Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <ashtree@mail.netshop.net> (credit card orders welcome).

Calabash also has published CANADIAN HOLMES: THE FIRST TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, edited by Chris Redmond (306 pp., \$42.70 postpaid); Trevor Raymond recalls in his afterword that the first constitution of the Bootmakers of Toronto stated that "The purpose of this Society shall be to keep Sherlock Holmes alive and well in Canada, and to assist police in locating missing boots and other footwear," and the Bootmakers have done that (well, part of that) splendidly in the journal Canadian Holmes, as this anthology demonstrates.

Also available from Calabash: CANONICAL QUIZZES FROM THE BOOTBOX, compiled by Dave Sanders and Brian Gibson and edited by Barbara Roden, with a selection of quizzes and puzzles from meetings of The Bootmakers of Toronto (80 pp., \$9.00 postpaid).

Brad Hicks is holding a mail-auction of nearly 300 books and journals from his Sherlockian collection; the deadline for bids is Nov. 1, and a detailed list is available from Brad: (5349 Amesbury Drive #2515, Dallas, TX 75206) (972-718-5764) <bhicks@gte.net>.

The Wigmore Street Post Office is an electronic journal published on the Prodigy computer service, but some of the best of its material can be found in its ink-on-paper version; the summer 1997 issue has 40 pages, and costs \$4.50 postpaid. Or you can subscribe: \$6.50 (two issues) from Mel Hughes, 2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246.

The BBC Radio/BDD Audio cassettes of the Merrison/Williams radio series are nicely done, and it's fascinating to see what Bert Coules and others have done to adapt the stories for radio; there are three volumes of THE RETURN

OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (each with four stories) in the shops (\$16.99 each).

It happened ten years ago, but the memory lingers, and you can still read all about the event: Al and Julie Rosenblatt's fine 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" at the Culinary Institute of America on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, is still available; \$19.00 postpaid (checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please).

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

Sep 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Oct. 21 at The Chart House, 340 West South Temple, in Salt Lake City; if you would like to join us for the event, please let us know. The local contact is Ronald B. De Waal, 638 Twelfth Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT 84103 (801-533-0523); or you can tell me (see the end of the newsletter). From Oct. 19 I'll be staying at the Peery Hotel (801-521-4300).

Al and Julie Rosenblatt would greatly appreciate hearing from whoever it was in California who earlier this year acquired Richard W. Clarke's papers concerning The Five Orange Pips of Westchester County; their address is 300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569 <jurosenblatt@vassar.edu>.

The fourth issue of The Holmes & Watson Report has arrived, and it likely that rumors that Brad Keefauver writes all of the articles under pseudonyms are unfounded: the current issue has Jim Vogelsang's tale of the lengths to which a collector will go to add to his collection, Rosemary Michaud's report on how much fun librarians have when they escape from their libraries, and other odd ends. \$14.00 a year (six issues) from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.

James Cuthbertson died in August. He was a major in the Royal Army Service Corps on D-Day, and won a Military Cross for organizing and leading convoys carrying supplies under fire supporting the 6th Airborne Division. He was a banker before the war, and returned to the profession afterward, retiring in 1979. He was a member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and in 1989 wrote and published A STUDY IN BANKING: AN INVESTIGATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES WITH HIS BANK, discussing the detective's dealings with the Hampshire Banking Company from 1871 until 1914 (by which time it had been renamed the Capital and Counties Bank).

Tom Huntington's article in the Sept. issue of Smithsonian magazine on "The Man Who Believed in Fairies" discusses Conan Doyle's campaign on behalf of spiritualism, and includes a photograph from the soon-to-be-released film "Fairytale: A True Story" showing Peter O'Toole as Sir Arthur.

The Sept. issue of Smithsonian also has Michael Kernan's fine article about the National Museum of Natural History's new Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems and Minerals, with a photograph (on p. 60) of the spectacular 75-carat Hooker Emerald, which has a Sherlockian connection, via a previous owner, Abdul-Hamid II (also known as Abdul the Damned): it was on the night of Apr. 23, 1909, his last as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire (he was deposed the next day), that his Chamberlain read to him a translation of the latest Sherlock Holmes story from The Strand Magazine.

The Basic Program of Liberal Education for Adults at the University of Chicago has scheduled a "Sherlock Holmes" weekend at the Alpine Valley Resort in East Troy, Wis., on Oct. 31-Nov. 2; the list of speakers includes Robert Mangler (Master of the Hounds of the Baskerville). Additional details are available from the Graham School of General Studies, 5835 Kimbark Avenue,

Chicago, IL 60637 <bp@uchicago.edu> <www.cygneis.com/holmes>.

Sep 97 #2 One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere, and sometimes in strange ways. Tomoji Ohta noted that BBC radio's dramatization of "The Final Problem" has been "sampled" on the CD "Lionrock: An Instinct for Detection", and Bert Coules reported that "everyone concerned with the show was amazed" when they found that several tracks on the CD include extracts from the BBC shows, without acknowledgement, permission, or payment. "I believe that lawyers are now involved," Bert said. The double CD from BMG Entertainment International/Deconstruction Ltd. is distributed by Time Bomb Recordings (\$16.99 in a shop here), and the box notes show a Frederic Dorr Steele portrait of Sherlock Holmes. "The brainchild of dj Justin Robertson, Lionrock is a blend of chaos and control. Equal parts techno and traditional rock."

There's a new edition of Robert Barr's THE TRIUMPHS OF EUGENE VALMONT (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997; 220 pp., \$9.95), with an introduction by Stephen Knight and as a bonus, two of Barr's Sherlockian parodies: "The Adventures of Sherlaw Kombs" and "The Adventure of the Second Swag" (first published in The Idler in May 1892 and Dec. 1904, as by Luke Sharp).

Our new postal card shows a view of the Golden Gate and San Francisco, from a photograph by Carol Simowitz. But (alas) it is a view that "Hatty Doran, the only daughter of Aloysius Doran, Esq., of San Francisco, Cal., U.S.A." never saw (the bridge was decades after she left the Pacific slope).

The Northern Musgraves continue to offer excellent Sherlockian and Doylean scholarship in their annual Musgrave Monographs, and the most recent is SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONAN DOYLE, AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE, a 40-page pamphlet by Jeffrey Richards in which he examines the Empire of a hundred years ago, when it was celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee; L4.50 postpaid to the U.K. and Europe (\$10.00 postpaid elsewhere) from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorkshire BD16 4DN, England (please make checks payable to The Northern Musgraves). The Ritual (the society's semi-annual journal) continues to offer a fine mix of articles, essays, and reviews; the latest issue has 72 pages, and information on membership also is available from Anne Jordan.

"wishbone" fans will welcome the news that there are new episodes due soon; unfortunately none of them are Sherlockian (there's always hope for a future season, of course); a one-hour version of "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" is being networked to PBS-TV stations on Oct. 15, and eight new 30-minute shows will air weekly beginning Oct. 19.

Leon Edel died on Sept. 5. Famous for his biographies of Henry James, he stressed the need to use psychological analysis in writing literary biography. In an essay on "The Art of Biography: The Figure Under the Carpet" in The New Republic (Feb. 10, 1979) he proposed that it is important to try to "glimpse the myths within and behind the individual," and to search for an individual's hidden dreams of himself, and then discover how they have been acted out . . . in a series of fantasy conversions or metamorphoses as in Stout and Conan Doyle." The essay was reprinted in Edel's STUFF OF SLEEP AND DREAMS: EXPERIMENTS IN LITERARY PSYCHOLOGY (1982).

Sep 97 #3 Richard Lancelyn Green (chairman of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London) notes in The Sherlock Holmes Journal (summer 1997) that it was in 1901 that the question "Should a Public Monument be Erected to Sherlock Holmes?" first appeared in print. G. K. Chesterton and Dorothy L. Sayers were among those who favored the project in later years, and now something is being done about it: plans call for a statue by sculptor John Doubleday to be in place outside the Baker Street Station in London by the millennium. The project will cost an estimated L100,000, and The Sherlock Holmes Statue Company Ltd. (which Nicholas Utechin reports is separate from

the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, "though its board includes a number of familiar names") now welcomes donations; the treasurer is Elaine Hamill (16 Kirton Close, Chiswick, London W4 5VW, England).

The Holmes and Watson glass Christmas tree ornaments (Jul 97 #5) are available individually (\$29.95 each) in the new catalog from What on Earth (2451 Enterprise East Parkway, Twinsburg, OH 44087 (800-945-2552)).

"A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" opens at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Oct. 12, and it ought to be quite a show (it arrives in Boston in February, and then goes to Toronto, Houston, and San Francisco). Tickets for the show in Baltimore are marketed by Vista (888-262-4278 is the toll-free number) and cost \$8.00 (or \$6.00 for seniors), plus \$2.00 for Vista (you can avoid the surcharge by buying tickets at the museum).

The movie "Fairytale: A True Story" (with Peter O'Toole as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Harvey Keitel as Harry Houdini) will be released in the U.S. on Oct. 24, rated PG (for "brief mild language"). The movie was released in Great Britain on Sept. 19 and is scheduled for release in Australia on Dec. 18. This is the film about the Cottingley fairies, and there's an official web-site at <[www.fairytalemovie.com/](http://www.fairytalemovie.com/)>.

Sherlock Hemlock isn't seen as often as he used to be, but Jo Pitesky notes that he's in "The Mysterious Zero Cookie Case" in the Sept. issue of Sesame Street Magazine (\$1.95); Box 55518, Boulder, CO 80328-5518

"Moll Flanders" (1996) was broadcast on Showtime cable on Sept. 26 (and it will repeat), 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); it was Jeremy Brett's last film, in which he had one scene as the wealthy father of the artist with whom Moll falls in love.

The new catalog from Bits & Pieces, 1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) offers four Sherlock Holmes Mystery Jigsaw Puzzles, two old (Mar 96 #3) and two new (the puzzle pictures help solve the crimes); \$10.95 each (cheaper if you order more than one).

The three Chesterton societies in the United States and Canada have joined forces to publish the new magazine Gilbert! with coverage of all aspects of his writings. Membership in the American Chesterton Society costs \$25.00 a year, including 10 issues of Gilbert! (only 5c more than the subscription price); 1377 Goodrich Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105.

Sep 97 #4 The winners of this year's Kennedy Center Honors include Charlton Heston and Bob Dylan. Heston began his acting career in 1941, and has played Marc Anthony, Buffalo Bill Cody, Michaelangelo, Andrew Jackson, General Charles Gordon, El Cid, King Henry VIII, Brigham Young, Cardinal Richelieu, John the Baptist, God -- and Sherlock Holmes (on stage and television, in "The Crucifer of Blood"). Dylan has been world-famous since the 1960s for songs such as "Blowin' in the Wind" and "Like a Rolling Stone". In May 1963 he was scheduled to sing "Talkin' John Birch Society Blues" on "The Ed Sullivan Show", but CBS-TV refused to allow the song on the air, and Dylan refused to perform. The song soon appeared on bootleg recordings, and it was released officially in 1991; one verse is: "Well I quit my job so I could work all alone,/ And I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes./ Found some clues in my detective bag;/ I discovered there was red stripes in the American flag." The awards will be presented at a dinner at the State Department on Dec. 6, followed by a White House reception and a tribute at the Kennedy Center on Dec. 7.

Information needed: this panel was the only Sherlockian bit in an issue of a BATMAN comic book published in 1996; Can anyone supply the issue number and date?

N. C. Wyeth was one of America's great illustrators: he studied with Howard Pyle, and there are many who grew up with and fondly remember his editions of TREASURE ISLAND, ROBIN HOOD, THE YEARLING, THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS, and other children's classics. He also illustrated some of Conan Doyle's stories, and you'll find a splendid full-color collection of his art (including two of his Doylean paintings) in Kate F. Jennings' N. C. WYETH (Secaucus: Book Sales, 1995; 48 pp., \$6.98).

Bob Gellerstedt offers a helpful four-page index to Carl William Thiel's THE BASIC 100: AN ANNOTATED COLLECTOR'S GUIDE (Dec 96 #6); his address is 1035 Wedgewood Drive, Fayetteville, GA 30214, and the cost (postpaid) to North America is two 32c US stamps.

The contents of the latest issue of The Serpentine Muse include an interesting report by Nora Myers on "Our Future Sherlockians" (including the eighth-grade students she taught in Baltimore County). At the beginning of the class, she asked her students to write a paragraph to her what they already knew about Sherlock Holmes, and one young lady wrote, "The best thing about Sherlock Holmes are the sluts in the stories." Not until the end of the paragraph did Nora realized that the student had misspelled "sleuths". The Muse is published quarterly by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; \$10.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, New York, NY 10011.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Purloined 'Patience'" was delightful (Aug 97 #2), and it's unfortunate that there are no current plans to revive or tour the show (nor was it videotaped). But at least you have a chance read the script, which is available for \$30.00 (postpaid in the U.S.) from the Interact Theatre Company, 1221 Mottrom Drive, McLean, VA 22101.

Sep 97 #5 Plan ahead: Bill Dunning reports that the Fourth Biennial John Bennett Shaw Memorial Conference for Sherlockian Studies will be held at Santa Fe Community College on Sept. 25-27, 1998. Jon L. Lellenberg will be the keynote speaker, and Richard H. Miller will be the master of ceremonies. To be on the conference mailing list, you should write to Elizabeth Gutierrez, Santa Fe Community College, 6401 South Richards Avenue, Santa Fe, NM 87505 <egutierrez@santa-fe.cc.nm.us>.

Alderney has issued a set of stamps honoring the 150th anniversary of cricket (introduced by soldiers garrisoned there), and one stamp shows the great British cricketer W. G. Grace. Conan wrote an appreciation of Grace for The Times (Oct. 17, 1915), later revised and expanded for the Strand (July 1927), and he discussed Grace in "Some Recollections of Sport" in the Strand (Sept. 1909 and June 1924) and in MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES.

The fall issue of the Upton Tea Quarterly has many items for the pleasure of fanciers of fine tea, including their new "Baker Street Afternoon Blend" ("a bit of Lapsang Souchong is blended with Keemun and Darjeeling, yielding a mildly smoky tea"); prices range from \$1.00 for a sample up to \$36.30 for a kilogram. Upton Tea Imports, 231 South Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748 (800-234-8327).

Laurie R. King is doing a bit of building in Santa Cruz County, California, and applied for a building permit for a guest house, which was described by someone in the planning department as "a habitable accessory structure (no kitchen/bathroom) to include a bedroom, living room, with future kitchen and bathroom areas, on site with a single-family dwelling (retirement home for S. Holmes)." It would appear that someone in the planning department is an admirer of the Mary Russell series. And Laurie reports that A LETTER OF MARY is due in paperback in December, and that THE MOOR is due in cloth

in January. Her next (non-series) book will be BIRTH OF THE NEW MOON, due in November 1998.

Olaf Maurer notes that Sena Jeter Naslund's pastiche SHERLOCK IN LOVE (Sep 93 #6) has been translated into German as SHERLOCK VERLIEBT (Hildesheim: Claasen Verlag, 1997; 256 pp., DM 32.00).

"Sherlock Holmes: The Changing Face of a Modern Hero" is the title of the Shadok-Fackenthal Library's exhibition "tracing the 110-year public life of the world's most famous private detective," and "Adventures in Criticism: Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a lecture by Ray Betzner scheduled at the Library on Oct. 15 (reception at 4:00 pm, and talk at 4:30 pm). The Library is at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Penn.

If you have a copy of the first edition of John T. Lescroart's RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (New York: Donald I. Fine, 1987), you can check to see if you have the first issue, which has a jumbled paragraph two-thirds of the way down page 137 (starting "No, he said at last, as if to myself). Jerry Margolin recently met Lescroart, and was told that "only about 300 copies got out before they were recalled and a corrected page was tipped in." This is Lescroart's second novel about "Auguste Lupa" (the son of Sherlock Holmes).

Sep 97 #6 "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937) has been issued on videocassette, at long last, by International Historic Films (Box 29035, Chicago, IL 60629; priced at \$39.95 plus \$6.00 shipping. The film stars Bruno Guttner as Holmes and Fritz Odemar as Watson; there is a report that a copy of the film was found in Hitler's private film library at Berchtesgaden in 1945. It's in German, and there are no subtitles, and the sound is not as good as it ought to be. But: film buffs may wish to wait a bit, since it is possible that a better videocassette may be available in a few months from Germany, where a print of the film was located recently.

Jennie Paton has asked me to report that she has arrived in Florida, but is not quite settled in yet, nor even close to unpacked or plugged in or wired up (so the video lending library is not yet up and running again), but you can write to her at P.O. Box 17197, Tampa, FL 33682-7197.

If you're planning trip to Hawaii: Ken Lanza has forwarded a report on the Honolulu Police Department's annual Sherlock Holmes Night, scheduled this year on Oct. 3 in the Hawaii Room at the Blaisdell Center, at 7:00 pm. It is "a lighthearted, interactive event" at which the public can learn what it takes to solve a crime by using "forensic science, interrogation techniques, and good old common sense and ingenuity, and have fun doing it."

Chuck Kovacic has created three new Sherlockian metal sculptures: Sherlock Holmes, William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes, and a Holmes/Moriarty headed walking stick. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope for his illustrated flier; Chuck's address is 14383-B Nordhoff Street, Panorama City, CA 91402.

Dave Galerstein, learning to use Windows 95, which comes with the Windows Encarta 96 Encyclopedia, notes that the encyclopedia entry for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle notes that "A Holmes cult arose and still flourishes, notable through clubs of devotees such as the Baker Street Irregulars."

The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1995 by publishing a "trifling brochure" with highlights of the history of the scion; the 32-page pamphlet is available for \$6.00 postpaid from Shari Conway, 4440 Beeman Road, Williamston, MI 48895.

John Tracey is selling his Sherlockian collection, and offers a sales-list (without prices, since he "will only consider fair offers for any of the titles"); his address is 10-1121 Bavlle Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1H 8P3, Canada <johntracey@pigeon.carleton.ca>.



Sotheby's auctioned a collection of film posters in London on Sept. 18, and the sale included (add 15% for the buyer's premium): a lobby card showing John Barrymore in "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) (L900), lobby cards of Bruce and Rathbone in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) (L450) and "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) (L450), a half-sheet poster of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) (not sold at L650), and a three-sheet poster for the same film (not sold at L5,200); the three-sheet measures 81 by 41 in., and was described as the only one known to exist from the film.

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

Oct 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

It's been the season for world premieres of movies about fairies, it would seem: "Photographing Fairies" (based on Steve Szilagy's book, with Edward Hardwicke as Conan Doyle) premiered at the Edinburgh Film Festival on Aug. 13, and "FairyTale: A True Story" (starring Peter O'Toole as Conan Doyle) premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 11. According to a press release, Szilagy's book has been translated into Japanese, German, Danish, French, and Hebrew; there's no word yet on when this film will be released in the United States (both films have been released in the United Kingdom).

Many of you will have seen "FairyTale: A True Story" by now (it opened in the U.S. on Oct. 24), and if you haven't, I recommend it: it's a delightful film, warm and sympathetic, about people who wanted to believe, and about two young girls and what they did and didn't do. It's well-directed (by Charles Sturridge), and well-acted, and the story is interesting. There will be no spoilers here, but the girls did fake the photographs (as they admitted, years later), and there really were fairies (you'll see them, and they're fun, too). Harvey Keitel is fine indeed as Harry Houdini (who was not involved in the real Cottingley story, but is important to the story in the film), and Bill Nighy is excellent as the theosophist Edward Gardner, and Peter O'Toole does well as Conan Doyle. And when you see the film, pay attention to the opening scenes: you'll see Lara Morgan as Jean Conan Doyle in 1917, with her brothers and father, in London to see Houdini perform his upside-down escape from a straitjacket.

If you want to know what Conan Doyle had to say about the photographs, and about the girls, Priscilla Juvelis, 1166 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 01238 (617-497-7570) <pjbooks@tiac.net>, is offering two copies of the first edition of his THE COMING OF THE FAIRIES (1922), one inscribed by the author (\$2,500) and the other unsigned (\$350).

Brad Keefauver notes that Playmates has some "FairyTale: A True Story" tie-ins in toy stores: "The Fairies of Cottingley Glen" (about 6" tall, \$7.99 each, with leaf stands, mirror, and comb). There are six of them in "The Fairy Collection" and four in "The Royal Fairy Collection".

Andrew Cahan offers a set of first British editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES that have an interesting association: both volumes have been signed by Frederic Dannay as "Barnaby Ross" and as "Ellery Queen"; the cost is \$2,600, and details are available Cahan (3000 Blueberry Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516) <acahan@cahanbooks.com> <www.cahanbooks.com>.

West-coast Sherlockians were able to see Paxton Whitehead in Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" at the Globe Theater in San Diego, and it won't be too long before he'll be starring in the play on the east coast: it will be performed at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, N.J., Jan. 7 to Feb. 15. Millburn is a 35-minute drive from New York City, and the box-office address is Brookside Drive, Millburn, NJ 07041 (973-376-4343) (973-379-3636 ext 2438 for groups of 20 or more). Perhaps someone will set up a theater party for the evening of Jan. 10, after the BSI cocktail party . . .

Oct 97 #2 Eve Titus is selling many of her own books and newspaper and magazine articles and letters related to Basil of Baker Street and other Sherlockian matters, and you can have a copy of her sales-list in return for a self-addressed stamped envelope. Her address is 17094 Collins Avenue #A-405, Sunny Isles, FL 33160.

A mail-order catalog from Hammacher Schlemmer (9180 Le Saint Drive, Fairfield, OH 45014-5475) (800-543-3366) offers an "English locking tantalus" with two crystal decanters (\$279.95), a "traditional English deerstalker hat" (\$69.95), and a 6.5 ft. "Baskerville bear" in Sherlockian costume (\$1,500). The miniature 3-foot version of the bear costs only \$299.95.

Mark Stickney is asking \$1,500 for his original one-sheet poster (28" x 39") for "Sherlock Holmes Contra Moriarty" (the Spanish title for the 1939 "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"); the linen-backed poster has stone-lithograph artwork by Soligo with a large portrait of Basil Rathbone and a smaller one of Ida Lupino. His address is 9636 Orion Drive, Windsor, CA 95492-8288 (707-573-2979) <upship@msn.com>.

Owen Phairis bought many books from Gaslight's stock when Jack Tracy's effects were auctioned in Las Vegas recently, and now offers them for sale; many are Gaslight's own titles, with some from other publishers. A sales-list is available; Box 3400, Big Bear Lake, CA 92315.

Doc Watson was one of those selected this year to receive a National Medal of Arts (one of the country's highest honors for cultural achievement); recipients of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals were honored at a White House presentation and dinner on Sept. 29. Doc Watson is the renowned guitarist and bluegrass virtuoso, who has never recorded a Sherlockian piece, but his record "Elementary Doctor Watson!" was issued in 1972. Bill Clinton said at the presentation ceremony that "There may not be a serious, committed baby boomer alive who didn't at some point in his or her youth try to spend a few minutes at least trying to learn to pick a guitar like Doc Watson," adding that "he still lives on the land his great-great-granddaddy homesteaded, and he's still making that old-time mountain music."

Dave Galerstein notes that the current mail-order catalog from The Daily Planet (Box 64411, Saint Paul, MN 55164) (800-324-5950) offers a Sherlockian chess set (\$484), a deerstalker (\$32), a London bobby's whistle (\$14), a Sherlockian walking stick (\$72), and a Manchester police helmet (\$198).

John Ruyle has fired a two-gun salute from the deck of the Pequod: BEES IN MY BONNET contains 20 of his Sherlockian verses, and THE ADVENTURE OF THE ABBEY MANGE is the latest in the Turlock Loams saga, and both volumes are as usual hand-set and hand-printed. \$20.00 each postpaid in wrappers, or \$40.00 each in cloth; 521 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707-1521.

Oct 97 #3 The fifth Sherlock Holmes Review Symposium in Indianapolis on Nov. 21-23 is nearing the deadline for reservations (Nov. 10); the speakers will include Michael Atkinson, Roy Pilot, Philip Shreffler, and Pat Ward, and there will be a chance to attend a local production of "The Crucifer of Blood" (additional information is available from Steven T. Doyle, Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077) <73551.3254@compuserve.com>.

The Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library News (Sept. 1997) has a one-page story on its "Images of Sherlock Holmes" exhibit in June; if you'd like a free copy of the newsletter, contact Victoria Gill, MTRL, 789 Yonge Street,

Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada <vgill@gwmail.mtr1.toronto.on.ca>.

FORTY YEARS OF THE SHERLOCK HOLMES is an attractive 16-page pamphlet, with text by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton, and artwork by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, available from The Sherlock Holmes Public House & Restaurant; L3.45 postpaid to the U.K. (L3.95 postpaid to the U.S.), from The Sherlock Holmes, 10-11 Northumberland Street, London WC2N 5DA, England <sherlock@popmail.dircon.co.uk> <www.users.dircon.co.uk/~sherlock/>. The pub also offers a sales-list of Sherlockian memorabilia, and credit-card orders are welcome.

Boris Karloff was honored twice in our new set of "Classic Movie Monsters" stamps (the other actors honored were Bela Lugosi, Lon Chaney, and Lon Chaney, Jr.). Karloff played Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (adapted by Alvin Sapinsley from H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) on ABC-TV's "The Elgin Hour" on Feb. 22, 1955 (in an era before fans were quick to tape off-the-air, alas).

Tim Heath's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure at Sir Arthur Sullivan's" was performed on tour in Britain in 1996, with Miles Richardson as Holmes (he is the son of Ian Richardson, and as far as I know this still is the only father-and-son team to have played the role). The play is imaginative and interesting (Holmes and Watson are invited to perform for a select audience at Sullivan's house, and there are some intriguing complications), and the 40-page script is now offered by Ian Henry Publications (20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England); L6.25 or \$18.00 postpaid.

Robert G. Harris ("The Creeping Man") died on Sept. 25, 1997. A patent attorney who spent most of his career with the Ford Motor Co., he also was a firm link to the long-ago days when the Baker Street Irregulars met at the Murray Hill Hotel, and in 1946 was one of the founders of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit. He was a witty and irreverent scholar, boasting of being a Board-Certified Curmudgeon, and received his BSI Investiture in 1952, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1984.

John McGowan reports that the WISHBONE: 1998 16-MONTH CALENDAR (Sept. 1997 through Dec. 1998) is now in bookstores (\$9.95) with two wishbone in Sherlockian costume in the photographs for February ("The Slobbery Hound") and October 1998 ("A Dogged Expose"). The graphics-enabled can visit the web at <www.wishbone.com/wwwishbone/MyFunStuff/Glossies/glossies.html> to see other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian photographs of wishbone.

Oct 97 #4 Tyke Niver has forwarded an article from the Hartford Courant, reporting on what's new at the Gillette Castle State Park in Hadlyme: \$1 million spent on repairs in the past year, and plans to spend an additional \$3 million on renovations over the next few years. The state also proposes to increase the admission prices, to \$3.00 for ages 6 through 12 and \$6.00 for ages 13 and up (300,410 tickets were sold last year). The Castle is William Gillette's home (built largely with profits from his play "Sherlock Holmes"), and it's a delightful place to visit.

Further to the report (Mar 97 #5) about the CD-ROM disk with the "Complete Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (including his novels, essays, short-story collections, histories, and much more), the latest news from John Thibau is that the disk will be ready to ship in November, and it will have some graphics (such as the manuscript of the first chapter of THE WHITE COMPANY) and additional text material that includes an updated and expanded edition of THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg) and an extensive bibliography by Frank A. Young. \$95.00 postpaid from Insight Engineering (Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310); US dollar checks or money orders only, please. John (same address) <thibau@erols.com> will be happy to answer questions.

"Sherlock Bones to the Rescue" is the headline on Rick Boling's article in *Animals* (Sept.-Oct. 1997) about John Keane, who's still in business helping people find lost pets. Among those he has helped is Jim Carrey, who lost a Jack Russell terrier just before "Ace Ventura, Pet Detective" was released; The article (at hand from Geoff Jeffery) has a photo of Keane with his dog Clouseau. If you need help, you can call Sherlock Bones at 800-942-6647 or visit his web site at <[www.sherlockbones.com](http://www.sherlockbones.com)>.

Geoff also reports *MAD ABOUT THE FIFTIES: THE BEST OF THE DECADE* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1997; 288 pp., \$19.95); contents include a reprint of Bill Elder's "Shermlock Shomes!" (from the Oct.-Nov. 1953 issue of *Mad*).

Further to the item (Sep 97 #6) about the availability of a videocassette of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1937), Michael Ross reports that a print of the film has indeed been found in Germany, and it will soon be available on cassette, in German (without subtitles), in PAL (European) format only, and in an edition limited to 100 copies. Cost: DM 49.90 (add DM 3.00 shipping) to Germany; L19.00 (add L4.50 shipping) to Europe; \$29.50 (add \$9.00 shipping to the rest of the world. Shipping is the same for one to four copies, so you'll save a bit on multiple orders. Prepayment required (sterling and dollar checks should be made payable to Anke van Hasenhorst), and Michael's e-mail address is <[baskerville-buecher@bigfoot.de](mailto:baskerville-buecher@bigfoot.de)> or URL <[www.sis-online.com/cgi-com/cgi-local/hp/Baskerville](http://www.sis-online.com/cgi-com/cgi-local/hp/Baskerville)>; his postal address is: Bendheide 65, D-47906 Kempen, Germany.

"The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" was a 30-minute radio series that parodied old-time radio, produced by Joe Bevilacqua and broadcast by WBAI-FM (New York) in the early 1980s (Oct 85 #3); there were ten episodes, and if you're really electronically enabled you can hear RealAudio excerpts at <[www.cybergraphix-anim.com/Comedy-O-Rama/holmes.htm](http://www.cybergraphix-anim.com/Comedy-O-Rama/holmes.htm)>. All ten episodes are available on cassettes \$9.00 each postpaid, or \$75.00 for all ten); 10749 Lawler Street, Unit 2, Los Angeles, CA 90034) <[comedyorama@ibm.net](mailto:comedyorama@ibm.net)>.

Oct 97 #5 Those who have lamented that a trip to Hyde Park, N.Y., is too far to travel for a good meal surely will welcome the news that the Culinary Institute of America now has a western branch in Saint Helena, Calif., where the Graystone Restaurant is located in the grand stone building that once housed the Christian Brothers winery. And Don Yates reports that that's where the next grand gourmet Sherlockian dinner will be held, on Mar. 4, 1998, with Fritz Sonnenschmidt on hand from Hyde Park to coordinate the evening and to supervise the menu. If you'd like more information about the event, send a #10 SASE to Donald A. Yates (555 Canon Park Drive, Saint Helena, CA 94574) <[shsirene@aol.com](mailto:shsirene@aol.com)>.

If you're one of those who read the articles in *Playboy*, the November issue has an article by Michael Angeli ("Inside the Extreme Machine") that gives due attention to Biker Sherlock's excellent performance in the X Games that were held in Mission Bay Park in San Diego in June. Biker Sherlock won two gold medals and one silver medal (more than anyone else in the Games); his specialty is the street luge, and he was one of the stars when ESPN broadcast the Games. His real name is Michael Sherlock.

The same issue of *Playboy* quotes Laura Lyons in the *Playmate News*: "People still ask me about Hef. He's a wonderful, caring man, and I think that's what people should know about him." That's not her real name, but it's the name she chose when she was *Playmate of the Month* in Feb. 1976 (and she was in the magazine again in Jan. 1977).

Plan well ahead: The Long Island Cave Dwellers have scheduled a three-day celebration on Aug. 6-8, 1999, to honor the 60th anniversary of Basil Rathbone's first portrayal of the great detective. "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Shadow and Light" will focus on the celluloid Canon, and will be part of the Annual Film Festival at the Staller Fine Arts Center at the University at Stony Brook, Long Island, N.Y. If you would like to participate in the program, or be on the mailing list, contact Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane

West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346) <whirdy@aol.com>.

Jessie Lilley, formerly with Scarlet Street, now is the managing editor and designer of the new magazine RetroVision; the premiere issue focuses on the making of "Jurassic Park", with other interesting articles about "1941" and "The Questor Tapes" and other films and television shows that launched series. \$5.95 on newsstands; \$7.95 postpaid (from 1036-A Park Boulevard #103, Massapequa Park, NY 11762).

The "Sherlock Holmes Festival" on Nov. 8 in Tryon, N.C., will be a tribute to William Gillette; they'll have a film festival, a radio-players performance ("The Red-Headed League"), and other events; additional information is available from the Polk County Travel & Tourism Council (800-440-7848).

THE BAKER STREET REGULARS is a delightful collection of cartoon stories by Sachiko Ueyama, who has a fine artistic hand and brings an attractive sense of humor to her versions of three of the Canonical tales; Richard Pugh and Masamichi Higurashi have supplied helpful English translations, and the 64-page booklet costs \$10.00 or L5.00 postpaid (currency only, please, unless you order more than five copies and want to pay by check), from Masamichi Higurashi, 3-13-7-305 Nishikubo, Musashino, Tokyo 180, Japan.

Oct 97 #6 Douglas G. Greene has announced that he will publish Ed Hoch's THE RIPPER OF STORYVILLE AND OTHER BEN SNOW MYSTERIES in Nov.; Ben Snow is a 19th-century gunslinger-sleuth in the American west. \$16.00 in wrappers, or \$40.00 in cloth in a signed and limited edition that will include a separate pamphlet with a reprint of "Five Rings in Reno" (as by R. L. Stevens, from Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, July 1976, in which Conan Doyle accepts the invitation to referee the Johnson/Jeffries fight, and winds up doing some detecting). Crippen & Landru, Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 <crippenl@norfolk.infi.net> <www.avalon.net/~scott/cl/>; shipping extra, and credit-card orders welcome.

Rudy Faist reports that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959, with Peter Cushing) now is available on laserdisc from MGM/UA Home Video (\$39.98) in wide-screen format and with a black-and-white theatrical trailer.

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 strolling in Baker Street on a wintry day. The cost is \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (L5.50 to the U.K., L6.00 to Europe, L7.00 elsewhere); checks made payable to the Society, please, and orders can be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 3 Outram Road, Southsea, Hants. PO5 1QP, England.

Carolyn and Joel Senter offer the 1997-1998 issue of The Sherlockian Times (their 28-page catalog/journal/newsletter); Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. The catalog has lots of new (and interesting) Sherlockiana.

The Mysterious Bookshop has a new holiday catalog with three pages of new Sherlockiana (and additional rare and collectable material), and three addresses: 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840); 8763 Beverly Boulevard, West Hollywood, CA 90048 (800-821-9017); and 82 Marylebone High Street, London W1M 3DE, England. A separate (and larger) S'ian list also is available <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net> <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.

John Farrell advises fanatics to check your local Sears stores for the new collectible underwear: red silk boxer shorts (\$20.00) showing Mickey Mouse in Sherlockian costume.

The eastern New England societies will honor Basil Rathbone on Nov. 8 at the Algonquin Club in Boston, starting at 6:00 pm, with cocktails, dinner, and a commemorative program; there may still be room at the event, and you

should contact Scott Monty (800-253-4417 ext 6981) <smonty@phcs.com>.

Further to the report (Sep 97 #5) of the two variants of the first edition of John T. Lescroart's RASPUTIN'S REVENGE (New York: Donald I. Fine, 1987), it's quite unlikely that only 300 copies of the misprinted first issue got out with the jumbled paragraph on page 137 (starting "No, he said at last, as if to myself"): I've had too many reports of misprinted copies from too many places. Nor was the description of the second issue correct: in fact it has the corrected pages 137-138 pasted onto the stub of the misprinted leaf. And there's at least one second-issue review copy.

Oct 97 #7 Sherlock Holmes' 144th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 9, 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 lunch at McSorley's; Allen's address is 324 2nd Street NE, Osseo, MN 55369 <psarasate@aol.com>, and from Jan. 7 he will be at the Iroquois Hotel (212-840-3080).

And there's something new on Thursday afternoon: The Morley-Montgomery Reception (by invitation only, honoring recipients of the award for the best paper published in The Baker Street Journal each year, and recent contributors to the BSJ). This will be followed by The BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture at 6:15 pm at the Penn Club at 30 West 44th Street; the speaker will be Sherlockian author Nicholas Meyer (\$10.00; seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below). Then there's time for supper and theater, or perhaps the Aunt Clara-Sing Along (off-hand, off-the-wall, and largely off-key) begins at 8:00 pm at O'Lunney's Pub at 204 West 43rd Street; John Farrell reports that reservations are not required.

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 attend (\$15.00; details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood 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 La Belle Epoque at 827 Broadway (at 12th Street); \$43.00 (Maribeau Briggs, 46 East 29th Street #2-R, 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 Sherlockiana in a spacious room at the Princeton Club at 15 West 43rd Street, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; information about vendor tables is available from Donald B. Izban, 213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107 (630-483-3497). The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held 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 (details below) or \$45.00 at the door.

The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for rooms (single or double) at \$139.00 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 (details below).

Oct 97 #8 And here are the details: you should request a reservation form for the BSI events (including the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, and the Saturday reception), and for rooms at the Hotel Algonquin, from Michael F. Whelan, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601. The forms will be mailed to you by mid-November.

For those who hope to save money on hotel rooms, the pickings are slimmer this time round (the rates at the Iroquois, for example, now are \$125 (single) \$135 (double), and that's before the non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. A few less-expensive alternatives: Portland Square (132 West 47th St.): \$80 (single) \$105 (double) (212-382-0600); Pickwick Arms (230 East 51st St.): \$85 (single) \$105 (double) (800-742-5945). You should confirm the rates, and (if you arriving on Thursday) make sure that the weekend rates include Thursday.

The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without any return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 2189, Easton, MD 21601; the checks will be forwarded unopened and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

Geoff Jeffery reports that the new catalog from the Britannia Collection (Box 64413, St. Paul, MN 55164 (800-778-7007) offers a Comoy's of London Sherlock Holmes walking stick (\$165.00), a pair of Holmes and Watson book-end (\$85.00), and the Town & Country Companion bloodhound in Sherlockian costume (\$59.95), and other Sherlockiana.

Russ Geoffrey plans to sell his Sherlockian collection (including some nice pipes): to find out if he has anything you might want, call him at 617-753 4343 (8-4 EST) or leave a message for him at 401-245-6452.

Luci Zahray notes that Expressions from Potpourri still offers the Limoges porcelain deerstalker, 2.5 in. long, with a magnifying-glass clasp and an even smaller pipe (Oct 96 #2). Item 172886, \$225.00; their address is 120 North Meadows Road, Medfield, MA 02052 (800-338-2699).

Vinnie Brosnan (Sherlock in L.A., 1741 Via Allena, Oceanside, CA 92056) has a new catalog, with almost 850 items of Sherlockiana, many from the collection of Cecil Ryder, and a nice article by Deborah Benson, about her father Ben Abramson and the early days of the BSJ and the BSI (Christopher Morley was her godfather).

Jack Earley's expressionistic portraits include one of Sherlock Holmes, and he offers the painting itself as well as photographic posters. You can ask for a copy of his illustrated flier (5881 Mindy Drive, Indian Springs, OH 45011) <jlearley@aol.com>, or view the painting at <www.earleyart.com>.

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

Nov 97 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The exhibit "A Grand Design: The Art of the Victoria and Albert Museum" at the Baltimore Museum of Art is delightful, despite having very little that is directly Sherlockian other than Landseer's painting "Lion-land Dog" and the Lucretia Borgia Mirror (unfortunately without any black pearls). But there are many other interesting things to see (especially in the room devoted to "The Idea of 'Englishness'").

The Crystal Palace Exhibition was open from May 1 to Oct. 11, 1851, and had 6,039,193 visitors in less than six months (at a time when the railroad was

the only convenient mass transit); the building was taken down and rebuilt in Sydenham (southeast of London), and was open from 1854 until it burned in 1936. The exhibition led to the founding of the South Kensington Museum (which opened in 1857), and that's where Holmes and Watson might have seen such things as the full-scale plaster cast of Michelangelo's "David" (represented in the show here by a large photograph and the full-scale fig leaf that was added to the statue when Queen Victoria visited the museum). The practice was continued to avoid offending later royal ladies, and was last used for a visit by Queen Mary. The museum was renamed by Queen Victoria at her last official function, and its focus on the decorative arts continues (you'll also see a pair of Doc Martens "Air Wair" vegetarian shoes).

It will close in Baltimore on Jan. 18, and then travel to Boston, Toronto, Houston, and San Francisco; tickets for the show in Baltimore are marketed by Vista (888-262-4278 is the toll-free number) and cost \$8.00 (or \$6.00 for seniors), plus \$2.00 for Vista (you can avoid the surcharge by buying tickets at the museum).

The latest issue of Scarlet Street has arrived, with David Stuart Davies' discussion of BBC Radio's Merrison-Williams series (only "The Hound of the Baskervilles" remains to be done to complete the Canon, for the first time ever, with the same actors as Holmes and Watson). And there's a photograph of Jeremy Brett as Dracula (on stage in San Francisco in 1978), as well as the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. Scarlet Street is published quarterly and costs \$20.00 a year; Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

"The Lost World: Jurassic Park" (1997) was issued this month on videocassette; that's the Steven Spielberg film, of course, in two versions (one is letter-boxed). Available in video shops everywhere, one assumes, and from Movies Unlimited (3015 Darnell Road, Philadelphia, PA 19154) (800-466-8437) for \$19.99.

It has been quite a while since I mentioned the Dangling Prussian Amateur Press Association (Apr 93 #4). It's an essentially Sherlockian gathering place (the Dangling Prussian being an extremely peculiar pub with some extremely peculiar patrons), and there are a few vacancies. The rules of an APA are simple: contributors write something every two months (at least two pages would be nice) and send copies to part-time bartender Brad A. Keefauver, and he sorts them out and sends them back; you can write fiction about events at the pub, or non-fiction, and those who don't contribute don't get the mailing. Additional information, and perhaps a sample, are available from Brad at 4009 Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.

Nov 97 #2 "When I first came up to London I had rooms in Montague Street, just round the corner from the British Museum," Sherlock Holmes told Watson (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." The British Museum's Round Reading Room is where he did that studying; it opened 140 years ago, and it was officially closed on Oct. 25. The new British Library, near St. Pancras Station, will have its own humanities reading room.

Our new set of "Classic Movie Monsters" stamps honored Boris Karloff twice, and Bela Lugosi once. "What do we know about vampires?" asked Sherlock Holmes; we seem to know a lot now, exactly a hundred years since Bram Stoker's DRACULA appeared in print. The centenary was celebrated with a wonderful exhibit at the Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia that included Stoker's notes for the novel, and a typescript (it would appear that there never was a manuscript), which were displayed together for the first time ever. The exhibition catalog quoted from a letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Stoker in 1897, saying that the novel "is the very best story of \*diablerie\* which I have read for many years. It is really wonderful how with so much exciting interest over so long a book there is never an anticlimax."



William Safire's column "On Language" in the N.Y. Times Magazine is always interesting, and on Nov. 2 he discussed the word "presentism" (first used in print in 1950): it's a word that should be of more than passing interest to Sherlockians who examine and comment on the attitudes and customs seen in the Canonical world of Sherlock Holmes. Safire quotes from a recent article by Prof. Annette Gordon-Reed of the New York Law School: presentism is "when a historian sees events in the past through the prism of present-day standards. For example, Thomas Jefferson is often judged harshly as a sexist even though the notion of complete equality between the sexes was almost unthinkable in his era." Gordon-Reed calls it the "why wasn't Jefferson like Alan Alda" question.

And Sherlockians who yearn for the long-ago Victorian and Edwardian era we see in the Canon may be amused by Safire's reminder of the title of a 1978 book by Simone Signoret: "Nostalgia Isn't What It Used to Be."

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES VICTORIAN COOKBOOK: FAVOURITE RECIPES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE & DR. WATSON, by William Bonnell (Toronto: Macmillan Canada, 1997; 196 pp., CA \$24.95), offers an interesting look at Victorian cookery, with accompany discussion of the its history. The focus is more on British than on Canonical food, and it sounds tasty indeed.

The new catalog from femmes fatales has arrived, nicely timed for Christmas shopping, with some intriguing new Sherlockiana, including a S'ian candle snuffer (\$9.95), a S'ian P.I. kitten (\$18.95), an a S'ian flip-top thimble (\$29.95); Box 4457, Lakewood, CA 90712) (800-596-3323) <byteocrime@aol.com> <<http://register.com/femfatal>>. Readers of this newsletter qualify for a 10% discount (the magic word is "Scuttlebutt") and news of an item not in the catalog: an inexpensive miniature edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES with a removable jacket (\$7.95).

Nov 97 #3 Francine Kitts notes that the new catalog from worldwide Games offers the 221B BAKER STREET: THE TIME MACHINE board game for \$29.95, the WEST END ADVENTURES GAME discounted at \$19.95, and the QUEEN'S PARK AFFAIR SUPPLEMENT discounted at \$14.95 (the latter two games are from the old Sleuth Publications SHERLOCK HOLMES CONSULTING DETECTIVE); Box 517, Colchester, CT 06415) (800-888-0987) <[www.worldwidgames.com](http://www.worldwidgames.com)>.

Willis G. Frick has moved his Sherlocktron home pages to a new web-site at <<http://members.home.net/sherlock1/sherlocktron/html>>. The other URL will work for a while, but you can change your bookmarks now. And there's a new URL for the electronic edition (the three most recent issues) of this newsletter at <<http://members.home.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>>.

Slylock Fox appears in Sherlockian costume on all 90 cards (presumably reprinted from Bob Weber Jr.'s comic strip) in the box of SLYLOCK FOX BRAIN BOGGERS, issued in 1996 (Jan 97 #4) and available now from the Spilsbury Puzzle Co., Box 8922, Madison, WI 53708 (800-772-1760) <[www.spilsbury.com](http://www.spilsbury.com)>; \$11.95.

What really happened to Birdy Edwards after he escaped from the Valley of Fear? Well, more precisely, what happened to the real Birdy Edwards? The real Birdy Edwards was the real Pinkerton agent James McParland, who helped bring an end to the Molly Maguires, and he continued his Pinkerton career, in the western United States, where he was once again involved in a battle with miners, and the International Workers of the World, after the assassination of a former governor of Idaho. That story is told in considerable detail in BIG TROUBLE: A MURDER IN A SMALL WESTERN TOWN SETS OFF A STRUGGLE FOR THE SOUL OF AMERICA, by J. Anthony Lukas (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1997; 875 pp., \$32.50).

This is one of a hundred designs on a "Have a Night" poster spotted by Jim Suszynski. It's item HAN01, \$7.00 postpaid from Mantis Designs, 513 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

(800-567-3778) <<http://www.mantisd.com>>.

MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL: A VICTORIAN MYSTERY (Toronto: Viking/Penguin, 1997; 212 pp., CA \$19.99) is a fiction-based-on-fact pastiche from Howard Engel, the Canadian author of the Benny Cooperman mysteries; Conan Doyle is still a medical student in Edinburgh, in 1879, involved with Joe Bell in solving a mystery full of echoes from the decades-later Oscar Slater case. It's a bit of a surprise to see both Robert Louis Stevenson and Bell addressing their friend "Conan" (Stevenson, as late as 1894, wrote letters to "My dear Conan Doyle").

Scott and Sherry Rose Bond are planning an 11-day tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" in London and the Sherlockian countryside next July; write to them to ask for details (519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119).

The November issue of Smithsonian magazine has an interesting article about collectors of autographs and manuscripts, with a photograph of David Karpeles, who is one of the fortunate few who own more than one Sherlock Holmes manuscript, although that's not mentioned in the article (his Sherlockian manuscripts are "The Greek Interpreter" and "Thor Bridge").

Nov 97 #4 Michael Whelan is one of the very best artists in the world of fantasy and science fiction, and his THE ART OF MICHAEL WHELAN (New York: Bantam Books, 1993) offers a fine display of his work, including the full-color and previously-unpublished portraits of "Sherlock Hoka" and "Moriarty Hoka" that were painted in 1983 for a "Hoka" movie project based on the stories by Poul Anderson and Gordon R. Dickson. Alas, the movie was never produced, but their delightful short story "The Adventure of the Mislaid Hound" was published in Universe Science Fiction (Dec. 1953) and in EARTHMAN'S BURDEN (New York: Gnome Press, 1957). THE ART OF MICHAEL WHELAN costs \$55.00 postpaid from his company Glass Onion Graphics (Box 88, Brookfield, CT 06804) <[productinfo@glassonion.com](mailto:productinfo@glassonion.com)> <[www.glassonion.com](http://www.glassonion.com)>. Note: the artist is not the "Wiggins" of The Baker Street Irregulars.

Beryl and Tom Cooper's SHERLOCKIAN JUMBLES offers 25 word puzzles in honor of the silver anniversary of The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse. The postpaid cost of the 30-page pamphlet is \$4.00, from Joseph A. Coppola, 103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066.

The Sept. issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has fine articles about the Czarina Alexandra's volumes of the Canon, and (by Bill Vande Water) on some of the interesting material in the collections photographic archives. If you would like to be on their mailing list, write to Richard J. Sveum (466 O. M. Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <[sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu](mailto:sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu)>.

And there's more "Wishbone" merchandise (spotted by Debbie Clark): a wishbone Magnetic Dress-Up Kit that includes his Sherlockian costume; \$12.95 in the current mail-order catalog of public-television tie-ins from the Store of Knowledge, Box 10, Long Beach, CA 90801 (800-241-5858).

If you missed Northstar's comic-book version of "The Speckled Band" (illustrated by Dan Day) in their series CHRONICLES OF CRIME & MYSTERY (Feb 92 #4), it has been reprinted as CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1997) from Avalon/American Comics Group (\$2.95). SHERLOCK HOLMES: RETURN OF THE DEVIL (story by Martin Powell and illustrations by Seppo Makinen) from Adventure/Malibu Oct 92 #1 and Dec 92 #3) has been reprinted by Tome/Caliber as a one-shot comic book (\$3.95).

"Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" aired on "Biography" on A&E cable on May 22, 1995, and it may well never repeat; if you missed it the first time out, it's available on videocassette (\$19.98) from Adventures in Cassettes, 5353 Nathan Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55442-1978 (800-328-0108) <[aic4radio@aol.com](mailto:aic4radio@aol.com)> <[www.aic-radio.com](http://www.aic-radio.com)>. Edward Hardwicke stars as Watson, at dinner

with members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and reminiscing about his friend. The company also offers 48 Sherlockian radio-series audiocassettes starring Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud.

David A. Bankes and Anthony R. Santoro of Christopher Newport University will guide a "Gardens & Museum Trip to London" in June or July 1998; Prof. Santoro is a member of The Cremona Fiddlers, and will ensure that there is some Sherlockian content to the tour, and details are available from him (Smith Annex 164, Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA 23606).

Nov 97 #5 Dame Jean Conan Doyle ("A Certain Gracious Lady") died on Nov. 18. She was known as "Billy" in her youth, and you can read about her in her father's delightful collection THREE OF THEM (1923). She joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938, and was commissioned in the WAAF in 1940, eventually serving as commandant of the Women's Royal Air Force; awarded an OBE in 1948, she received a DBE in 1963. When a revision of the U.S. copyright law in the 1970s allowed her to regain control of the copyright, she was able to do a great deal to protect her father's characters from mis-use and abuse, and unlike her brothers she was amused by the humor with which Sherlockians pretend the world of the Canon is a real one. She received her Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1991, and she was indeed a gracious lady, both to those who had the good fortune to know her, and to countless others who enjoyed all her father's work.

Douglas Wilmer now has been impersonating Sherlock Holmes for more than 30 years, and doing it well, most recently for Penguin Audiobooks, in THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 1. There are two cassettes, with four stories (Scan/RedH/Iden/Bosc), and Wilmer is splendid as Holmes, and as the other characters, male and female. £7.99 in Britain (0181-899-4036), and \$16.95 in the United States (800-253-6476).

Boss McGinty's Bird Watchers (of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.) have scheduled a Sherlockian tour of England in mid-July; the contact is Cathy Lalko (Universal Odyssey, 1500 Quail Street #550, Newport Beach, CA 92660).

There's nothing directly Sherlockian in the exhibit "Cultural Curios: Literary and Historical Witnesses" at the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York, but it's a delightful display of the odd things that wind up in libraries, such as Sir Arthur Sullivan's first piece of clothing (his baby shirt) and a lock of hair from the tail of Gen. Lee's horse Traveller. The exhibit is curated by George Fletcher (of the BSI), and his informative labels are as enjoyable as the items shown (he's particularly proud of the inkpot used at the historic surrender at Appomattox). The address is 29 East 36th Street (212-685-0008), and the exhibit closes on Jan. 4.

The six-inch Sherlock Holmes Christmas-tree ornament issued last year (Oct 96 #4) by Bronner's Christmas Wonderland is still available in their mail-order catalog for \$26.99 (item 18132); Box 176, Frankenmuth, MI 48734 (800-361-6736).

There's good news for electronically-enabled fans of Mary Russell: Rebecca J. Anderson has made available (with permission from Laurie R. King) an exclusive sneak-preview chapter from THE MOOR, the fourth book in the series, not due in the bookstores until December; <<http://www.golden.net/~rebecca/j/docs/moor/htm>>.

THE AMERICAN FIRM CHALLENGES, by Edward S. Smith, Jr., offers more than 450 questions about individual stories, and about the Canon in general (in case your society has run out of questions for your quizzes); the 41-page pamphlet costs \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. and Canada (\$12.00 elsewhere) from Ed (his address is Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596). Ed also will be happy to tell you about The American Firm, which raises money to purchase large-print editions of the Canon for adult homes and nursing homes.

Nov 97 #6 The Northern Musgraves are celebrating their tenth anniversary,

and the tenth issue of their annual journal *The Musgrave Papers* has 142 pages of scholarship, spoofery, and art, both Sherlockian and Doylean. Fans of the Rathbone/Bruce radio series will appreciate David Stuart Davies' send-up tribute in his script "The Adventure of the Spotted Dick", and David Hammer offers an interesting look at "The Victorian Prospective". L7.00 (to the U.K.), L9.00 (to Europe), and \$35.00 (elsewhere), from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. DB16 4DN, England (checks payable to the society, please). Information on the society and its other publications also is available, and the society's tenth birthday party will be held on Jan. 31, honoring Sherlock Holmes' knowledge of politics.

Nice news for anyone who has been seeking Michael B. Druxman's long out-of-print book *BASIL RATHBONE: HIS LIFE AND HIS FILMS* (1975): he's now offering plastic-bound autographed photocopies (reduced to 93% and with some loss of quality in the photographs) of his own copy of the book; the cost is \$30.00 plus shipping (information on shipping costs and payment methods is available from him); Box 8086, Calabasas, CA 91372 (fax 818-876-0069) <druxy@ix.netcom.com> <pw1.netcom.com/~druxy/basil/index.html>.

*ALIEN VOICES: THE LOST WORLD* (New York: Simon & Schuster Audio, 1997; two cassettes, \$18.00) is a splendid dramatization, directed by Leonard Nimoy and starring Armin Shimerman as Challenger and Dwight Schultz as Malone in a script by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie. It's an impressive production and shows just how much fun old-time radio was, and still is, although now on audiocassettes rather than the airwaves.

"FairyTale: A True Story" opened "wide" (on 1,058 screens) in the U.S., and had a modest box-office gross: \$12.2 million after 24 days (just for comparison, "Starship Troopers" did \$22.1 million its first weekend); there were good reviews in many newspapers, but the movie was promoted poorly by Paramount. Theatrical release in Britain isn't planned until February, but in the meantime the Royal Academy in London has an exhibit on "Victorian Fairy Painting" that includes work by Dadd, Doyle, and Dulac (that's Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle); the exhibit closes on Feb. 8, and goes next to the University of Iowa and to Toronto.

It may well be that Viacom (the company that owns Paramount) will do better from product licensing than at the box office: in addition to the Playmates action figures (Jun 97 #3 and Oct 97 #1), three 2.5-in. pewter fairies from the film (\$21.00 each) and a demin shirt (\$44.00) are offered in a new catalog from the Red Rose Collection, 826 Burlway, Burlingame, CA 94010 (800-220-7673).

*FATAL HABITS: AN APPRECIATION OF THE LITERARY SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Jeffery F. Dow, is the latest publication from *The Pleasant Places of Florida*, examining the literary aspects of the Canon, with examples of humor, irony, character, peripeteia, plot, atmosphere, and much more; the 120-page monograph costs \$10.00 postpaid to any address (\$14.00 overseas if airmail is wanted) from the author, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 34698.

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

Dec 97 #1

scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more "FairyTale: A True Story" tie-in merchandise in the shops, including a CD-ROM disk "Activity Center" that offers a fine demonstration of just how much can be done with modern computers. It has puzzles and games, and things to explore, for children aged 7-11, and six clips from the film (one of which shows Houdini performing for five-year-old Jean Conan Doyle), and it's all nicely done indeed. The cost is \$30.00, and there's a \$10.00 rebate coupon inside the box; if you can't find it in your local shops, you can order from Knowledge Adventure (1311 Grand Central Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201) (800-542-4240) <sales@adventure.com> <www.adventure.com>.

Blackstone Audio (Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520) (800-729-2665) offers a 146-page catalog of unabridged books on cassette, that includes six Canonical titles read by Walter Covell and Frederick Davidson (3 to 8 cassettes each; \$23.95 to \$56.95); Conan Doyle's "The Lost World" read by Fred Williams (6 cassettes; \$44.95); and T. S. Eliot reading his own poems, one of them being "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" (1 cassette, \$11.95). The sets can also be rented, and used cassettes are available at a discount.

An update of "The Lost World" is planned for pay-per-view television, as part of an agreement between the Action Adventure Network and DIRECTV, according to a November press release spotted by Sean Catherall. John Landis and Leslie Belzberg (as St. Clare Entertainment) will produce a "first-run action-adventure" two-hour episode of "The Lost World" followed by one-hour episodes based on the pilot. Other projects include a contemporary version of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" set in Hong Kong, from Francis Ford Coppola's American Zoetrope, and a new version of "Gulliver's Travels" from Steven de Souza. The initial episodes are budgeted at an average of \$3 million each, for broadcast next summer by Direct Ticket pay-per-view.

Plan ahead: Patrick Kirkby reports that Dr. Watson is expected to attend a "Netley Veterans Reunion and Display" on May 14, 1998, celebrating the centenary of Queen Victoria's visit to Netley Hospital; Dr. Watson is expected to be there to meet Her Majesty's nursing sisters. The event will be open to the public, and members of The Sherlock Holmes Society are likely to be on hand in costume; the Society's annual general meeting will be held on May 12 in London, in case you want to attend both events. Patrick's address is 2 Colson Road, Winal, Winchester, Hants. SO23 0EX, England.

Kingsley Amis' "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" was broadcast by BBC-1 in 1974 (before the VCR era, alas) with Edward Fox as Dr. Watson (who does the detecting); the story was published in Playboy (May 1978) and it's now included (read well by Michael Page) in the Playboy Audio two-cassette set THE DARKWATER HALL MYSTERY BY KINGSLEY AMIS AND OTHER STORIES (\$16.95) from Brilliance Audio (Box 481, Grand Haven, MI 49417) (800-222-3225).

The pop/rock quartet "Fathouse" turned to the Canon to find a title for its first CD "A Pin, a Cork, and a Card" (but only the title is Sherlockian); if you can't find it in stores, you can order directly from the group (216 Freeman Street #2, Brookline, MA 02146 (888-328-4687) <virgilg@acs.bu.edu> <[www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palms/1549/fathouse.html](http://www.geocities.com/SunsetStrip/Palms/1549/fathouse.html)>. \$12.95 postpaid; checks only, please.

Dec 97 #2 Arthur Conan Doyle's "Waterloo" will be performed from Aug. 6 to Sept. 19 at the Shaw Festival in Ontario. Conan Doyle submitted the play to Henry Irving, who wisely bought the rights and performed it to great acclaim (although George Bernard Shaw had some mean things to say about it); it was the first of Conan Doyle's plays to be performed in North America (when Irving came to Montreal on tour). The season brochure won't be ready until January, but the box-office address is: Box 774, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont. L0S 1J0, Canada (800-267-4759).

The Filmooods Co. (Box 475, Scarsdale, NY 10583) specializes in Sherlockian adults-only stories, and offers a sales-list flier with information about its J. C. Charles pastiches published in recent years and still available.

Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720) offers two new (and colorful) lapel pins, one for The Long Island Cave Dwellers, and another for next spring's 221 Beach gathering in Spring Lake, N.J.; \$8.00 each (plus \$2.00 shipping per order).

SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES #1 is a new comic book from Moonstone, with two new stories by Joe Gentile and artwork by Rich Gulick and Mike Bianco. \$2.95 in the shops; Moonstone's address is 582 Torrance Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409 <<http://members.aol.com/mnstone>>.

Ralph Hall has spotted Parker C. Hinter's THE CASE OF THE SECRET MESSAGE (New York: Scholastic, Inc., 1994; 84 pp., \$2.95); it's #1 in a "Clue Jr." in a series of children's puzzle-story books, and has Wendy White reporting briefly on Conan Doyle as the greatest mystery writer of all time.

Wanda Dow noted some new items of interest in DEMCO's fall 1997 catalog of library supplies: "Sherlock Bones" posters, book bags, buttons, certificates, and stickers (p. 185), and bookmarks with S'ian motifs (p. 184); the address is Box 7488 Madison, WI 53707 (800-356-1200).

The International Stamp Collectors Society is advertising a new set of two first day covers for the "Hound of the Baskervilles" stamp issued by Great Britain on May 13, 1997, with different postmarks and full-color cachets; \$19.95 for the set. An illustrated flier is available; Box 854, Van Nuys, CA 91408 <iibick@aol.com>.

George Overlie's colorful illustrations can be seen in the eight volumes of Murray Shaw's MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (1990-1993), and Overlie now offers an attractive wood engraving of a scene from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (\$225.00); an illustrated flier is available from the artist at 201 Main Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55413.

Jo Ellyn Clarey is proposing a session on "Seeking Sherlock's Sisters: Issues in Feminist History-Mystery" at the Modern Language Association in San Francisco in Dec. 1998; the focus is women-centered detective fiction using historical settings of any period, and if you'd like to submit a paper, her address is 326 Norwood SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506 <francior@gvsu.edu>.

Dec 97 #3 The world of technology uses the phrase "killer application" to describe something that's so desirable that it sells a product: it was pornography, for, example that drove the rapid expansion of VCR ownership (since people could watch X-rated films at home rather than in seedy movie theaters). And THE WORKS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE on a CD-ROM disk may well help many Sherlockians decide to add a CD-ROM reader to their computers. It has almost all of Conan Doyle's published works, an extensive bibliography, and an updated and expanded second edition of THE QUEST FOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg), in plain-ASCII that's platform-independent (you can run it on any computer, possibly even including an IBM 650, which is the first computer I ever wrote programs for, back in 1960). And there's more, including useful software, and the manuscript of the first chapter of THE WHITE COMPANY. John Thibeau and Frank A. Young have created a splendid resource for Sherlockians and Doyleans and anyone interested in good literature: there's material on this disk that has been out of print for decades and almost impossible to find in original appearances, and it's grand indeed that so many more people will be able to read it now. \$95.00 postpaid from Insight Engineering (Box 10785, Franconia, VA 22310), and there's a Zip disk for those who have Zip drives (\$100.00 postpaid); US dollar checks or money orders only, please.

Kel Richards has written three Sherlock Holmes pastiches (THE CURSE OF THE PHAROAHS, THE HEADLESS MONK, and THE VAMPIRE SERPENT) in a SHERLOCK HOLMES' TALES OF TERROR series for children aged 10-15, with about 120 pp. each and cover art by Philip Cornell; they're available from Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) at \$7.00/CA\$10.00/L4.00 each or \$20.00/CA\$28.00/L12.00 for the set (surface mail), and you can pay with checks or currency.

"What ineffable twaddle!" Watson cried. "Ineffable" would appear to be one of those words without an antonym: what, one wonders, might effable twaddle be? An answer may be found in EFFABLE TWADDLE, John Ruyle's latest book of Sherlockian verse, produced as usual by and on the Pequod Press. Available from the author (521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707), and the postpaid

cost is \$40.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper).

Jon Lellenberg reports that the memorial service for Dame Jean Conan Doyle will be held at noon on Jan. 29, 1998, at St. Clement Danes in the Strand (it's the official church of the Royal Air Force, and the principal speaker will be retired Chief Air Marshal Lewis). The service will be open to all, and those wishing to attend are requested to call the R.A.F. Office at the Defence Ministry (0171-218-2524). Her family has asked that no flowers or wreaths be sent, but for those who want to do something in her memory, her executors have suggested donations to the Royal National Institute for the Blind (224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, England) (0717-388-1266); Dame Jean had weak eyesight from childhood, and considerable trouble in her final years, and felt strongly that she would like to help other people in a similar situation.

Donald P. Musgrave ("Reginald Musgrave") died on Mar. 27. He was a doctor, specializing in dermatology, and one of the old Sherlockian hands in southern California. He became a member of The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976, and of course enjoyed representing one of his fictional ancestors.

Dec 97 #4 The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach are celebrating their 50th anniversary, and the December issue of The Cormorant's Ring has interesting articles about the society's past and present (Don Hardenbrook, one of the founders, reminisces about the early days); 44 pp., \$5.00 post-paid from Jim Coffin, 6570 East Paseo Alcazaa, Anaheim Hills, CA 92807.

Jo Soares is a multi-talented Brazilian (he has his own nightly television show, a weekly column in a news magazine, and a radio jazz program), and A SAMBA FOR SHERLOCK (New York: Pantheon Books, 1997; 271 pp., \$23.00) is his first novel, about Sherlock Holmes' trip to Brazil in 1886, and his encounter with Sarah Bernhardt and a thoroughly nasty serial killer. The book is a thriller, and a parody of Holmes and Brazil and Brazilians, and its humor is broad, often vulgar, and sometimes quite dark. And already published in Brazil, France, Italy, and Germany, it appears to hold a Sherlockian record for the greatest number of translations before an English version.

"I shall stand behind this holly-bush and see what I can see," Sherlock Holmes said (in "Shoscombe Old Place"); American holly is shown on one of this year's Christmas stamps.

Gary F. Boothe's THE SECRET OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new pastiche that brings Holmes out of retirement in 1907 to help forestall a threat to the economic security of the United States; he's assisted by his daughter Alice rather than by Watson. 145 pp., paperback; \$13.00 postpaid from the author (3909 Meadow Beauty Drive, Pasco, WA 99301).

Sorry about that: "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" on "Biography" on A&E cable (Nov 97 #4) featured David Burke as Dr. Watson. Thanks to David F. Morrill for the correction.

Brendan Gill died on Dec. 27. He went to work for The New Yorker in 1936 and never left (his last piece appears in the magazine's Jan. 5 issue), and his best-seller HERE AT THE NEW YORKER (1975) is a delightfully opinionated history of a magazine that was a literary landmark. Gill had seen William Gillette on stage, and reported in the New Yorker on the failed auction of Gillette's estate (Nov. 26, 1938), and he wrote about Gillette Castle many years later for the Architectural Digest (Nov. 1993). Gill also was a fine raconteur, and told some splendid stories at the William Gillette Luncheon during the birthday festivities in 1978.

Matthew Bunson's ENCYCLOPEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (Jan 95 #4) is the latest addition to the extensive list of Sherlockiana available in Japanese, in a new translation by Masamichi Higurashi and others (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 1997; 505 pp., ¥3,800).

Anglofile reports that the three-part miniseries "Rhodes" will air on PBS-TV on Jan. 4-6, starring Martin Shaw as Cecil Rhodes, and Neil Pearson as Dr. Leander Starr Jameson, who led an armed incursion into the Transvaal at the end of 1895; the "Jameson Raid" was one of the first overt acts of the Boer War, and his name has echoes in two Canonical pseudonyms: Colonel Ly-sander Stark and Dr. Lysander Starr (as noted in the June 1968 issue of The Baker Street Journal). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter with details on British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$12.00 a year).

Dec 97 #5 Plan ahead: Paul Singleton reports that Douglas Wilmer (who has impersonated Sherlock Holmes for more than 30 years on television and film and audiocassettes) is planning an American tour this spring, and is tentatively scheduled to arrive in Boston on Apr. 20 and (with stops also in New York and Philadelphia) to leave from Washington on Mar 4. Paul hopes that details on appearances in each of the four cities will be available during the birthday festivities in January (and I will report on those details in the next issue of this newsletter).

Penguin Audiobooks has issued two more sets of audiocassettes with Douglas Wilmer's excellent readings from the Canon. Each set has two cassettes and four tales: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME 2 has Five/Twice/Blue/Spec; BLACK PETER AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES CASES has Black/Lady/Blue/Resi; and they're all nicely done indeed. £7.99 each in Britain (0181-899-4036); the first set is scheduled for release here in May (\$16.95), and the second one is not yet scheduled for release in the United States.

"Triple Threat" proclaims the N.Y. Times: Frank Langella has three jobs in The Roundabout Theater Company's production of "Cyrano de Bergerac" at the Laura Pels Theater in New York. Langella has adapted Edmond Rostand's play and directs and stars in it.

There are twelve "Let's Play Dolls" in the Madame Alexander series from the Alexander Doll Company, all 14" tall, with fully-rooted hair, vinyl heads and fully-jointed vinyl bodies and painted faces; "Belinda and Bobby" is the one for Sherlockians. =20  
The company says the line has been discontinued, but the doll is still in stock in some specialist doll shops (\$100+).

A detailed flier and registration form are now available for 221Beach, the Sherlockian spring-break weekend on Apr. 17-19, 1998, in Spring Lake, N.J.; write to Dick Kitts, 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 (718-981-5097) <rkitts@aol.com>.

Plan ahead: the next Arthur Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 6-8, 1998. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, contact Mary Frost-Pierson, 101 Cemetery Street, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 <msteries@aol.com>.

Plan farther ahead: the Sherlock Holmes Festival at Crowborough will be on July 3-10, 1998. Additional information is available from The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment (Brian Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England).

DETECTIVE DUOS: THE BEST ADVENTURES OF TWENTY-FIVE CRIME-SOLVING TWOSOMES, edited by Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1997; 444 pp., \$30.00), ranges from Edgar Allan Poe (1844) to Julie Smith (1997), and includes "The Empty House" as well as an interesting introduction and an intriguing selection of authors and stories, old and new.

Dec 97 #6 "After the controversy surrounding the publication in 1907 of her famous fairy photograph in The Regular magazine, Angelica



Cottington retired into a life of seclusion. Never having married, she became Lady Cottington upon the death of her father and lived as a recluse on the family estate until her death in 1991. Her pressed fairy journal was brought to light when the estate was sold to developers and the house was scheduled to be demolished." LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY BOOK was published in 1994 (by Pavilion Books in Britain and by Andrews McMeel in the United States), and highly esteemed by those who enjoyed the inventive text by Terry Jones (of Monty Python's Flying Circus) and the splendid artwork by Brian Froud.

And Lady Cottington's pressed fairies definitely are not the fairies that were photographed at Cottingley in 1917, nor those seen in either of the films released this year. Nor are they in any way Doylean, let alone Sherlockian, but they're truly delightful. The book is out of print, but you can perhaps still find a 1998 LADY COTTINGTON PRESSED FAIRY CALENDAR (from Andrew McMeel, \$10.95); it has twelve of the illustrations from the book, and strange calendar annotations, and it's great fun.

Oh: how did Lady Cottington compile her pressed fairy book? She sat there with her journal open to a blank page, and waiting until one of the fairies landed on the page, and then . . .

Douglas Moreton's THE PAPERS IN THE CASE offers five pastiches (one of them a short puzzle in logic and geometry, and another a discussion of the Jack the Ripper mystery); 96 pp., paper covers, L9.50 postpaid from Cadds Printing Ltd. (59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England), or \$18.00 (dollar checks payable to Hugh Scullion, please). Cadds also offers a catalog of its other products, including a 1998 diary.

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates Sherlock Holmes' 144th birthday in the Feb. 1998 issue with Len Moffatt's amusing "The Raving: A Poe-etic Version of the Baskerville Legend" (and a nice Sherlockian cover by Richard Parisi).

The dates for the Bonds' summer tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" are July 13-23, 1998, and the itinerary includes Manchester, York, London, Stratford, Bath, Ashford, and Canterbury. Additional information is available from Sherry Rose-Bond, 519 East Allens Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19119 (215-247-2962) or Cathy Lalco, Universal Odyssey, 1500 Quail Street #550, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (714-263-5979).

Bert Coules reports that BBC Radio's "The Valley of Fear" (starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams) will be released on audiocassette in England in March, followed by "The Sign of Four" in June, and "A Study in Scarlet" in August. He hopes that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be recorded and broadcast some time next year. BDD Audio (the distributor of the cassette series in the United States) lags well behind BBC Audio, but of course the fanatic and the impatient can order from Britain.

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