

From: "Peter E. Blau" <pblau@dgs.dgsys.com>
To: "Willis G. Frick" <sherlock1@cox.net>
Subject: another updated file ...
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Jan 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

It was nice to get back to Washington after the "triple play" (three Sherlockian events in three countries in one week); the three events were the 50th-anniversary annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark on Jan. 7, the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London on Jan. 8, and the start of the birthday festivities in New York on Jan. 13). For readers who aren't familiar with American sporting traditions, the triple play is from baseball, and involves ending an inning by getting three men out on just one hit ball.

And I wasn't the only one participating in the historic Sherlockian triple play: the others were Mike Whelan and Mary Ann Bradley, Kate Karlson, Herb and Addie Tinning, and Susan Dahlinger (from the U.S.), and Anders Hammarqvist (from Sweden), and Bjarne Nielsen, Bjarne Rother Jensen, and Jan B. Steffensen (from Denmark).

Denmark was delightful, and those who were able to arrive early enjoyed a visit with Bjarne Nielsen at his Sherlock Holmes Museet in Nykobing and some sight-seeing in Copenhagen as well as the annual dinner at the Hotel Ascot, where about 40 Sherlockian from four countries celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark; Ted Bergman was on hand from Sweden, with a grand video tour of his miniature of the house at 221 Baker Street, and the toasts and reports were all delivered in English, in honor of the more far-flung guests.

London was just as much fun (and the weather just as pleasant); there were about 160 gathered in the Great Hall of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (it's one of the four Inns of Court and a spectacular place in which to dine), and somewhat fewer for the Morning-After Get-Together at the Royal Commonwealth Society the next day, just round the corner from The Sherlock Holmes (which still happily offers a warm welcome to visitors from near and far). And there was time to visit (or perhaps revisit) the statue of Sherlock Holmes, which presides over Marylebone Road outside the Baker Street tube station, undisturbed by local pigeons; sculptor John Doubleday now is working on his third statue of Sherlock Holmes, which will be installed in Switzerland (where the first one greets visitors to Meiringen).

I don't think that anyone has mentioned (in print or otherwise) an intriguing Sherlockian tourist site: the public convenience across Marylebone Road from the statue of Sherlock Holmes. There is a decorative mural over the urinals, and it shows a party of tourists heading happily for The Sherlock Holmes. We await word from the distaff side on whether there is a ladies' loo with equally appropriate decoration.

The birthday festivities in New York began on Wednesday this year, with an Ash Wednesday luncheon at O'Casey's attended by about 40 enthusiasts pursuing a truly long weekend, and continued on Thursday at the Williams Club, where Michael Dirda (senior editor of the Washington Post's Book World) was the BSI's Distinguished Speaker, he reminisced fondly about his childhood discovery of Sherlock Holmes, and noted the intriguing coincidence of three brothers named Moriarty and three more named Morley, and you'll be able to read the full text in an early issue of The Baker Street Journal.

Jan 00 #2 The Hotel Algonquin offered a fine venue for an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and about 160 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton (aka The Friends of Bogie's) provided entertainment: delightful impersonations of Chip Finney and Bob Spacey (neophyte Sherlockians on their first visit to the birthday festivi-

ties from Traverse City, Mich., Community College), and Richard and Cynthia Wein, David Stuart Davies, Susan Rice, Mickey Fromkin, and Peter Blau (all of whom also were in the audience and none of whom were aware they were to be impersonated). And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

There were about 190 at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where the pre-dinner cocktail party featured Steven Rothman's toast to *the* woman: Eleanor Baker O'Connor, who for many years has assisted Julian Wolff, Tom Stix, and now Mike Whelan with arrangements for the annual dinner. The dinner honored the BSI's "moment of creation" by copying the menu from January 1934 (oysters, pea soup, curried chicken, ice cream, petits fours, and cafe), and the entertainment offered the usual traditions, a discussions of Canon and Cult in three centuries, and of Canonical maladies, Bob Coghill's warm tribute to the late S. Tupper Bigelow, and (as always) much more.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") awarded this year's Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Michael Meer ("The Englischer Hof"), Fred Kittle ("Jack Stapleton"), Douglas Wilmer ("The Lyceum Theatre"), Ben Vizoskie ("Alexander Hamilton Garrideb"), Jean Upton ("Elsie Cubitt"), Doug Elliott ("Canadian Pacific Railway"), Karen Anderson ("Emilia Lucca"), Anders Hammarqvist ("Jacob Shafter"), and Don Curtis ("Jabez Wilson"); and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award ("for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Scott Bond.

The Baskerville Bash also took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Club and with about 100 people on hand, and with entertainment that included a pastiche/parody by Rosemary Michaud ("Jeeves and the Horrible Hound"), a performance by the irrepressible Sherlettes (as the Dartmoorsketeers), and a musical toast by Cynthia Wein ("There is Nothing Like a Hound").

On Saturday morning the dealers' room (at the Algonquin) was as always full of dealers and a wide variety of Sherlockiana to delight eager browsers and collectors. And the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted a capacity crowd to the National Arts Club, where a display of interesting items from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota honored John and Dorothy Shaw. Al Rosenblatt reported in verse on the previous evening and the previous year (and you will be able to read that in the BSJ, too), and events, and Susan Dahlinger was applauded as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to last year's Baker Street Journal (her fine article on William Gillette in the September issue). And The Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from June Kinnee's energetic marketing of raffle tickets for Jeff Decker's original artwork for his portrait of Julian Wolff (won by Bruce R. Parker, who will present it to Ted Schulz), as well as from the enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.

Jan 00 #3 On Saturday evening a capacity-house Sherlockian audience saw the American premiere of David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!" with Roger Llewellyn in a fine portrayal of Holmes. The script is nicely done as well, and available from the Calabash Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/calabash.html>; \$15.00 or CA\$20.00 or L9.50 (shipping extra), and credit-card orders are welcome.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than fit into print here, it is quite likely that there will be much longer reports in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$21.00 a year (\$23.50 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) can be sent to the BSJ at Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

The birthday festivities attracted some attention from the press: Michael Pollak's report that "They Came to Honor Mr. Holmes. Or So, at Least, They

Claimed." ran in the home edition of the N.Y. Times (Jan. 16), and Karl E. Meyer's story about "The Curious Incident of the Sleuth in the Meantime" in all editions (Jan. 19); the latter story also ran on the paper's wire, and was reprinted in the Sydney Morning Herald (and perhaps other papers less far-flung).

The Scotland Yarders will honor their tenth anniversary with T-shirts with their logo and "10th Anniversary" in silver on black over the left breast; sizes offered are small to extra-large, \$16.00 postpaid, and checks (payable to The Scotland Yarders) should be sent to Barbara Wells, 8894 Knight Avenue #413, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (the deadline for orders is Mar. 14).

John Archer died on Dec. 5. He began his acting career in radio in 1938, and was best known for his echo-chambered "who knows what evil lurks in the hearts of men?" introduction on "The Shadow" in 1944 and 1945. He appeared on stage and screen and television as well, starring in the science fiction film "Destination Moon" (1950), and he played Lt. Pete Merriam in "Sherlock Holmes in Washington" (1943).

The second volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY is THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 1999; 303 pp., \$26.95), and it's full of excellent scholarship, with a personal approach to the annotations (as was the case with Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES). \$29.70 postpaid from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).

Roger Rees, who played Sherlock Holmes in Bert Coules' BBC Radio 4 dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in 1988 (and more recently a "womanizing, slightly inebriated English lord who's actually quite brilliant" on the NBC-TV series "West Wing") also is a director: he will stage a revival of George Bernard Shaw's "Arms and the Man" for the Roundabout Theatre in New York (in previews for a Feb. 10 opening), and this spring will star in Roundabout's production of "Uncle Vanya". "Arms and the Man" is playing at the Gramercy Theatre at 127 East 23rd Street (212-777-4900).

Jan 00 #4 Laurie R. King will be on a book-signing tour in February promoting NIGHT WORK (not part of her Mary Russell series); here's the tentative schedule: Feb. 2 Capitola Book Cafe, 7:30 (Capitola, CA); 3 or 4 Orinda Books and Walnut Creek Barnes & Noble; 5 M Is for Mystery, 2:00 (San Mateo, CA); 6 Powell's, 7:30 (Portland, OR); 7 Seattle Mystery Books, 12:00, and Third Place Books, 7:30 (Seattle, WA); 8 Vroman's, 7:00 (Los Angeles, CA), 9 Coffee, Tea & Mystery, 12:00 (Los Angeles, CA) and Barnes & Noble, 7:00 (Huntington Beach, CA); 10 Bookseller, 6:00 (Grass Valley near Sacramento, CA), 11 Mysterious Galaxy, 7:00 (San Diego, CA); 12 Poisoned Pen, 11:00 (Scottsdale, AZ). And Apr. 29 or 30 she will be at the Los Angeles Festival of Books.

Geoff Jeffery notes that local Disney stores have a "Count-down to the Millennium" series of lapel pins (\$4.00 each); one of the (#27) is "The Great Mouse Detective".

TOURNAMENT OF SHADOWS: THE GREAT GAME AND THE RACE FOR EMPIRE IN CENTRAL ASIA, by Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac (Washington: Counterpoint, 1999; 646 pp., \$35.00), received a rave review in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 9); the Great Game was the long-standing competition between Britain and Russia, and the story of the Second Afghan War (and the fatal battle of Maiwand) will of course be of particular interest to Sherlockians. Nancy Beiman notes that Dr. John H. Watson is included in the index, no doubt thanks to Meyer (who is "Fritz von Waldbaum" in The Baker Street Irregulars).

Nathan Lane is reported ready to star in the Broadway revival (set to open on June 30) of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" (in which Monty Woolley starred

as Sheridan Whiteside on Broadway in 1939 and in the film in 1942). In the play and the film Whiteside says about Harriett Stanley, "Strange? She's right out of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'."

Peter Jeffrey died on Dec. 25. He was a veteran character actor in British film, television, and radio, and he played Mycroft Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (1990).

Caroline Bryan offers a new audiocassette with country and western versions of "I Wanna Be the Hound" (which debuted as the open-mike contest-winner at the Under the Arch conference in Saint Louis) and "The Ballad of Moriarty's Excuse"; the cassette costs \$5.00 postpaid from Wilson's Basement Dwellers, Box 57057, Albuquerque, NM 87187.

Planning continues for the Millennium Congress of Holmesian Societies that will be held in Meiringen on May 4-7; there will be guest speakers from at least four continents, and excursions, exhibitions, and wining and dining, and full details are available from Michael A. Meer (Morgenstrasse 70, CH-3018 Bern, Switzerland) <sherlock.holmes@gmx.net>.

Jerry Margolin notes that the second issue of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Missing Heiress" reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia; the publisher's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.

Jan 00 #5 "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" aired in Britain on BBC-2 in two one-hour episodes on Jan. 4 and 5, with Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell and Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle; it was interesting indeed to see Richardson, who has played Holmes, as the man who contributed so much to Conan Doyle's portrayal of Holmes, and David Pirie's script has some interesting twists, turns, and surprises. The mini-series will be broadcast on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25.

THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, by Ben Macintyre (Feb 98 #2) is now available in a paperback edition in Britain (Flamingo, L7.99); the book is a fine account of the man who was indeed called "the Napoleon of Crime" by some of his contemporaries. The connection between Worth and Moriarty appears first to have been reported by Vincent Starrett, in his THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES in 1933: "this was revealed by Sir Arthur in conversation with Dr. Gray Chandler Briggs, some years ago."

James Card died on Jan. 16. He was a devoted collector and admirer of silent films, and he was the founder and the first curator of the Department of Film at the George Eastman House in Rochester, where he arrived in 1948, bringing with him his personal collection of 800 films. He also was an energetic film preservationist, and one of the films he was able to save was John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922), which was restored and shown to a delighted audience of Sherlockians at George Eastman House in 1975.

Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1980s, and the new sheet includes a stamp honoring the musical "Cats", which opened on Broadway on Oct. 7, 1982, and is now the longest-running show in Broadway history; the Andrew Lloyd Webber hit, based on poems in T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats", brought "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" to the attention of millions.

The Silver Blaze, an Irregular event conceived by Thomas L. Stix, Sr., and run for the first time at Jamaica Race Course on Long Island in 1952, has been revived, and the next running will be held on Aug. 19, at a new venue for the historic event: Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York. Saratoga is a delightful place to go to the races, and a committee is energetically planning some other events that will be of interest to Sherlockians, and scouting hotels and restaurants. If you'd like to be on the mailing list,

please contact Lou Lewis (Box 2990, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <lewisgreer@aol.com>; you can expect to receive full details by mid-June.

Reported: Barbara Michaels' OTHER WORLDS (Sep 99 #1) in a paperback reprint from HarperCollins (\$6.99); Frank Podmore, Nandor Fodor, Harry Houdini, and Arthur Conan Doyle offer (and briefly debate) possible solutions to two unsolved ghostly mysteries from the 19th century.

Vinnie Brosnan reports that the late Alvin E. Rodin's collection (including originals, proofs, and drafts of his writings about Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes), is to be sold by Mary Frost-Pierson at Mysteries from the Yard beginning Feb. 14. The catalog will be available at Mary's web-site at <www.mysteriesfromtheyard.com> or via the mail (\$5.00 postpaid, and you can order now) from Jean C. Rodin (4440 Pavlov Avenue, San Diego, CA 92122).

Jan 00 #6 Brian Pugh reports that the Crowborough Town Council has agreed to fund the life-size statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle that the Crowborough Conan Doyle Trust and local enthusiasts have been campaigning for; sculptor David Cornell has started work on the L48,000 statue, and an unveiling is planned for late summer or early fall. This year's Sherlock Holmes Festival (which had been scheduled for July 7-9) will not be held, but the unveiling of the statue will be celebrated with due ceremony.

Bill Barnes still has copies of THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 4 available, (80 pages of pastiche, humor, and serious writing by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere). \$12.00 or CA\$17.00 of L7.50 postpaid by airmail, and payment by personal check or currency is welcome; his address is 19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia.

You can get 24 different Sesame Street mini beans in packages of Kellogg's cereals, and they include Sherlock Hemlock, who is one of four characters in packages of Apple Jacks and Honey Crunch Corn Flakes; there's no way of telling who's in any particular package, of course, but if you aren't lucky you can send in \$2.50 and three box tops to get the set of four.

Issue #34 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine (edited by David Stuart Davies) offers the usual wide variety of articles, essays, reviews, and other material about Holmes and other detectives, old and new. Davies' new series on "Sherlock Holmes: The Millennium Film Star Hero" starts in this issue, which also has the conclusion of Paul Chapman's two-part article on Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper. Annual subscriptions (six issues) are L20.00 (U.K.)/L22.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.), and the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>; their U.S. representative is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available, and credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.

Compliments of the season from Andrew G. Fusco, who kindly contributed the enclosed pocket calendar for 1876 (it works just fine for 2000, of course).

And a few commercials: the revised 15-page list of Investitured Irregulars, Two-Shilling Awards, The Women, and the Adventuresses costs \$1.20 postpaid. The 79-page list of 764 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 426 active societies, costs \$4.20 postpaid. A run of address labels for 359 individual contacts (recommended if you wish to avoid making duplicate mailings to people who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.40 postpaid. Checks payable to Peter E. Blau, please.

The list of irregulars and others also is available from me by e-mail (no charge), and both lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <http://members.home.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>. Also available free at Linda Anderson's home page are digital photographs of celebrants at the birthday festivities <http://www.fortunecity.com/victorian/canterbury/222/bsi2000.htm>.

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

Feb 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Burger Giant Chips Away at Holmes Truth" was the headline on a report in the Edinburgh Evening News (Jan. 8), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. Liberton Bank House, where Arthur Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old, and which McDonald's planned to demolish so that they could build a restaurant on the site, was granted a temporary reprieve last month by the Edinburgh City Council (Dec 99 #2), but McDonald's is bringing in its own experts to verify that Conan Doyle actually lived there. Conan Doyle biographer Owen Dudley Edwards said that "McDonald's is perfectly entitled to do its own historical research. I would be extremely glad to see what evidence it gets. I hope they develop a conscience at the same time."

Sorry about that: my list of the participants in the historic "triple play" (three Sherlockian events in three countries in one week) was not complete (Jan 00 #1). The full list: Mike Whelan and Mary Ann Bradley, Kate Karlson, Herb and Addie Tinning, Paul and Margaret Smedegaard, Susan Dahlinger, and Peter Blau (from the U.S.), Anders Hammarqvist (from Sweden), and Bjarne Nielsen, Bjarne Rother Jensen, and Jan B. Steffensen (from Denmark).

And another correction: the home page where you can see digital photographs taken at the birthday festivities in New York (Jan 00 #6) is located at the web-site of the San Francisco Bay Area Sherlockian Societies. The URL is <www.fortunecity.com/victorian/canterbury/222/bsi2000.htm>.

W. R. Michell ("The Rock of Gibraltar") died on Jan. 18. He was a Captain in the Royal Navy when he joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1958, and not long after his retirement happily enlisted as Honorary Secretary of the society, a post he held from 1973 to 1988. Bill's genial humor was a delight, and he will be missed by his many friends.

Paul Martin reports that Critics' Choice Video (Box 749, Itaska, IL 60143) (800-367-7765) <www.ccvideo.com> offers John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965) for \$19.95 (discounted from \$69.95), and the longer (98-minute) version of George C. Scott's "They Might Be Giants" (1971) for \$14.95. Richard Wein spotted Claude Rains' "The Lost World" (1960) in the same catalog discounted to \$10.77; shipping is free until Mar. 31.

Sonia Fetherston spotted some business news in the Portland Oregonian (Jan. 23): Pat Sherlock, owner of Sherlock Holmes Real Estate, has merged his 17-year-old company with the Equity Group.

Desmond Llewelyn died on Dec. 19. He studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in the 1930s and had a long career in films. Best known as "Q" in all but one of the James Bond films, he also performed in the Merrison/Williams BBC radio series, as Bannister in "The Three Students" (1993) and as Palfreyman in "Shoscombe Old Place" (1995).

News for the electronically-enabled: Chris Redmond's "Holmepage" was as far as I know the first one on the world wide web, and it's still an excellent entry-way into the strange Sherlockian world of bits and bytes. And it has name (Sherlockian.Net), a new format, new graphics, lots of revisions and additions, and a new URL: <www.sherlockian.net>.

Feb 00 #2 "Krushchev wary of Yeltsin's Successor" is the headline on a story in the Providence Journal (Jan. 6), at hand from Al and Julie Rosenblatt. The Krushchev is former Soviet leader Nikita Krushchev's son Sergei, who became an American citizen last summer and is a scholar at Brown University; Vladimir Putin, the new prime minister, was hand-picked by a group of "political oligarchs" aligned with Boris Berezovsky, according to Sergei Krushchev, who noted that Berezovsky is close to Yeltsin and

his family, and is "the Professor Moriarty of the 21st century."

SHERLOCKIANS ABROAD: THEIR ADVENTURES AT AND MEMOIRS OF THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES STATUE FESTIVAL, collected and edited by Susan E. B. Vizoskie, with photographs by Ben Vizoskie, offers 71 pages of reminiscences by 32 of the participants; \$3.50 postpaid (\$3.75 to Canada and \$4.00 elsewhere) in U.S. funds, please, with checks payable to The Three Garridebs, and sent to Sue (90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606).

Reported: Martin Booth's THE DOCTOR AND THE DETECTIVE: A BIOGRAPHY OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (published in Britain in 1997), in an American edition from St. Martin's Press in January (384 pp., \$27.95).

"Holmes!" is a work-in-progress musical with book and lyrics by Brett Nicholson and music by Hans Vollerath, first performed in concert at the Disney Institute in Orlando in Sept. 1997. A revised version of the musical will be presented in a workshop performance on May 4-5 at the Disney Institute Performance Center in Orlando, Fla.; additional details are available from Holmes! (Box 2242, Windermere, FL 34786) <www.holmesthemusical.com>.

"What is the name of that inn you spoke of?" "The Green Dragon" (as noted in "Shoscombe Old Place"). There are two other allusions to dragons in the Canon (in "Charles Augustus Milverton" and "The Sign of the Four"), and it is nice to have three appropriate references to help the postal service celebrate the Year of the Dragon.

The Village Players will produce William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" from Mar. 17 through Apr. 1; the box-office address is Box 712, Birmingham, MI 48012 (248-644-2075) <www.birmingham-mi.com/villageplayers>.

Art Hoppe died on Feb. 1. He joined the San Francisco Chronicle as a copy boy in 1949 and soon was promoted to reporter, and in 1960 began writing a column that eventually appeared five days a week and was syndicated in more than 100 newspapers. The targets for his political satire included Watergate, and in 1974 he created Sherlock Helms in a column titled "As American As Ample Spies" (voted "best pun of the year" by John Bennett Shaw).

Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson's A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE, published in 1983, was, as I reported at the time (Sep 83 #2), *the* bibliography of Conan Doyle, and it still is. Long out of print, and only rarely offered by used-book dealers, it will be available again on Mar. 4 in a revised edition (with corrections and additions) by Hudson House (Otto Penzler's new imprint), priced at \$100.00 retail. Otto will be glad to accept your orders (The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-352-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.

Feb 00 #3 wolf Ackva died on Jan. 16. He was an actor in Germany, and he provided German dubbing for famous actors such as Clark Gable, Vincent Price, William Holden, James Mason, and Sam (the eagle on "The Muppet Show"). He also played Sherlock Holmes in the first known television adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (broadcast in Germany by ARD on Aug 16, 1955). In 1997, Michael Ross notes, Ackva was made an honorary member of Von Herder Airguns, Ltd.

The film "The Ninth Gate" had its world premiere in Spain on Aug. 25, and is scheduled for release in the United States on Mar. 31; directed by Roman Polanski and starring Johnny Depp and Lena Olin, the film's based on Arturo Perez-Reverte's book THE CLUB DUMAS, which one reviewer has called "a cross between Umberto Eco and Anne Rice." But: Marco Zatterin reports from Italy that none of the Canonical echoes in the book, including a woman who calls herself Irene Adler (Sep 99 #5), are in the film.

Peter Calamai reports that the fourth (and final) season of "The Adventures of Shirley Holmes" (starring Meredith Henderson as the great-grandniece of

Sherlock Holmes) started on YTV in Canada on Feb. 13.

TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Daniel Stashower (Apr 99 #5), has been nominated for an Edgar (best critical/biographical work) from the Mystery Writers of America. The winners of the Edgars will be announced at the MWA annual dinner in New York on May 4.

Don Martin died on Jan. 7. He began drawing for Mad in 1956, and for more than thirty years he contributed "a gallery of harridans, freaks and imbeciles burdened with over-large feet and bulbous noses, all of whom came too frequently in contact with buzz-saws, steamrollers, and falling safes" (as noted in his obituary in the Independent). His caricature of Sherlock Holmes (as one of eight literary heroes) appeared in the Mad in the 1970s.

Reported: THE ILLUSTRIOUS CLIENTS SECOND CASE-NOTES, edited by Steven T. Doyle and Mark Gagen, with an introduction by Don Curtis and contributions by members of the society (96 pp., \$12.95); \$14.70 postpaid from Gasogene Books, Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers the second part of Barbara Rusch's report on interesting ephemera in the collection, and Victoria Gill's note on a manuscript letter from Conan Doyle in which he affirms the date of the end of the 19th century (Dec. 31, 1899), and much more; you can request a copy from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@netrover.com>. And (for the electronically enabled), the collection web-site is at <www.mtr1.toronto.on.ca/centres/spcoll/acd/home.htm>.

The second issue of Cliff Notes (published by Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers) offers 25 pp. of (viniferous, philatelic, and other) contributions from its members, and it costs \$3.00 postpaid (or \$5.00 a year for two issues) from Henry Boote, 184 Central Avenue, Old Tappan, NJ 07675.

Feb 00 #4 Don Hobbs has compiled a list of sources for translations of the Sherlock Holmes stories into Arabic (Almaktabah, P.O. Box 1998, Beirut 11, Lebanon) <www.almaktabah.com>; Croatian (Unival Company) <mmartic@unival.hr> <www.unival.hr>; Marathi (Rasik) <www.rasik.com/marathi/ph2marathi_static.html>; Farsi (Ferdosi, Box 45095, S-104 30 Stockholm, Sweden) <www.ferdosi.se>; Braille (I Can See Books) <www.island.net/~dfaris/i/>; Urdu (Sang-E-Meel Publications (25 Shahrāh-E-Pakistan Lower Mall, Lahore 54000, Pakistan <smp@sang-e-meel.com>; and Tamil (Don Hobbs, 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <djhobbs@airmail.net>.

Jane L. Jenkins died on Feb. 3. She was a delightful lady, and the widow of William D. Jenkins, and honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *the* women in 1985.

Reported: THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Paxton Franklin Watson (Chillicothe: Community Press, 2000; 330 pp., \$25.00); pastiches. \$30.00 postpaid from William C. Paxton (12907 East 36th Street Terrace, Independence, MO 64055).

The American Firm, a Sherlockian society whose "resident patient" project raises money to buy large-print editions of the Canon for adult homes and nursing homes, offers badges, bookmarks, tea towels, and other Sherlockian merchandise; an illustrated sales-list is available from Edward S. Smith, Jr. (Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596) <amerfirm@aol.com>.

Nancy Beiman reports that Bert Coules is now at work dramatizing five of the unrecorded cases (starting with "Colonel Warburton's Madness" and "The Disappearance of Mr. James Phillimore") for broadcast by the BBC (and Clive Merrison and Michael Williams have been approached to continue as Sherlock

Holmes and Dr. Watson).

Peter Jeffrey died on Dec. 25. One of the more memorable guest actors on "The Avengers", he also appeared in "Room Without a View", "The Joker", and "House of Cards", he played Mycroft Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (1990).

Al Gregory has noted that THE KEY TO THE NAME OF THE ROSE: INCLUDING TRANSLATIONS OF ALL NON-ENGLISH PASSAGES, by Adele J. Haft, Jane G. White, and Robert J. White (first published in 1987), has been published in paperback (Ann Arbor: Univ. of Michigan Press, 1999); 190 pp., \$14.95); fans of William of Baskerville and his assistant Adso will also welcome the glossary of unfamiliar names of people, places, and heresies.

Raymond Murray quotes from the Canon to highlight his article "Devil in the Details: The Science of Forensic Geology" in the February issue of Geotimes (published by the American Geological Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302; \$5.00).

Reported: Ron Frantz's FANDOM: CONFIDENTIAL, a 200-page history of two decades of organized fan activity, and comics and nostalgia collecting; there are occasional mentions of Sherlock Holmes, reflected in Pete Morisi's cover portrait of Frantz. \$17.95 postpaid from Midguard Publishing, Box 1711, Mena, AR 71953 <members.aol.com/midguard20/Midguardindex.html>.

Feb 00 #5 One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, Scott Monty notes, even on the syndicated radio "Howard Stern Show": on Feb. 10, Howard and his staff were running through true/false trivia questions, and one of them was, "Sherlock Holmes never said, 'Elementary, my dear Watson.'" Both Howard and Robin Quivers quickly said it was a true statement. Robin even went so far as to identify the Rathbone/Bruce films as the source, and Howard said, "Yeah, he said something else, like 'Hey, Watson,' or something."

The Blustering Gales of the South West will hold a conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the Future" on Mar. 25 at the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Clubhouse (11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood, Calif.); the speakers will include Poul and Karen Anderson and Len and June Moffatt. More information is available from Paula Salo (4421 Pacific Coast Highway #E-112, Torrance, CA 90505) (310-378-7947) and at the society's web-site <home.earthlink.net/~bgswnext.html>.

Jerry Margolin notes that the third issue of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Mystery of The Thames Afire" reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia; the publisher's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.

Antonio Iriarte reports that a newly-annotated nine-volume Spanish edition of the Canon is in the works; Juan Antonio Molina Foix, a well-known translator who specializes in fantastic literature (most recently a collection of Arthur Machen's short stories) will be the editor, and Editorial Valde-mar of Madrid will publish the set.

"The starting point in any attempt to rewrite the history of the Molly Maguires today, is to treat the surviving evidence with the skepticism it deserves," Kevin Kenny suggests, and he does just that in his MAKING SENSE OF THE MOLLY MAGUIRES (New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1998; 336 pp., \$19.95). It's an interesting book, and Kenny has done his best to avoid the biases that have colored previous histories of the Mollies. Arthur Conan Doyle is mentioned only in passing in a book that focuses on the facts of Irish history in the Pennsylvania coal fields.

A. E. Van Vogt died on Jan. 26. His first science-fiction story was "Black Destroyer" in Astounding Science Fiction (July 1939), and it is often cited as the inspiration for the film "Aliens" and its many sequels; he was one

of the great science-fiction writers, and a friend of Luther Norris and a member of the Praed Street Irregulars, and van Vogt's articles about Solar Pons were published in The Pontine Dossier from 1958 to 1977.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital (the site of the historic first meeting between Holmes and Watson) was reported to have been saved (Feb 98 #2), but there's still plenty of controversy: according to an article in The Times (Feb. 8), at hand from John Baesch, prime minister Tony Blair's decision to turn the hospital into a specialized cancer and heart unit, at a cost now estimated at £150 million, has been criticized in a report by cancer specialists who say that not enough back-up services are available at Barts. Critics also suggest that Blair's election promise to rescue the hospital was made because his children were born there.

Feb 00 #6 Many Sherlockians have wondered and speculated about how Sherlock Holmes got to where we find him in the Canon, just as many actors who have played him have felt a need to understand his motivations. THE CHILDHOOD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Mona Morstein (Lakeville: Galde Press, 2000; 340 pp., \$24.95), presents an imaginative and well-written history of the Holmes family, both parents and children, told by the butler who served them. Available for \$28.95 postpaid (shipping costs higher to Canada and overseas) from the publisher, Box 460, Lakesville, MN 55044 (800-777-3454) <www.galdepress.com>; credit-card orders welcome.

A colorful brochure for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Golden Jubilee Cruise, scheduled to the Baltic from Aug. 25 to Sept. 7, 2001 (departing from Harwich and with stops at Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Tallin, St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, and Kiel) is offered by Arena Travel Cruises (Hamilton House, Cambridge Road, Felixstowe, Suffolk, IP11 7SW, England) <holmes@arenatravel.com> <www.arenatravel.com>.

Bjarne Nielsen's February "Millennial Highlights" catalog from the Sherlock Holmes Museet Antikvariatet has a fine assortment of Sherlockian books and pamphlets, in Danish and in English, and Alex Secher's original artwork for a Danish translation of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1976). His address is Algade 3, DK-4500 Nykobing Sjælland, Denmark, and his material also can be seen on the world wide web at <www.sherlockiana.net>.

Hammer Films, like its long-running hero Dracula, has been revived, according to a story in the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 8), at hand from Nancy Beiman. The company that produced Peter Cushing's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959) has been purchased by a private investment consortium (for a little more than £1 million, according to industry sources); the new owners plan to take advantage of Hammer's library of more than 250 film and TV titles by relicensing remake rights, and will expand the Hammer brand into computer games, merchandising, animation, and the Internet.

Marina Stajic notes that you can see Sherlock Holmes and Hercule Poirot in the same play on Broadway, at the Music Box Theatre at 239 West 45th Street (212-239-6200). The play is Peter Shaffer's "Amadeus", with David Suchet as Salieri and J. P. Linton as Count Von Strack (Linton played Holmes in Tom McClary's "Flights of Devils" on Long Island in 1987).

Charles Schulz died on Feb. 12, the day before his last original "Peanuts" comic strip ran in papers around the world. He became a Sherlock Holmes fan in high school, he wrote in 1975, and it was in 1962 that readers saw Snoopy's first known Sherlockian appearance (Dec 99 #5). That was only the first of the strip's Canonical allusions; this one ran on Aug. 28, 1964:

Feb 00 #7 Amanda Foreman's GEORGIANA, DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE was published in 1998 in Britain to great acclaim, and there's now an American edition (New York: Random House, 2000; 454 pp., \$29.95) that is getting excellent reviews here. It was Gainsborough's portrait of Georgiana that was stolen by Adam Worth, and she's the duchess mentioned in the Canon (in "A Case of Identity"), where Miss Mary Sutherland's broad-brimmed hat was "tilted in a coquettish Duchess of Devonshire fashion over her ear."

"Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (the BBC-2 two-part mini-series starring Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle and Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell) will air on BBC America cable on Mar. 5 and 12, according to Anglofile, and then on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter that offers detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$15.00 a year).

The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#36) has David Stuart Davies' interesting article on how he wrote his play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!", and a review of the new laserdisc (from Image Entertainment, \$29.98) of "Photographing Fairies" (1997, with Edward Hardwick as Conan Doyle), and the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. The magazine costs \$35.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. And there's a web-site at <www.scarletstreet.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes & the Royal Regatta" is the mystery that Holmes and Watson and participants in the next "Victorian Holmes Weekend" will try to solve on Mar. 10-12 in Cape May. The weekend includes a tour of the town's Victorian homes, and additional information is available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5404) (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.

George C. Scott's "They Might Be Giants" (1971) has been released on DVD by Anchor Bay Entertainment (\$24.98); Jennie Paton reports that it's the longer television version with the supermarket food-fight, and additional material that includes commentary by director Anthony Harvey and film archivist Robert A. Harris, theatrical trailers, and a featurette.

The late John Ford is said to have had THE WHITE COMPANY in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind, George MacDonald Fraser notes in his perceptive and interesting introduction to a new edition of Arthur Conan Doyle's two great historical novels: THE WHITE COMPANY/SIR NIGEL (Pleasantville: Akadine Press, 1999; 618 pp., \$24.95). Akadine also has published a new edition of Conan Doyle's THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR (276 pp., \$16.95), in which he offers a delightful tour of the books in his own library, and the authors he admired. And you get a discount to \$37.70 if you order both books. Akadine Press editions are not available in bookstores, but rather from A Common Reader (141 Tompkins Avenue, Pleasantville, NY 10570) (800-832-7323) <www.commonreader.com>; I've recommended A Common Reader's catalogs in the past, and am glad to do so again: there's a wide variety of interesting reading, including Christopher Morley's THE HAUNTED BOOKSHOP and PARNASSUS ON WHEELS (\$15.95 each, or \$26.90 the pair).

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

Mar 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The musical "Cats" (based on poems in T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats") is the longest-running show in Broadway history, and was honored by the U.S. Postal Service in January (Jan 00 #5), but weekly receipts are dwindling, and Andrew Lloyd Webber announced on Feb. 19 that the show will close on June 25. Fans of "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" will still be able to see him, however: the London production, which opened on May 11,

1981 is still running.

More translations available: Atanas Topalov offers Bulgarian translations of the Canon (ABLEN, 2 Elena Snejina Street, Dragalevtzi, Sofia 1415, Bulgaria) <www.ablen.com/bookstore/authors>.

"Beautiful? It's elementary, my dear Watson" is the headline on Lee Karen Stow's two-page discussion of the southwest of England in a "Britain: Time to Travel" booklet published by the British Tourist Authority and spotted by Laura Kuhn. The BTA's address is 551 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10176 (888-364-6101).

Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Apr 99 #5) has a British edition (London: Allen Lane, 2000; 472 pp., £18.99), and good reviews in The Sunday Times, The Times, and the Daily Telegraph.

The eighth annual Mid-Atlantic Mystery Book Fair & Convention will be held on Oct. 13-15 at the Wyndham Franklin Plaza in Philadelphia, with more than 500 people expected to attend; additional information is available from the Society Hill Playhouse (507 South 8th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147) <www.erols.com/shp>.

Sean Connery, recipient of a Kennedy Center Honor in December (Oct 99 #1), was knighted by the Queen in her New Year's Honours List; he played Jack Kehoe in "The Molly Maguires" (1970), and William of Baskerville in "The Name of the Rose" (1986).

Sherlock Holmes (impersonated by John Sherwood) will return to Union City, Mich., on July 8 for an English-style banquet and conversation with guests at the Victorian Villa Inn. Additional details are available from the inn (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <members.kennet.net/brownsherwood/bakerstreet25.htm>.

Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1983), released on digital video disk (DVD) by Image Entertainment last year (Aug 99 #6), will be joined by Richardson's "The Sign of Four" (1983) this year, according to Richard Valley.

Albert Whitlock died on Oct. 26, 1999. He was an expert visual-effects artist who began his film career in London as a teenager and came to the U.S. in the 1950s to work for Walt Disney. He moved to Universal Studios in the 1960s, and was described by Alfred Hitchcock as the finest artist working in films. Whitlock won back-to-back Oscars (for "Earthquake" and "The Hindenburg"), and his credits include the special photographic effects for the Stewart Granger television film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1972).

Mar 00 #2 LANGUAGE OF THE LAND: THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BOOK OF LITERARY MAPS, by Martha Hopkins and Michael Buscher (Washington: Library of Congress, 1999; 287 pp., \$50.00), does not neglect Sherlock Holmes: the book includes six of Julian Wolff's Sherlockian maps, and "The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Map" published by Aaron Blake in 1987.

Robert McG. Thomas died on Jan. 6. He was a splendid journalist: a police reporter, a rewrite man, a society news reporter, and a sports reporter at the N.Y. Times until he began writing obituaries full-time in 1995, "shaking the dust from one of the most neglected areas of daily journalism" (as Michael T. Kaufman noted in his tribute to Thomas). He was at his best in writing about people who were out of the ordinary, including Samuel Rosenberg (Jan. 12, 1996), and Herman Herst (Feb. 7, 1999).

The 1999 issue of Beeman's Christmas Annual, published by The Occupants of the Empty House and edited by Janet Bensley and Jack Crelling, is devoted to "Geology in the Canon", with an article by Raymond C. Murray on forensic geology and contributions from society members on other geological aspects of the stories. The 32-page booklet costs \$10.00 postpaid; checks (payable

able to O.E.H.) can be sent to Stan Tinsley, 105 Wilcox Street, Ziegler, IL 62999.

Forecast: THE HAUNTING OF TORRE ABBEY, by Carole Bugge (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2000; 272 pp. \$22.95); a new pastiche from the author of THE STAR OF INDIA (Jan 98 #7).

THE CASE OF THE SCARLET WOMAN, by Watkin Jones (London: Greenwich Exchange, 1999; 124 pp.), involves Holmes and Watson with members of Aleister Crowley's Order of the Golden Dawn, and in an investigation of the occult and of a murder mystery; the cost is £9.95 postpaid (sterling or dollar checks, please) from the Greenwich Exchange (50 Langton Way, Blackheath, London SE3 7TJ, England) or \$17.35 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome) from A+ Educational Resource (Box 23781, Phoenix, AZ 85063) (toll-free 877-845-6472) <katbeth@prodigy.net>.

Joe Coppola reports a Carol Ann Miniatures "Sherlock Holmes with his Magnifying Glass" flip-top hand-painted pewter thimble (item 4137; \$19.95) in a mail-order catalog from Gimbel & Sons Country Store (Box 57, Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538) (888-633-1463) <www.gimbelsdepartmentstore.com>.

John Colicos died on Mar. 6. Best known as the villainous Count Baltar in the television series "Battlestar Galactica", he was the youngest actor, at the age of 22, to play King Lear at the Old Vic in London, and went on to a long acting career that included appearances as Sherlock Holmes in William Gillette's play in Florida in 1975, and as Inspector Lestrade on television in "Alfred Hitchcock Presents: My Dear Watson" in 1989.

The caricature of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes drawn by Leslie Ward ("Spy") for Vanity Fair in 1907 has been reprinted as the four of diamonds in one of a double deck of Vanity Fair playing cards available from Wilfrid M. de Freitas (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>; US\$26.00 postpaid for both decks, or US\$13.50 postpaid for the deck with the Gillette caricature.

Mar 00 #3 Mary Bodne died on Feb. 28. She and her husband Ben discovered the Algonquin Hotel on their honeymoon, purchased it from Frank Case in 1946, and lived there for 41 years, happily maintaining its literary and theatrical connections. They sold the Algonquin, still the informal headquarters for the January birthday weekend in 1987, and the current owners, the Camberley Hotel Co., continue many of the decades-old traditions, including the lobby cat.

Laurie R. King's O JERUSALEM (her fifth novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes) is available from Recorded Books, read unabridged by Jenny Sterlin and with a 56-minute interview with Laurie, on ten audiocassettes; it's an excellent reading, and an interesting interview that includes discussion of Russell and Laurie's other protagonists, and of how she writes and why. \$80.00 (purchase) or \$17.50 (rental); Recorded Books, 270 Skipjack Road, Prince Frederick, MD 20678 (800-638-1304) <www.recordedbooks.com>; credit-card orders welcome.

If one believes the pundits, the primary campaigns are pretty much wrapped up, which means it's time to focus on the political aspects of the Canon, where one finds a forecast of what will happen when Al Gore faces a family of Republicans: George W. supported by his father and his brother.

The ninth annual Watsonian weekend on July 21-23 will feature Daniel Stashower as guest speaker at the Regimental Dinner in Schiller Park, the 41st annual running of The Silver Blaze at Arlington Race Track, and the Fortescue Honours Brunch in Des Plaines; more information is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szd@mediaone.net>.

Britain has opened its first diplomatic mission in Mecca, according to a report in The Times (Feb. 23), at hand from John Baesch. The mission will

be led by Labour peer Lord Ahmed and will consist of Muslim diplomats from the foreign Office and Muslim volunteer staff, and will provide assistance to British pilgrims. The article notes that Sir Richard Burton, who visited Mecca in 1883 after staining his skin with walnut juice and undergoing a circumcision, is the only British Christian known to have visited Mecca. Sherlockians, of course, know that Holmes looked in at Mecca.

John also has forwarded a story from The Independent on Sunday (Mar. 5) an exhibition "Chapter & Verse: 1,000 Years of English Literature" on display at the British Library through Oct. 15; one of the items is the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter" (the first page is shown in the article).

Issue #35 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offers discussion of the television mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes", Bert Coules' interview with Michael Valle (scriptwriter for the new film "Sherlock Holmes and the Vengeance of Dracula"), the first part of David Stuart Davies' report on Granada's "The Last Vampyre", and much more (S'ian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) are L18.00 (U.K.) /L20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.); the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.

Mar 00 #4 Diane Nolan writes that she is offering some of the Sherlockian ephemera from Norm's collection in auctions on eBay <www.ebay.com>; "nothing rare or scarce," she notes, "but mainly the toys, T-shirts, games, etc." (search at eBay for items offered by seller <n2913@aol.com>. Diane expects to sell the books eventually, but as a collection.

Robert E. Brolli died on Jan. 31. He was an actor and director in local and regional theater in western New England, and appeared on Broadway with Mary Martin in "Skin of Our Teeth". In 1977 he played John Forman in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" at the Williamstown Theatre Festival (with Frank Langella in the title role), and again in the 1981 broadcast of the play on HBO cable.

What will happen when Al Gore faces George W. supported by his father and his brother? The quote's in "Black Peter": Al Gore will be "surrounded on three sides by Bushes."

For completists: Andy Peck reports that the Mystery Guild its own edition of the 1999 revised and expanded edition of THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (item #051359, \$11.98); their address is Box 6325, Indianapolis, IN 46206 <www.mysteryguild.com>. MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS also is available in a Mystery Guild edition (item #054775, \$10.98).

The February issue of Baker Street West 1 has 52 pages of Sherlockiana from the western states, including Chuck Kovacic's article on dark lanterns and Stu Shiffman's report on Sherlockian toys and dolls; \$6.00 (or \$11.00 for a one-year two-issue subscription) (checks made payable to the magazine) from Jerry Kegley, 110 South El Nido Avenue, #41, Pasadena, CA 91107.

GOOSE'S CHOICE is described by its editors (John Farrell and John P. Sohl) as a collection of Sherlock Holmes stories chosen by The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn, and original research papers and a Cockroach Bones pastiche; the 88-page book has been published on (and only on) the Internet, as with the latest best-seller by Stephen King, at it costs \$6.00 to download the book at <www.mightywords.com>.

Frank Pape died on Mar. 5. He was regarded as Chicago's toughest cop, and his character and cases were used as a basis for the "M Squad" television series; he joined the force in 1933 and by the time he retired in 1972 he was credited with sending 300 men to prison, including five to the electric chair, and in 16 gun battles he shot and killed nine suspects. He took a

leave of absence from 1961 to 1965 to head the security detail at Chicago's racetracks, where owners were concerned about syndicate bookmakers, many of whom Pape and his men knew by sight. He also was a good friend of Chicago Sherlockian Eugene Carey, Bob Mangler reports, and made sure the locals who attended runnings of the Silver Blaze in Chicago "got the royal treatment."

Jon Lellenberg notes that the authors at a "N.Y. Times Literary Lunch" at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston on Apr. 9 will include Karl E. Meyer and Shareen Blair Brysac, authors of *TOURNAMENT OF SHADOWS: THE GREAT GAME AND THE RACE FOR EMPIRE IN CENTRAL ASIA* (Jan 00 #4); Meyer is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the book has many allusions to the Canon. The cost of the lunch is \$65.00 (212-556-1905).

Mar 00 #5 Dayna McCausland, as this year's "Meyers" of The Bootmakers of Toronto, has decided to set the Sherlockian apocrypha for discussion by the society, and George Vanderburgh has published a helpful 66-page pamphlet: *BEYOND THE CANON* contains "The Field Bazaar", "How Watson Learned the Trick", "The Story of the Man with the watches", and "The Story of the Lost Special", with an introduction and notes by Cameron Hollyer and an afterword and illustrations by Dayna. It's available for US \$7.00 post-paid from Dayna McCausland (Box 321, Erin, ON N0B 1T0, Canada).

Charles Gray died on Mar. 7. His wide-ranging career as a character actor included stage, screen, and television, and his best-known roles were Ernst Blofeld in the James Bond film "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971) and the narrator in "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (1975). He also played a splendid Mycroft in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) and in Granada's "The Greek Interpreter" (1985), "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1988), and "The Creeping Man" (1991).

"Sherlock Holmes for President" proclaims the cover of the March issue of The Holmes & Watson report, and the contents offer a look at the possibilities, plus a new Sherlockian word-puzzle from Dana Richards, and much more. \$16.00 a year for six issues (\$22.00 outside North America), from Brad Kee-fauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.

Spotted recently on a bargain table: *THE CRIME AND MYSTERY BOOK: A READER'S COMPANION*, by Ian Ousby (London: Thames & Hudson, 1997; 224 pp., £12.95 but discounted to \$7.00); it's an interesting and nicely-illustrated review of the genre, with due attention to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Janus Books has an excellent new Sherlockian catalog available at its website: go to <janusbooks.com> and click on "Sherlockiana" and you can view or download the catalog. And if you're not electronically-enabled, Mike Greenbaum will be glad to mail the catalog to you (Janus Books, Box 40787, Tucson, AZ 85717 (800-986-1165)).

Michael Lawrence is selling full-size reproductions of 20th-century London street signs, and is happy to include one for Baker Street N.W.1 (\$185.00 postpaid). His company is Signpost International (19 Bramall Court, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire PE3 9RD, England) <www.signpost-international.com>; details available on request.

Hayward Cirker died on Mar. 8. He founded Dover Books in 1941 and specialized in publishing inexpensive paperback reprints of interesting books that brought good literature to millions of readers; the current series of Dover Thrift Editions (\$1.00 to \$2.00 each) offers *THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES* and *SIX GREAT SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES*, as well as Douglas G. Greene's 1998 anthology *DETECTION BY GASLIGHT: 14 VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES*.

David Morrill reports news from Hollywood: Don Knotts, five-time Emmy winner for his portrayal of bumbling Deputy Barney Fife on "The Andy Griffith Show", was honored Jan. 19 with a star on the Hollywood walk of Fame. "I can't believe I have my own star," Knotts said. "I'm gonna come down here every morning and shine that sucker up." Knotts wore Sherlockian costume

as Inspector Winship in the film "The Private Eyes" (1980).

Mar 00 #6 Alexander Orlov reports a review in The Economist (Mar. 18) of Jonathan Schneer's LONDON 1900: THE IMPERIAL METROPOLIS (Yale University Press, 1999; 416 pp., \$29.95); according to the review, "in half a dozen entertaining pages, Mr. Schneer combs the Sherlock Holmes stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for a rich store of imperial themes." The same issue has a review of WAINEWRIGHT THE POISONER, by Andrew Motion (New York: Knopf, 2000; 306 pp., \$26.00) (and Faber & Faber £20.00); the biography's subject is Thomas Griffiths Wainwright (1794-1847), who was (according to Sherlock Holmes, in "The Illustrious Client") both a great criminal and no mean artist.

Sergio Martinez's attractive Sherlockian artwork has been published in the Portland House "Illustrated Classics" edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1988) and the Reader's Digest "World's Best Reading" edition of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1988), and on the boxes for the audiocassettes of the BBC radio broadcasts starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (1991-1999); an illustrated brochure for the original artwork for 27 of his illustrations (priced from \$350 to \$2,400) is available from Illustration House (96 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012 <www.illustration-house.com>.

The Bimetallic Question's flier for their Second Bimetallic Colloquium (at McGill University in Montreal on June 2-4) is now available from the society (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.

Stephen Farrell died on Mar. 6. He was a banker and financial advisor, and an authority on small arms; he joined The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 1977, served as a Member of Council 1984 to 1987, and contributed often to The Sherlock Holmes Journal in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club has awarded its annual grand prize (for contributions to the Sherlockian world in Japan) to the publisher Hara Shobo, honoring the company for its publication of Japanese translations of HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS and MORE HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS, the anthologies of new pastiches edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Carol-Lynn Waugh and first published in English in 1996 and 1999.

Tom Simmons died on Mar. 17. His long career in journalism led to the post of news editor of the Dallas Morning News, and he was a long-time member of The Diogenes Club of Dallas. His article on "Dartmoor: Tracking the Baskerville Hound" was published in the Dallas Morning News on Mar. 13, 1994.

The new issue of Scarlet Street (#37) has the second part of David Stuart Davies' article about his play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!" (with an interesting account of the tribulations encountered in getting it produced and the pleasures encountered when it eventually was), and the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre (including excellent tributes to Thorne Smith's "Topper" books, and the films based on the books. Subscriptions to the magazine cost \$35.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452. And there's a web-site at <www.scarletstreet.com>.

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

Apr 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Further to the item (Aug 98 #2) about a Daily Telegraph report that Brian Blessed was in Venezuela, filming "The Lost World" for BBC television, it would appear that he was exploring rather than acting. Blessed has written a fine account of his expedition in QUEST FOR THE LOST WORLD (London: Box-tree, 1999; 164 pp., £16.99), and notes that he first fell in love with the romance of the Lost World as a schoolboy, when he had a chance to listen to the BBC radio dramatization of the book.

John Baesch has forwarded a story from the Evening Standard (Mar. 20) about plans to sell a Stradivarius at Christie's in New York on May 5. It's the Taft Stradivarius, described as the most desirable Strad at auction since the Kreutzer Strad sold for \$1.58 million in 1998. Sherlock Holmes did get a bargain when he paid 55 shillings for his Strad.

Abbey National is considering selling off and then leasing back its freehold buildings, including the head office at 221B Baker Street, according to a report from Reuters (Apr. 7) at hand from Ray Betzner. Abbey has 800 branches and a total of about three million square feet of office space; the sale and lease-back would free up capital to develop the core banking business (the freehold portfolio could be worth as much as L460 million).

Sorry about that: Charles Gray, who died last month (Mar 00 #5), played a fine Mycroft in Granada's "The Greek Interpreter" (1985), "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1988), "The Golden Pince-Nez" (1994), and "The Mazarin Stone" (1994) -- and he didn't appear in their "The Creeping Man" (1991).

The opening of the University of Minnesota's new Elmer L. Andersen Library was celebrated on Apr. 8 with a gala ceremony. There are two caverns in the new underground library, with storage space totaling 2.5 million cubic feet; university librarian Tom Shaughnessy told the Minneapolis Star-Tribune that the \$46.5 million library contains some of the most important research materials in the world, including the world's largest collection of Sherlock Holmes books and memorabilia.

Sy Weintraub died on Apr. 4. In 1958, against the advice of his friends, he acquired the rights to "Tarzan" and produced a new series of films that starred Gordon Scott, Jock Mahoney, and Mike Henry as Tarzan and featured supporting actors such as Sean Connery, Anthony Quayle, Helen Hayes, Diana Ross and the Supremes, John Carradine, Peter Cook, and Woody Strode; Weintraub retained the television rights, and went to become a highly successful television producer. Sherlockians are indebted to him for two television films that starred Ian Richardson as Holmes: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (broadcast by HBO cable in 1983).

Nancy Beiman has reported a reissue of the recording of the splendid music composed and conducted by Patrick Gowers for the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" television series, originally published by That's Entertainment Records in Britain (Dec 87 #6) and by Varese Sarabande Records in the United States (Feb 88 #2). The new CD is "Sherlock Holmes" (with the same 19 tracks and a revised booklet), issued by Jay Records in Britain, and it's available here at \$17.97, discounted to \$13.99 at <www.amazon.com>.

Apr 00 #2 The Strand Magazine (published from 1891 to 1950) brought Sherlock Holmes (and much more) to a wide readership, and the name of the magazine has been resurrected for a new periodical launched in the fall of 1998 and edited by Andrew F. Gulli. The magazine's focus is on the mystery genre, and it has had fine stories by authors such as Henry Slesar, Michael Gilbert, and H. R. F. Keating; and articles by Matthew Prichard on his grandmother Agatha Christie, and Barbara and Christopher Roden on Conan Doyle and other mystery writers. The fourth issue has just been published, and subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$29.95 (to other countries); Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <www.magamall.com/magazine/96117/Strand.htm>.

The Speckled Band of Boston are celebrating their 60th anniversary with a poster (\$15.00); also available are their 50th anniversary poster, wrist-watches, neckties (four-in-hand and bow), and lapel pins, and you can request their sales-list from Richard Olken, 200 Hyslop Road, Brookline, MA 02445 <rick@bikesbelong.org>.

Spotted by Doug Wigglesworth: the Apr. issue of Firsts: The Book Collector's Magazine, with an article by Gary Lovisi's on "Not Conan Doyle: Sher-

lock Holmes: The Pastiches" and a checklist with current prices (and there also is an interesting article by William F. Nolan on "Collecting: Raymond Chandler"). \$4.95; 4493 North Camino Gacela, Tucson, AZ 85718.

Noted by Caroline Bryan: Glow Dog (131-A Great Road, Bedford, MA 01730) (888-456-9364) <www.glowdog.com> offers a "Sherlock Bones" plush doll (20" high) for \$350.00 (credit-card orders welcome).

Peter Calamai's career as a journalist was of great help in his research for a discussion of rare Victorian newspaper accounts of Sherlock Holmes at the 25th-anniversary festivities of The Bootmakers of Toronto in 1997, and you can see his discoveries for yourself in the spring 2000 issue of Canadian Holmes. \$20.00 a year (four issues); checks payable to the society can be sent to Derek Thorpe (5 Brownlea Avenue, Toronto, ON M9P 2R5, Canada).

E. W. McDiarmid ("The Bruce-Partington Plans") died on Apr. 27. He served a director of the University of Minnesota library from 1943 to 1952, and then was Dean of the university's College of Liberal Arts. In 1948, Mac was one of the founders of The Norwegian Explorers, and helped the society celebrate its 50th anniversary (there are few Sherlockian societies indeed that have celebrated 50th anniversaries with a founder present). He helped edit two excellent Sherlockian anthologies, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1957, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1985.

Jerry Margolin notes that the fourth issue of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Mystery of Pendennick Castle" (reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia); the magazine's address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.

Apr 00 #3 Julie McKuras reports that the Hallmark Collectors Club has announced that one of this year's Hallmark ornaments will be "The Detective" (Snoopy, dressed in standard Sherlockian costume, accompanied by Woodstock in Watsonian costume); the ornament will be in Hallmark stores on July 15, priced at \$9.95.

Another translation noted by Fred Levin: a two-volume Thai translation of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES; \$9.38 plus shipping (\$18.80 by air or \$9.00 by sea to the U.S., but possibly different to other countries), available from the Chulalongkorn University Book Center, P.O. Box 2011, Chulalongkorn Post Office, Phayathai Road, Bangkok 10330, Thailand <info@cubook.chula.ac.th> <www.cubook.com> (credit-card orders welcome).

John Sladek died on Mar. 10. Best known as a science-fiction author who specialized in satire and parody, he also wrote fine mysteries, including BLACK AURA (1979), in which his detective Thackeray Phin investigates (with due deference to Sherlock Holmes) a spiritualist mystery.

Steve Tolins has served as official quizmaster (described by Joe Fink as a "fearsome inquisitor") for The Three Garridebs for 15 years, and a baker's dozen of his quizzes, together with a fine assortment of his Sherlockian essays, have been collected in SHERLOCKIAN TWADDLE, with illustrations by Paul Churchill. 156 pp., \$25.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.

John Sherwood will appear as Sherlock Holmes (discussing one or more unpublished cases involving Freemasons) at the anniversary meeting (and ladies night) of the Patmos Masonic Lodge of Ellicott City at 7:00 pm on May 22nd (at the Candle Light Inn in Catonsville, Md.). The cost of the dinner is \$29.00 (including tax and tip), and additional details are available from S. Brent Morris (7780 Blueberry Hill Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043) (410-

796-7984) <sbrentm@home.com>.

It is interesting to see how the world wide web is beginning to have an impact on publishing. At least one Sherlockian book has been published on (and only on) the Internet: GOOSE'S CHOICE, edited by John Farrell and John P. Sohl and available at <www.mightywords.com> [Mar 00 #4]. And a company called xlibris has gone a step farther, offering to publish books as trade paperbacks or in electronic form at no cost to the author, distributing via bookselling channels such as Amazon, Borders, and Barnes & Noble, as well as at the company's web-site at <www.xlibris.com>. Xlibris also offers information at a toll-free telephone number (888-795-4274). Machines such as Ingram's Lightning Print and a new on-site press called BookBuilder are examples of the new technology available, and are described in an interesting article by Linton Weeks in the Washington Post (Apr. 24), which can be read on-line at <www.washingtonpost.com>.

The Practical, But Limited Geologists met for dinner at Ralph and Kacoo's in New Orleans on Apr. 19, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, to honor the world's first forensic geologist, and we were welcomed to the Big Easy by Robin Leckbee of The Mystik Krewe of Sherlock Holmes. Our next dinners will be in Reno in November, and in Denver in June and in Boston in November 2001.

Apr 00 #4 And here's a reminder that "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (the BBC-2 two-part mini-series starring Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle and Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell) will be broadcast on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV on May 18 and 25. It is interesting to see Richardson, who has played Holmes, portray the man who contributed so much to Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes, and David Pirie's script has some fine twists, turns, and surprises.

About 75 people are expected at the Pleasant Places of Florida's Sunshine State Sherlockian Scion Symposium II at the Dolphin Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach, Fla., on June 9-11, 2000; there's a full agenda scheduled and, additional details are available from Carl Heifetz (3693 Siena Lane, Palm Harbor, FL 34685) <microdoc@gte.net>.

Edward Gorey died on Apr. 15. He was a genius of the macabre as an artist and author, from his first book, THE UNSTRUNG HARP (1953), to his animated artwork for the opening and closing credits for the PBS-TV series "Mystery!". He first drew Holmes and Watson for THE CASE OF THE HEAVY READER: A PASTICHE FOR MADISON AVENUE, a brochure published by Esquire in 1967 to persuade companies to advertise in the magazine. He also provided Canonical artwork for Kingsley Amis' "The Darkwater Hall Mystery" in Playboy (May 1978), D. R. Benson's IRENE, GOOD-NIGHT (1982), and the jacket of the American edition of THE D. CASE: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD (1992), and a portrait of Macavity: The Mystery Cat for a new edition of T. S. Eliot's OLD POSSUM'S BOOK OF PRACTICAL CATS (1982).

News for members of The Baker Street Irregulars, and ladies who have been honored as The Woman: the BSI's Shameless Commerce Division (aka George McCormack & Wayne and Francine Swift) has received a new shipment of rosettes (\$10.00 postpaid/\$11.00 outside the United States), bow ties, four-in-hand ties, scarves (48 x 6 in.), and cummerbunds (each \$29.95/\$32.95); all in the BSI's official colors (purple, blue, and mouse), and (sorry about that) available only to members of the BSI and (the scarves) to The Women. Your orders can be sent to George J. McCormack (615 Third Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215 (checks payable to George); those wishing to pay in sterling can send checks payable to Francine Swift.

Sorry about that: correcting the report on Britain's first diplomatic miss-

ion to Mecca (Mar 00 #3), Mona Morstein has noted that it was in 1853 (not 1883) that Sir Richard Burton visited Mecca.

"Try one of these cigars" (as Sherlock Holmes proposed, in "The Sign of the Four"), and you may even wish to keep them in your coal-scuttle. Sherlockian cigar-smokers (as well as S'ian collectors who don't smoke cigars) are invited to acquire the new "221b Baker Street Collection" of six cigars (in Churchill, Torpedo, Pyramid, Lonsdale, Corona, and Grand Corona sizes) with Sherlockian labels and in an attractive display case, available for \$30.00 (plus shipping) from GSI (485 South Illinois Route 59, PMB 175, Aurora, IL 60504) (877-430-7476) <www.CUs4Cigars.com>.

Apr 00 #5 Andre Deutsch died on Apr. 11. Born in Hungary, he emigrated to Britain in 1939 and soon became a publisher; his first major success was the British edition of Norman Mailer's THE NAKED AND THE DEAD (condemned by The Sunday Times in 1949 as something that should not be left around lest women might read it), and his company's Sherlockian titles include Richard Hughes' FOREIGN DEVIL: THIRTY YEARS OF REPORTING FROM THE FAR EAST (1972) and Julian Symons' PORTRAIT OF AN ARTIST: CONAN DOYLE (1979).

There's more news about this year's running of The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Track on Saturday, Aug. 19 (Jan 00 #5): "Sherlock at Saratoga" will be a weekend event, with lunch "At the Rail" (a lovely tented pavilion offering a buffet and a nice view of the races); post time is 12:30 pm. And on Sunday morning, Aug. 20, there will be a Sherlockian brunch in the elegant Whitney Room of the Saratogan Sheraton, with distinguished speakers and an excellent meal. The cost of the event (admission to the track, lunch, and brunch) is \$95.00, and checks (payable to the Baker Street Irregulars) can be sent to Lou Lewis (11 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603).

Participants are invited to make their own hotel reservations, and sooner rather than later, since lots of people go to the races in Saratoga. The Hilton Garden Inn in Saratoga costs \$228.00 a night (and a two-night stay is required); the telephone number for reservations is 800-445-8667 (Wayne Swift notes that AARP members qualify for a \$225.00 rate). And a block of rooms has been reserved at the Holiday Inn in Albany (about a half hour's drive from the track) with a discount rate of \$128.00 a night (reservations for one night only are welcome); the phone number is 800-465-4329.

And there's plenty to do in Saratoga before and after the races and such: antiquing and shopping, the National Museum of Racing, the National Museum of Dance, the Saratoga Spa State Park, the Historical Society of Saratoga Springs, and (for Revolutionary War buffs) the Saratoga National Historical Park. Lou will be happy to answer questions by mail (see above) or e-mail <lewisgreer@aol.com>, and to supply a detailed schedule to those who register for the festivities.

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 4, read by Edward Hardwicke, is the latest audiocassette set available from CSA Telltapes (101 Chamberlayne Road, London NW10 3ND, England) <www.csatelltapes.demon.co.uk>. As always, Hardwicke is an excellent Watson reading three stories (Croo/Gree/Nava) on two cassettes. L8.99 postpaid in Britain; L9.99 elsewhere. Note: earlier available from Tangled Web Audio as SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF INTRIGUE (Nov 95 #2). CSA also has CLASSIC DETECTIVE STORIES read by Hardwicke on four cassettes (one of the stories is "The Dying Detective"); the story also was earlier available from Tangled Web (Sep 93 #3).

Dave Galerstein and Caroline Bryan, hoping to provide a wider audience for some of the better papers delivered at meetings of Sherlockian societies, are planning to edit an anthology, and invite authors or archivists to submit suitable material ("we are interested in quality," Dave notes, "especially Sherlockian humor") (and, Caroline adds, toasts, lyrics, cartoons, and graphics). The new collection will be similar to A SINGULAR SET OF PEOPLE (edited by Dave and Marlene Aig in 1990), and Dave's address is: 49 Stonewyck Place, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 <davebsi@erols.com>.

Apr 00 #6 The weekly syndicated radio series "Imagination Theater" continues to broadcast 22-minute Sherlock Holmes programs written by Jim French (Apr 99 #3). Sixteen Sherlockian shows will have aired by the end of May, and they all are available (along with many other shows) on cassette or CD (\$7.99 each postpaid) from TransMedia, 719 Battery Street, San Francisco, CA 94111 (800-229-7234) <www.transmediasf.com> (credit-card orders welcome).

Hugh Scullion (Cadds Printing, 59 Lancaster Avenue, West Norwood, London SE27 9EL, England) <hometown.aol.com/beetons> offers an illustrated sales-list of Sherlockian books, postcards, posters, calendars, keyfobs, etc.

Bud Livingston's ANATOMICALLY, MY DEAR WATSON offers "some trifling monographs on Canonical body parts" (extending to beards and voices, with some intriguing thoughts on why so many people in the Canon have grey eyes); the 58-page pamphlet is available for \$9.95 (plus shipping) from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.

Also available from Classic Specialties is a 56-page pamphlet with 366 EXCUSES FOR A SHERLOCKIAN PARTY (or at least a commemoration) in which Joel and Carolyn Senter provide one or more Canonical or Sherlockian events that can be celebrated on each day of the year; \$12.95 (plus shipping).

Alexander H. Cohen died on Apr. 22. He was one of the most flamboyant and successful theatrical producers, beginning his career with "Angel Street" in 1941 (the play starred Vincent Price and was filmed as "Gaslight") to Noel Coward's "Waiting in the Wings" (starring Lauren Bacall and Rosemary Harris and now playing on Broadway). His production of the musical "Baker Street" (with Fritz Weaver, Peter Sallis, Martin Gabel, and Inga Swenson) has 313 performances on Broadway in 1965, undoubtedly thanks to promotion that included a massive marquee display featuring animated figures from the show, young ladies in "Palace Guard" costumes assisting customers standing in line for tickets, and a theater-lobby exhibit of the manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter", bought at auction at Christie's in Dec. 1964 by Lew D. Feldman on behalf of Adrian Conan Doyle for \$12,600 (then the highest price ever paid for a manuscript of any short story by any author, and there was a persistent rumor that Cohen had contributed toward the purchase price as an investment in publicity for the musical).

Jay Hyde notes that the May issue of Biography (published by Arts & Entertainment for those who watch the series on A&E cable) has a long article by John Kehoe about "The Case of the Murderous Author: Why Arthur Conan Doyle Tried to Kill Sherlock Holmes" (the magazine may be available at bookshops such as Borders and Barnes & Noble).

The Pequod Press continues to publish its proprietor's poetry and prose, as always nicely hand-set, hand-printed and bound; the latest titles are MON-GOOSE & MENDICANTS (a collection of verse) and THE ADVENTURE OF THE BEEP-ING MAN (another Turlock Loams tale); each book costs \$40.00 in cloth or \$20.00 in paper, from John Ruyle, 521 Vincent Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94707.

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

May 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The fourth issue of the new Strand Magazine has arrived, with editor Andrew Gulli's interesting interviews with Michael Cox (the first producer of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series) and David Suchet (who is ready to do more "Poirot" programs), and a review by H. R. F. Keating of the TV mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes"; subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$29.95 (elsewhere), from Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <www.magamall.com/magazine/96117/Strand.htm>.

Laura Kuhn reports that Ian Richardson's "The Sign of Four" (1983) will be released on DVD on June 27; \$14.99 plus shipping from <www.cduniverse.com>, and one assumes that's also a discount street price.

The obituary for Sy Weintraub (Apr 00 #1) listed Peter Cook as one of the many actors who appeared in Weintraub's "Tarzan" films. Dave ("I've seen this one a million times since I was a lad") Morrill reports that the end credits for "Tarzan Goes to India" show a Peter Cooke as the foreman in the building-the-dam sequences, and Peter Cooke certainly isn't Peter Cook.

The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers tributes to Vincent Starrett, Grant Allen, and Olga Katzin, and reports on the collections and the library. If you'd like to be on their mailing list you should contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

Laura Sifurova has reported that the Russian television series (1979-1986) that starred Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin has been repackaged with a new framing story that stars Alexei Petrenko (Arthur Conan Doyle), Larisa Udovichenko (his wife), and Sergei Bekhterev (his secretary Alfred Wood) in a thirteen-part mini-series "Vospominaniya o Sherloke Kholmse" that aired on Russian public television (ORT) in April. But only eleven episodes were broadcast, because a private company that claims to own the rights to the original series sued, and an arbitration court ruled that the new series was using too much from the old series, and it may be a long time (if ever) before the final two episodes are seen.

"Nothing stirred over the vast expanse save a pair of ravens, which croaked loudly from a tor behind us," Dr. Watson wrote (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). And you can find a pair of ravens in the design of our new sheet of Pacific Coast Rain Forest stamps.

It will be interesting to see just what the impact is on Sherlockian philately (and on philatelic Sherlockians) of the new of P-Stamps (called vanity stamps by some). Personalized stamps were introduced by Australia in 1999: Australia Post printed your own photograph on tabs attached to each stamp in a sheet of Australian stamps. The most recent nations to join the movement are Great Britain and Canada; one assumes that it won't be long before we see P-Stamps that honor Sherlock Holmes and other Canonical characters (Canada Post will charge \$24.95 for a booklet of 25 standard 46c stamps).

May 00 #2 Penelope Fitzgerald died on Apr. 28. She was the daughter and niece of great names in the Sherlockian world: her father was E. V. Knox, who used the pen-name "Evoe" when he edited Punch in the years when it published much Sherlockian material, and one of her uncles was Ronald Knox, inventor of the grand game so many Sherlockians play. She wrote a fine biography of THE KNOX BROTHERS in 1977 (her other uncles were Dillwyn, a classical scholar and a noted code-breaker in both world wars, and Wilfred, an Anglo-Catholic priest and teacher). That was the year she began her literary career, at the age of 60, and she went on to win England's prestigious Booker Prize in 1979 and the U.S. National Book Critics Circle Award in 1998.

Laura Kuhn reports that the latest mail-order catalog from Skeletons in the Closet (1104 North Mission Road, Los Angeles, CA 90033) offers their Sherlockian skeleton mascot on coffee mugs, buttons, mouse pads, baseball caps, T-shirts, pins, etc. Profits help support the Los Angeles County Coroner's Department's Youthful Drunk Driver Visitation Program.

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING, edited by Rosemary Herbert (London: Oxford University Press, 1999; 608 pp., £30.00/\$50.00), has had excellent reviews, and (of course) does not neglect Sherlock Holmes and

Arthur Conan Doyle.

Congratulations to Daniel Stashower, who has won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America (for the best critical/biographical work) and an Agatha from Malice Domestic (for the best non-fiction work) for his biography of Arthur Conan Doyle, TELLER OF TALES. The Edgar is a juried award, and the Agatha is awarded by vote of those attending the convention, and it's rare for an author to win both awards the same year.

Malice Domestic XII was great fun, of course, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as the ghost of honor. There was a session titled "A Study in Sir Arthur" with panelists Carole Nelson Douglas, Roberta Rogow, Walter Satterthwait, and Daniel Stashower (and Peter Blau as moderator), and Dan Stashower and Verena Rose presided over a Sherlockian "In Jeopardy at Malice" contest, and Douglas G. Greene's convention souvenir from Crippen & Landru was a reprint of Conan Doyle's "The Surgeon of Gaster Fell" (from the original periodical text) with an afterword by Dan Stashower.

Malice Domestic sessions are audiotaped, and you can purchase a copy of "A Study in Sir Arthur" (session 021) from Audio Recording Services (1103 Butterworth Court, Stevensville, MD 21666) <www.ars-service.com>; \$11.00 postpaid. Copies of the reprint of "The Surgeon of Gaster Fell" are offered by Crippen & Landru free to those who buy at least one of their other books.

One such book might be DIAGNOSIS: IMPOSSIBLE, a collection of stories by Ed Hoch about Dr. Sam Hawthorne (Mar 96 #1); the book has just been reprinted, and one of the stories is "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (there's an appropriate Sherlockian allusion); \$17.25 postpaid. Or THE VELVET TOUCH, a collection of Ed's stories about Nick Velvet (including "The Theft of the Sherlockian Slipper"), due in late June or early July; \$40.00 cloth/\$16.00 paper. Crippen & Landru's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (toll-free 877-662-6656) <www.crippenlandru.com>.

May 00 #3 Malice Domestic XIII will be held May 4-6, 2001, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va.; Margaret Maron will be the guest of honor, and Rex Stout the ghost of honor. If you would like to be on the mailing list, you can write to Malice Domestic (Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824); there's a web-site at <www.erols.com/malice>. A bit nearer on the calendar is Bouchercon 2000 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver (their motto is "High Crimes") on Sept. 7-10, with Elmore Leonard as the guest of honor; Box 17910, Boulder, CO 80308 <www.bouchercon2000.com>. Bouchercon 2001 ("A Capital Mystery") will be held in Washington, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City on Nov. 1-4, 2001, with Sue Grafton as American guest of honor and Peter Lovesey as international guest of honor; Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008 <www.bouchercon2001.com>.

Reported by Christopher Roden: a new four-DVD set AN EVENING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES with four Rathbone/Bruce films ("Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon", "The woman in Green", "Terror by Night", and Dressed to Kill"); theatrical trailers; film production notes; a photo gallery; and the sound-on-film interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; plus 15 hours of Rathbone/Bruce "Sherlock Holmes" radio broadcasts. The list price is \$69.96. The films are the four that are in the public domain; Les Klinger notes that the DVD versions are not from high-quality masters, but the quality of the interview and the radio shows is excellent.

The set of four "Great Mouse Detective" mini bean bags (Basil, Dr. Dawson, Olivia, and Ratigan) is back in the Disney catalog, at \$24.00 the set (item 20078-560). The Disney Catalog, Box 29144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 (800-237-5751) <www.disneystore.com>.

The Liberton Bank House saga continues: further to the earlier report (Feb 00 #1) about attempts to save the house where Arthur Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old from being demolished so that McDonald's can build a restaurant on the site, a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (May

4) noted that McDonald's and its partner Pearl Assurance have warned that if their plans are thwarted they will sue for up to £1.7 million -- and if they're given an okay to build the restaurant they may sue for "significant compensation" from the city council for the delay. The story also reports that Pearl bought the property in 1997 for £245,000.

The 500-member Japan Society Scotland joined the campaign to preserve the house, which was owned by the Burton family when the Doyles lived there. William K. Burton, who was a childhood friend of Conan Doyle, was invited by the Japanese government to teach sanitary engineering at the Imperial University of Tokyo, and married a Japanese woman and settled in Kyoto, which now is Edinburgh's sister city.

And the preservationists have won, no doubt assisted by the fact that Mary Burton, owner of the house in the 1860s, was the first woman governor of what is now Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University, and perhaps in defiant reaction to McDonald's bullying tactics: on May 24, Historic Scotland decided to list the house as a building of special interest that cannot be altered or demolished unless special permission is granted. Allen Simpson, a local resident and historian who led the campaign to save the house, said "this almost certainly means plans to demolish it will be turned down."

May 00 #4 Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) has published THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 5; the book contains 76 pages of pastiche, poetry, song, and serious writing by members of The Hounds of the Interne. Most of the material is new, but a few items have appeared elsewhere; the cost is \$9.00/CA\$13.00/\$9.00/£5.00/AU\$9.00 postpaid by air (payment in currency preferred, but checks are acceptable).

David Stuart Davies' play "Sherlock Holmes...The Last Act!" (starring Roger Llewellyn as Holmes) was performed on tour in Britain last year to excellent reviews, and for an enthusiastic Sherlockian audience in New York during the birthday festivities in January, and it will be on tour in eastern Canada in June and July: at the Centaur Theatre (Montreal) on June 4-7; St. Luke's Church Theatre (Ottawa) on June 9-11; The Playhouse (Fredericton) on June 13-14; the Centenary Theatre (Saint John) on June 15-18; the Neptune theatre (Halifax) on June 22-25; the Waterloo Stage Theatre (Waterloo) on June 28-29; the Market Centre (Woodstock) on July 4-5; the Old Factory Theatre (London) on July 6-9; the Von Ayres CC Theatre (Wallaceburg) on July 11-12; Mackenzie Hall (Windsor) on July 14-15, and the Palmerstown Library Theatre (Toronto) on July 19-29. The tour is produced by the Federal Bureau of Entertainment (29205 Greening Boulevard, Farmington Hills, MI 48334) <jsapub@aol.com>; FBE's proprietor, Joseph S. Ajlouny, would be delighted to hear from a booking agent interested in arranging a tour in the U.S.

Further to the report (Jan 00 #1) that sculptor John Doubleday is working on his third statue of Sherlock Holmes, the statue is to be installed in 2002 outside the village of Meiringen, facing the Reichenbach Falls. And in the meantime, Michael Meer reports, there is a limited edition of small statuettes, in solid bronze, 32 cm high on a wooden base; one of them is for sale now, and you can contact Michael at Morgenstrasse 70/1/1, CH-3018 Bern, Switzerland <sherlock.holmes@gmx.net>.

Jerry Margolin spotted the new comic book STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION - EMBRACE THE WOLF (Wildstorm/DC Comics, \$5.95); 7910 Ivanhoe Avenue #438, La Jolla, CA 92037. The story brings back Redjac, the villain of the episode "Wolf in the Fold" written by Robert Bloch in 1967; Data once again appears in Sherlockian costume on the holodeck.

In his preface to The Crowborough Edition (1930), Arthur Conan Doyle wrote that "the small book, *The Parasite*, has also a psychic, or at any rate a psychological, interest." The story, first published in 1894, only a year after he joined the Society for Psychical Research, deals with mesmerism and obsession, and there's a new edition with an introduction by Martin Edmonds, who discusses Conan Doyle's interest in spiritualism and the super-

natural. The 69-page booklet is available from Rupert Books (58/59 Stonefield, Bar Hill, Cambridge CB3 8TE, England) <rupert_books@compuserve.com>; L13.26 postpaid (to the UK) or \$22.82 (to the US) or L13.83 (elsewhere). Checks payable to R. D. Smith, please; credit-card orders welcome.

Rupert Books also published A STUDY IN CELLULOID: A PRODUCER'S ACCOUNT OF JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Michael Cox (the first producer of the Granada series); Dixon Smith describes it as "the most popular, best-selling, award-winning Sherlockian book" of 1999. 235 pp. and 21 photographs; L19.00 plus shipping from Rupert Books (address above).

May 00 #5 Les Klinger reports a facsimile edition of WHITAKER'S ALMANACK 1900, published by Stationery Office Books in London (928 pp., L25.00); in the section about "Landmarks in the History of Whitaker's Almanack" the entry for 1914 is: "In THE VALLEY OF FEAR, Sherlock Holmes uses the Almanack to decode a message." WHITAKER'S ALMANACK still is published, by the way; the 2000 edition (1,291 pp.) costs L40.00.

David Waxman (Estates of Mind, 217 Shoreward Drive, Great Neck, NY 11021) (516-487-5160) <www.estatesofmind.com> offers a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887 (with "A Study in Scarlet"): the text pages only, without wrappers or advertisements, bound together with Bow Bells Annual for 1870 in contemporary cloth. He believes that the book was purchased shortly before or after WWII by an Englishman and has been in the family since, and surfaced last year in England. The asking price is \$20,000.

Bloomsbury Book Auctions (3 & 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1R 4RY, England) <www.bloomsbury-book-auct.com> offers 79 lots (#258-336) of Sherlock Holmes material in an auction on June 15, including first editions, first appearances in periodicals, and other items. The items are described at the website, and the catalog costs L10.00 (UK and Europe) or \$21.00 (US/Canada) or L12.00 (elsewhere).

Peter Calamai reports that the final mailing for the Second Bimetallic Colloquium is available; the convention will be held at McGill University in Montreal on June 2-4, and there's a fine assembly of speakers. Additional information is available from The Bimetallic Colloquium (Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower, Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2, Canada) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.

The next meeting of The Sub-Librarians Scion will be at 4:30 pm on Sunday, July 9, at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel (Ballroom 9/10) during the annual conference of the American Library Association; the guest speaker will be Philip Jose Farmer, and there's no charge to attend. Additional information is available from Marsha Pollak (1318 Mildred Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125) <dsp66@aol.com>.

The 18th annual "Autumn in Baker Street" will be held at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 28-29, with an agenda full of Sherlockian doings and undoings. This will be the last event in the series, Bob Thoma- len has announced, and more information is available from Paula Perry (one of the stalwart band assisting Bob with his swan song); her address is 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128 (212-348-8817) <pjperry@msn.com>.

The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Postal Service are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the submarine service, and a new sheet of stamps includes one showing the USS Holland, which was accepted for service on Apr. 11, 1900. It was designed by Joseph P. Holland, who may or may not have been aware of the earlier Bruce-Partington plans.

For the electronically-enabled: Stephen Davies has reported to the Gaslight mailing list that mp3lit.com (a web-site with excerpts from talking books) offers a chance to hear Basil Rathbone read from Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum". The URL is <www.mp3lit.com/fiction/poe.html>.

May 00 #6 Richard Lancelyn Green and John Michael Gibson's A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983) is an invaluable reference for anyone who collects Arthur Conan Doyle's works; long out-of-print (and seldom seen advertised by used-book dealers, since those who own and use the book tend to keep it). The bibliography is available again in a revised and expanded edition (New York: Hudson House, 2000; 726 pp., \$100.00/L65.00); it's a reprint of the first edition, with 14 pages of addenda and corrigenda, and it is nice indeed to see it back in print. It's available from the Mysterious Bookshop (127 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and from Nigel Williams (22 Cecil Court, Charing Cross, London WC2N 4HE, England) <www.nigelwilliams.com>; shipping is additional, and credit-card orders are welcome.

The May issue of The Holmes & Watson Report offers Brad Keefauver's consideration of the similarities between Sherlockian scholarship and professional wrestling and Dave Morrill's return visit to "BrettBash '95", and other reverent and irreverent approaches to the Canon; \$16.00 a year for six issues (\$22.00 outside North America), from Brad Keefauver, 4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614.

Reported: Dan Kilcup's CHINESE BOX MYSTERIES: SHERLOCK HOLMES offered three pastiches (Jul 96 #3), and there are eight new stories in CHINESE BOX MYSTERIES: VOLUME TWO (260 pp.), due this month. \$16.00 postpaid from Allen Wayne Ltd., 14121 Parke Long Court #104, Chantilly, VA 20151 (703-321-7414) (800-695-8880) <www.allenwayne.com>; credit-card orders welcome.

"Footprints of the Hound" (celebrating the centenary of the first publication of "The Hounds of the Baskervilles in The Strand Magazine) has been rescheduled, and will be held in Toronto on Oct. 19-21, 2001 (Doug Wrigglesworth notes that the International Organization of Chiefs of Police has block-booked all of the decent hotel and meeting rooms in Toronto on the weekend the festival was planned to be held). If you'd like to be on their mailing list, the address is HOUND2001, 18 Jackson Avenue, Etobicoke, ON M8X 2J3, Canada <sherlox@attglobal.net>.

"Stop being Sherlock Holmes," Israeli president Ezer Weizman told a reporter last month, according to a Reuters dispatch that ran in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Apr. 10 (at hand from Syd Goldberg). Weizman, his reputation damaged by a secret-gifts scandal, had announced plans to resign some time before his term expires in 2003, but would not give a specific date.

Scott Monty notes news of a modern "Aurora" rather more grandiose, but no less problem-free, than the one in the Canon: "Lauded Luxury Liner Limp Home" was the headline on an Associated Press dispatch from London that reported that a luxury super-liner christened with great fanfare last month had developed a mechanical problem and headed home, just one day into its maiden voyage. An overheated propellor shaft on the \$320 million "Aurora" forced the liner to return to its home port of Southampton, and a two-week Mediterranean cruise for 1,800 passengers was canceled. The ship had been christened by Princess Anne, but the traditional champagne bottle failed to break against the side of the ship, a bad omen to seafarers. The "Aurora" is Britain's largest cruise liner, with five lounges, 12 bars, five restaurants, a theater, a concert hall and cinema, and three swimming pools.

May 00 #7 Sir John Gielgud died on May 21. He made his professional acting debut as a walk-on herald in "Henry V" at London's Old Vic in 1921 and appeared in a silent-movie melodrama in 1924, and went on to become a consummate actor and director, winning a Tony as the director of "Big Fish, Little Fish" on Broadway in 1961, and an Oscar as the austere butler Hobson in "Arthur" (1982). He played Sherlock Holmes (with Ralph Richardson as Dr. Watson) in 16 delightful 30-minute radio broadcasts produced by the BBC in 1954, and Lord Salisbury in Christopher Plummer's film "Murder by Decree" (1979).

My long-weekend first-time-ever visit to Disney world in Florida was quite

enjoyable, with splendid weather, helpful staff, uncrowded theme parks, and lots of interesting things to see, even though a long weekend offered time to visit only two of the parks (Epcot and Disney-MGM Studios). There's not much Sherlockian at Disney world, except for occasional glimpses of Basil and Dr. Dawson in some of the animation shows (Disney Store merchandise is an entirely different set-up, and the mini bean bags aren't sold at Disney world), and the movie memorabilia available at Sid Cahuenga's One of a Kind shop, which offers lobby cards and posters from "The Great Mouse Detective" and (no longer available) a "certificate of alien claiming residence in the United States" signed and dated by Basil Rathbone in 1965.

Sid Cahuenga's shop has some serious memorabilia, including movie props and clothes, and books from Marilyn Monroe's library, and prices are serious as well, but other material is quite reasonable. Actually, there is something else Sherlockian at Disney world: "Sherlock Goofy" T-shirts and pins that were given to cast members (employees) who participated in a treasure hunt a while back and now available in a special store that's open only to cast members. And no, you can't sign up as a very-short-term employee.

There also was time to visit the Grosvenor Resort, and inspect Moriarty's Pub, and Baskervilles Restaurant, and the recreation of the sitting room at 221b Baker Street furnished by the Werbys (the west-coast version still is in storage and available for rental); if you know of a restaurant or hotel that might want to display it, you should contact Willy Werby at 2700 19th Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 <mycroft813@aol.com>.

A spoiler alert: those who have not yet seen the mini-series "Murder Rooms" should skip the rest of this paragraph and go directly to the next page of the newsletter. Still here? Okay: American television viewers did not see exactly the same version of "Murder Rooms" that British viewers saw. For one thing, the mini-series was titled "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" in Britain, and "Murder Rooms: The Dark Origins of Sherlock Holmes" in the United States. But that was only a minor difference; more interesting were the closing credits for the second episode, which in Britain offered viewers more information about the villainous Neill: "Dr. Thomas Neill Cream did attend medical school alongside Arthur Conan Doyle. Finally convicted as a serial killer, Neill was hanged at Newgate Prison in 1892. To this day he remains a prime suspect in the case of Jack the Ripper." In the United States the closing credits did not mention Cream. It is likely that after the program aired in Britain someone pointed out that Cream studied at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Edinburgh, not with Conan Doyle at Edinburgh University.

May 00 #8 David Spencer Smith's article on "The Dog and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal" in the May issue of the NI Bulletin (at hand from Bob Fritsch) discusses the penny-size medallion available at the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire, and Wiltshire Regimental Museum in Salisbury, honoring the battle of Maiwand with portraits of Queen Victoria and the rough-haired terrier Bobbie; a display at the museum notes the similarity between the severe injury sustained by Dr. Watson at Maiwand with the injury suffered by Surgeon-Major A. F. Preston, as recorded in the official 66th (Berkshire) Regimental History. The magazine is published by Numismatics International (Box 670013, Dallas, TX 75367); \$2.00.

"BBC seeks ratings triumph with Conan Doyle epic combining technology and costume drama," according to The Guardian (May 23), which reported that the BBC aims to repeat the ratings bonanza won by its acclaimed "Walking with Dinosaurs" (which aired on the Discovery channel here). "The Lost World" will be a £5 million project, with filming on location in Australia or New Zealand from January to March, and some scenes shot in London. The adaptation will be largely faithful to the book, according to co-producer Jane Tranter (head of drama serials), but a new female character has been introduced to spice up the plot. "A load of sweaty men would be a bit dull," she said, adding that the character will be a "plucky lass," and that "love does eventually blossom." The other co-producer, Tim Haines

(who was responsible for "Walking with Dinosaurs") said that Conan Doyle's novel, while not a classic, was a "rollicking good story." The BBC's plans call for the program to air as a mini-series with two 75-minute episodes at Christmas in 2001.

The next grand gourmet Sherlock Holmes dinner at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., will be held on May 12, 2001, and Al and Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt are again hard at work on plans for the event. The dinner is a year away, and no price has been set, and reservations are not being accepted; if you would like to be on the mailing list for more information (when it's ready), send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Rosenblatts (300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569), and they will send a mailing to you some months from now. There may still be rooms available at the historic Beekman Arms in Rhinebeck (800-361-6517); information on other hotels in the vicinity of the CIA will also be available anon.

Fritz is the culinary dean at the CIA, and he is featured in the February issue of Chef Educator Today, at hand from Joe Coppola. "When he's not directing the futures of chef-hopefuls, Fritz Sonnenschmidt lives a life of crime," the sub-head to the article notes, and there's a photograph of him with his deerstalker and calabash.

If you'd like to see how much fun a past CIA dinner was, copies of Al and Julie's 20-page souvenir menu for "An Evening in Scarlet" on May 16, 1987, handsomely devised, designed, and produced, with many illustrations, annotations, and explanations, are still available; \$20.00 postpaid (checks to and 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@dgs.dgsys.com>

Jun 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Katherine McMahon ("Lucy Ferrier") died on Dec. 26, 1999. She was the last survivor of the elite band who earned membership in The Baker Street Irregulars by submitting correct solutions to the Sherlock Holmes Crossword that was devised by Frank V. Morley and published by Christopher Morley in the Saturday Review of Literature on May 19, 1934. Katherine received a Queen Victoria Medal from the BSI in 1990, but it was not until 1991 that she received her Investiture and Irregular Shilling from John Bennett Shaw at a small gathering in his library in Santa Fe, while the BSI's cocktail party was underway in New York. There's much more about this interesting lady in Caroline Bryan and Morrow Hall's excellent article "The Haunted Bookplate" in the Sept. 1994 issue of The Baker Street Journal.

"Sherlock at Saratoga" is this year's renewal of the original Silver Blaze, on Aug. 19 at the Saratoga Race Track ("At the Rail," with a buffet and a nice view of the races), and on Aug. 20 at the Saratoga Sheraton (with a brunch and speakers); more information is available from Lou Lewis, 11 Raymond Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

Issue #36 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine has David Stuart Davies' report on the recent discovery of a videocassette with a conversation between Holmes and Watson about the Abbey National Building Society (apparently made in the spring of 1988 with Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke), Nick Connell's report on the Sherlock Holmes correspondence in the Scotland Yard Files at the Public Records Office, an interview with Roy Ward Baker (who directed some of the programs in the 1979 "Sherlock Holmes" television series and the 1984 television film "The Masks of Death"), a note on a new Sherlock's Bistro at the Victoria Hotel in Cottingley; and much more (both S'ian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) are L18.00 (U.K.)/L20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (U.S.); the address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free

877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Back issues are available; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses.

The television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost world" (starring Peter McCauley as Challenger) was launched with a two-hour pilot in 1999, followed by 22 one-hour episodes (including a two-part repeat of the pilot) that runs on DirectTV (a direct broadcast service) and in syndication on local stations. It's reported to be the #2 rated new syndicated action series in the United States, and the #1 new adventure series in Germany, and it has been renewed for 22 more one-hour episodes, according to a press release spotted by Dave Morrill. There's a web-site with lots of graphics at <www.thelostworldtv.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes to Succeed Mrs. Hudson as British Spy Chief" isn't how the headline read, but it could have. Dave Morrill has kindly forwarded a Reuters dispatch citing a report in The Mirror (May 18) that Edward Woodward will play "M" in the next James Bond film; Woodward was Holmes in the television film "Hands of a Murderer" (1990); Judi Dench, who played "M" in the first three films starring Pierce Brosnan as Bond, was Mrs. Hudson in the BBC Radio broadcast of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1998).

Jun 00 #2 "welcome to the land of G-men (and women), foreign operatives, political consultants, secret tapes, shredded papers, special prosecutors, and interns," according to the invitation to Bouchercon 2001; the convention will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City on Nov. 1-4, 2001, and there are some interesting events planned, including a pre-convention Halloween party, FBI and CIA expert panels, guided mystery tours of Washington, and a Nick & Nora Charles Martini Happy Hour, and certainly a lot more than when Bouchercon was last in Washington, at the National Press Club in 1980. The cost of registration is \$135 though Sept. 1, 2000 (higher afterward). Additional details are available from Bouchercon 2001 (Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008) <www.bouchercon2001.com>.

Cameron Hollyer ("The Three Students") died on June 4, 2000. Cam was a librarian in the Literature Department of the Toronto Public Library when he helped organize the first Sherlockian conference ever held, in Dec. 1971, an event that led to the founding of The Bootmakers of Toronto and the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Library, and he worked hard on behalf of both those institutions for many years, retiring from his post as curator of the collection in 1991. The Bootmakers honored him in the autumn 1991 issue of Canadian Holmes by publishing his delightful paper "The Curator's Egg" (a fine example of how well he combined humor and scholarship). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.

Paul D. Herbert (734 Alpine Drive, Milford, OH 45150) offers The Tankerville Club's new lapel pin (designed by Jeff Decker); \$11.00 postpaid.

Tracy Cooper-Posey's CHRONICLES OF THE LOST YEARS: A SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERY (Winnipeg: Ravenstone, 1999; 209 pp., \$14.95) offers quite a bit of adventure and romance: Holmes is involved with a mysterious and accomplished woman named Elizabeth Sigerson before, during, and after the Great Hiatus, but there's mystery, too, and the adventures are interesting. Ravenstone is an imprint of Turnstone Press (607-100 Arthur Street, Winnipeg, MN R3B 1H3, Canada) <www.turnstonepress.com>.

The SHERLOCK HOLMES READER #3 is now in the shops from Tome Press/Caliber Comics, \$3.95), Jerry Margolin notes, with another installment of "The Loch Ness Horror" (story by Martin Powell and artwork by Seppo Makinen) and other Sherlockiana; 225 North Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170 (888-222-6643) <www.calibercomics.com>.

"Better Holmes and Gardens: Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Architectural Design 'Down Under'" is the title of an exhibition on the fourth

floor of the Wilson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis through the first week of August, Tim Johnson reports. It's a collaboration by Derham Groves, his students of Architectural Design and Practice at the University of Melbourne, and the Department of Special Collections & Rare Books at the University of Minnesota, and a 28-page illustrated catalog is available on the web at <www.lib.umn.edu/special/rare/rare.html> and (\$10.00 postpaid) from Special Collections, Anderson Library #111, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 (checks payable to the University of Minnesota, please).

Jun 00 #3 Roberta Rogow's *THE PROBLEM OF THE EVIL EDITOR* (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2000; 298 pp., \$23.95) is her third mystery novel about Charles Dodgson and Arthur Conan Doyle; Dodgson is in London in Feb. 1886 to introduce Conan Doyle to an editor, and they quickly become involved in solving a murder. It's an interesting story, and in the midst of their investigation Dodgson and Conan Doyle get to visit the Cafe Royal in search of Oscar Wilde, who (needless to say) is far more at home there than the two visitors.

Dame Barbara Cartland died on May 21. She launched her writing career in 1925, and for decades ruled the romance genre with more than 700 books that sold more than one billion copies. "My heroines are always virgins," she said in 1973. "They never go to bed without a ring on their fingers; not until page 118 at least." She also maintained that a truly sexy man was one who was "fully clothed and preferably in uniform." She often alluded to Sherlock Holmes in her books, and in her author's note in *MOON OVER EDEN* (1976), set in Ceylon in the 19th century, she wrote that "the success of Ceylon tea after the failure of the coffee was immortalized by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle when he wrote: 'Not often is it that men have the heart, when their one great industry is withered, to rear up in a few years another as rich to take its place, and the tea fields of Ceylon are as true a monument to courage as is the lion at Waterloo.'"

Jeff MacNelly died on June 8. He was 24 years old in 1972, when he won the first of his three Pulitzer prizes for editorial cartoons, and his comic strip "Shoe" runs in more than 1,000 papers. He used Sherlockian icons in his editorial cartoons, including one from July 1992 on the U.N. in Iraq.

Sorry about that: *Malice Domestic XIII* (May 00 #3) will be held May 4-6, 2001, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va. Thanks to Donna Goldthwaite for noting the typo.

Jerry Margolin notes that the fifth issue of *THE GREAT DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Avalon Communications, \$2.95) is in the comic-book shops, with "The Mystery of the Black Death" (reprinted from the 1954 comic strip written by Edith Meiser and drawn by Frank Giacoia); the magazine address is 2800 Halpern, St-Laurent, QC H4S 1R2, Canada.

And the comic-book mini-series *THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN* (from America's Best Comics, with a story by Alan Moore and powerful artwork by Kevin O'Neill) has reached the fifth issue (June 2000, \$2.95). Holmes and Moriarty are involved, along with Allan Quatermain, Captain Nemo, and many others; the mini-series will end with the sixth issue, and the address is 7910 Ivanhoe #438, La Jolla, CA 92037 <wildstorm.com>.

Mary Erickson reports that she now has a new home: a trailer with "washer, dryer, central air, telephone, and *no* kerosene heater" (there was a kerosene heater in her previous home, which didn't survive the fire), and four new cats, and that she is grateful to Sherlockian friends for their concern and generosity. Her new address is 212 Zurich Drive, Lynwood, IL 60411.

Jun 00 #4 The tenth volume of *ACD: The Journal of The Arthur Conan Doyle*

Society (May 2000) offers 110 pages of interesting scholarship, including Dana M. Batory's conclusions about the internal dating of "The Lost World", Wladimir V. Bogomoletz's report on Conan Doyle's seven visits to Paris, and Thomas R. Tietze's discussion of Conan Doyle poetry. Membership in the society (including two issues of the journal) costs \$27.00 a year (CA\$33.00/L16.00); credit-card orders are welcome, and the address is Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/acdsoc.html>.

The new issue of Scarlet Street (#38) offers David Stuart Davies' review of the television mini-series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (noting that the BBC has commissioned four new episodes, with filming on the first one, set in Southsea, to begin this fall), discussion by Richard Scrivani of John Morgan's work on a soon-to-be-released Marco Polo CD with an orchestral recreation of the theme music for "Sherlock Holmes and the Voice of Terror" (1942), and other coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. Subscriptions to the magazine cost \$35.00 a year (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <www.scarletstreet.com>.

The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis offer their new lapel pin, available in two versions, one for members and the other for non-members; each costs \$10.00 postpaid, from Yvonne De Tar (1838 Portage Terrace #C, Indianapolis, IN 46227); please make checks payable to The Illustrious Clients. Membership in the society costs \$10.00 (same address), which includes their newsletter and allows you to buy the members-only version.

Ben and Sue Vizoskie have noted in the April issue of the Foolscap Document (the newsletter of The Three Garridebs) that Bill Schweickert was once interviewed for a newspaper article about Holmes and Watson, and was pleased to find that the article was published without mistakes -- until the last paragraph, which reported there was a plaque in the men's room at Barts to honor the first meeting of Holmes and Watson. The reporter seems to have thought that Bill said that the meeting took place in the lavatory.

The Three Garridebs' newsletter is published six times a year for the society's members; dues are \$6.00 a year (Ben Vizoskie, 90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606).

Bob Robinson spotted Keith Aitken's article in Scottish Life (summer 2000) on "The Case of the Missing Memorial", in which he suggests that "while Arthur Conan Doyle's immortal Sherlock Holmes stories were inspired by Edinburgh's people and places, the capital city seems intent on wiping out all connections to its native son." Some of Conan Doyle's residences survive, however, in Sciennes Hill Place and Argyle Park Terrace, and at 23 George Square, all dating from the 1870s, in the years after he was sent to stay with Mary Burton at Liberton Bank House (May 00 #3). Box 403, Vandalia, OH 45337; \$4.50.

Jennie Paton reports a DVD due from Focus Film: SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION with four of the 1940s Rathbone/Bruce films ("The Woman in Green", "Terror by Night", "Dressed to Kill", and "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon") and the film interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (list price \$19.99).

Jun 00 #5 The June issue of National Geographic has two articles of interest: "Jelly Bellies" has a splendid photograph of a lion's mane with a caption quoting Sherlock Holmes that the creature "can be as dangerous to life as, and far more painful than, the bite of the cobra." But: "It's a bad rap," the caption notes, "The sting of a lion's mane jelly hurts but almost never kills--unless you're a copepod." And an article on London is accompanied by a double map supplement of "Britain and Ireland" and "The Heart of Tourist London" that includes the Sherlock Holmes Hotel on Baker Street.

Nicholas Clay died on May 5. He began his acting career on screen in 1971, and he played Stapleton in Ian Richardson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles"

(1983) and Dr. Percy Trevelyan in Granada's "The Resident Patient" (1985).

William Serad's article on "Sherlockian Pipes" in the summer 2000 issue of Pipes & Tobaccos has a list of all the pipes mentioned in the Canon, with illustrations of the first results of his decision to commission his own series of Sherlock Holmes pipes from Mark Tinsky, of the American Smoking Pipe Company. The magazine is published by SpecComm International, 3000 Highwoods Boulevard #300, Raleigh, NC 27604 <www.pt-magazine.com>; \$3.95.

Carole Nelson Douglas has reported that her fifth novel about Irene Adler will be published in Nov. 2001, "with that ubiquitous consulting detective, I suppose, and some surprise guest villains, vamps, and victims." And in the meantime, her "The Dame's Afoot" silhouette of Irene (with artwork by Carole) is offered on embroidered T-shirts (S/M/L/XL \$28.75 2X \$31.75 3X \$32.75 4X \$35.75), golf shirts (S/M/L/XL \$33.75 2X \$36.75 3X \$37.75 4X \$40.75), and totebags (\$33.75); all prices are post-paid. Checks or money orders only, please, payable to Carole Douglas: Box 331555, Fort Worth, TX 76163 <www.catwriter.com/cdouglas>.

John Hillen spotted an announcement from the UCLA Film and Television Archive for its Tenth Festival of Preservation (July 28-Aug. 26). "Sherlock Holmes Faces Death" (1943) and "The House of Fear" (1945) will be screened at 7:00 pm on Aug. 13 (Hugh Hefner provided funds for restoring the Universal "Sherlock Holmes" films). Details on the festival are available from Nancy Reed (310-206-8588) <nreed@emelnitz.ucla.edu>.

Otto Penzler (The Mysterious Bookshop, 129 West 56th Street, New York, NY 10019) (800-352-2840) <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> publishes an interesting series of pastiches and parodies, some are reprints and some originals, and almost all first separate publications; \$10.00 each (with shipping extra, and there's a 10% discount for standing orders). The list so far: SHADY SINNERS OF THE STYX (Lawrence Daniel Fogg); THE MYSTERY OF PINKHAM'S DIAMOND STUD (John Kendrick Bangs); THE SLEUTHS (O. Henry); THE ADVENTURE OF THE CIPHER IN THE SAND (Ed Hoch); A PRAGMATIC ENIGMA (John Kendrick Bangs); THE ADVENTURE OF THE DIAMOND NECKLACE (George F. Forrest); MURDER IN STUDIO 221B (Ron Goulart); SHERLOCK HOLMES AGAIN (John Kendrick Bangs); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERIOUS CARD (Joel Lima); ME, OR THE STRANGE EPISODE OF THE REINCARNATED GREEK (E. V. Knox); THE ADVENTURE OF THE WOODEN BOX (Leslie Klinger); ANATOMY OF TWO MURDERS (Murray Shaw), HERLOCK SHOMES AT IT AGAIN (anonymous); and THE MARRIAGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Gregory Breitman).

Jun 00 #6 The Virginia Romance Writers' next "Step Back in Time" conference on romance, history, and crime is scheduled for Mar. 23-25, 2001, in Williamsburg, and it will include a workshop on criminology; if you'd like to be on their mailing list, you should send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Virginia Romance Writers, 13 Woodlawn Terrace, Fredericksburg, VA 22405 <www.geocities.com/SoHo/Museum/2164>.

Sorry about that: the Baker Street Irregulars (Shameless Commerce Division) merchandise (Apr 00 #4) is available from George J. McCormack, but his best address is at Cusack & Stiles, 61 Broadway #2912, New York, NY 10006.

Ray Betzner spotted the announcement on America Online News: "Chapters Online Extends Digital Delivery Strategy with Addition of New eBook Titles at Chapters.ca" (May 29). The electronically-enabled can now go to a web-site at <www.chapters.ca/digital/books> and download a long list of electronic books (including THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) using the free Glassware Reader software also available at the web-site. Customers can also pay for and download more recent titles; the company reported that in March more than 10,000 people downloaded Stephen King's eBook RIDING THE BULLET in the first 48 hours after its release.

"The Rock says, call Sherlock Holmes! Call Magnum P.I.! Call Scooby-Doo himself!" The Rock is world wrestling Federation superstar Rocky Maivia,

on "WWF Smackdown" on UPN-TV on June 15, as reported by Brad Keefauver.

The House of Ascot (4450 Arapahoe Avenue #100, Boulder, CO 80303) (800-717-3105) <www.houseofascot.com> has an interesting catalog of British collectibles, including a Lakeland Studios oval wall plaque (8 x 6 in.) showing the sitting room (\$39.95) and Hazle Ceramics' Sherlock Holmes Museum house-front (\$74.95) and miniature teapot (\$24.95); shipping is extra, credit-card orders are welcome, and there's a 10% discount in July if you quote "CR07".

The 90-minute laserdisc of "The Lost World" (1925) released by Lumivision (Apr 92 #4) is now available on DVD from Slingshot Entertainment (with a trailer, a promotional short, and a demonstration of the stop-motion special effects devised by Willis O'Brien), priced at \$19.99. Check your local shops, or their web-site at <www.slingshotdvd.com>.

Dennis France died on June 20. He was an attorney, and an energetic member and officer of many of the Chicago-area societies, including The Criterion Bar Association and The Scotland Yarders, and The STUD Sherlockian Society.

Pat Ward has reported that "Bloomington by Gaslight: Sherlock Holmes in the Lilly Library" is now on display in the library's main gallery at Indiana University in Bloomington, through Sept. 19. The exhibit includes a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, the manuscript of "The Red Circle", a manuscript page with the first three sentences of the note Holmes left for Watson at the Reichenbach, and Darryl F. Zanuck's personal copy of the script for Rathbone's "The Hound of the Baskervilles"

Jun 00 #7 This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will have another attractive watercolor by Douglas West, showing Holmes and Watson looking out across the Thames, captioned "There is a boatman here with a wherry, Watson. We shall take it and cross the river." \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (L5.50 to the U.K., L6.00 to Europe, L7.00 elsewhere); checks payable to the Society, please, and orders can be sent to Cdr. G. S. Stavert, 22 Homeheights House, Clarence Parade, Southsea, Hants. PO5 3NN, England. Note: you can order now, but the cards will not be shipped until September.

The latest issue of Reichenbach Cliff-Notes, edited by Kendall Pagan and published occasionally by The Reichenbach Cliff-Divers, offers four pages of skewed Sherlockiana, including a report on S'ian lapel-pin piercings. A few copies are still available from the Punctuality Press (4010 Devon Lane, Peoria, IL 61614) in return for a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope.

A three-hour special "AFI's 100 Years...100 Laughs" (broadcast by CBS-TV on June 13, 2000) honored the 100 funniest American films, chosen by a jury of 1,800 film-industry leaders for the American Film Institute. Buster Keaton's "Sherlock Jr." (1924) was #62 on the list.

Is it possible that none of the Sherlockians who watch the show are willing to admit they watch "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" on ABC-TV? A non-Sherlockian has reported that on June 11 one of the early questions asked which street Sherlock lived on. "Baker Street" was one of the answers, and the contestant got it right, adding, "it was at 21 Baker Street."

Uno Studio in Holmes (the Sherlockian society in Italy) has arranged for a symposium in Milan on Sept. 9-11 and in Sesto Fiorentino (near Florence) on Sept. 15-17; there will be exhibits, papers, films, games, excursions, and a concert, and additional details are available from Gianluca Salvatori, cp 14, 55042 Forte dei marmi (LU), Italy <www.versilia.toscana.it/~mycroft>.

BLOODLINE (New York: St. Martin's Paperbacks, 2000; 316 pp., \$6.50) is Jill

Jones' seventh romance novel, and she combines the romance and mystery genres in an investigation of a modern serial killer whose murders start at a Sherlockian "The Unsolved Case of Jack the Ripper--where was Sherlock when we Needed Him?" conference in London. The hero's a Scotland Yard inspector and the heroine an FBI agent, there's plenty of romance as well as mystery, and the Sherlockian aspects are incidental.

Joe Bevilacqua reports that his 1980s radio series "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will air again on National Public Radio stations in September (when he will also make the parodies available on CD).

The audiocassette version of Ed. Lange's 1997 play "Sherlock's Secret Life" (Sep 99 #4) has won an Audie Award (from the Audio Publishers Association of America) for best multi-voiced presentation. The set's still available (\$12.90 postpaid) from the N.Y. State Theatre Institute (155 River Street, Troy, NY 12180) <www.nysti.org> (credit-card orders are welcome).

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

Jul 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

BBC Radio 4 celebrated "Conan Doyle week" (July 1-7) with a fine assortment of programs that included Nick Utechin on "Do What You Like with Him: The Unreal Life of Sherlock Holmes" (about pastiches and parodies), Ruth Dudley Edwards on "The Real Sherlock Holmes" (about Victorian science and crime), Humphrey Carpenter on "The Secret History of Conan Doyle" (about his life and career), and Simon Russell Beale reading abridgements of five of the Brigadier Gerard stories on "Book at Bedtime".

Radio Times gave "Conan Doyle week" plenty of coverage, and the RT Shop is offering "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" with "48 hours of audio material on 36 cassettes" and "a special behind-the-scenes book" together with a boxed set of four dramatizations of "Agatha Christie's Miss Marple" starring June Whitfield, all for L150 postpaid; checks (payable to RT Shop) can be sent to JEM House, Littlemead, Cranleigh, GU6 8TT, England.

"You don't have to be Sherlock Holmes to hunt down hard-to-find books," according to the voice-over on the opening credits on "Mystery!" on PBS-TV, "You can deduce their whereabouts on Alibris: the on-line source for books you thought you'd never find." The spot began airing in April, promoting <www.alibris.com>, one of the new sponsors for the series.

"We started off with 12 Rembrandts. We are now down to one plus two halves and a probable," Ros Savill, director of the Wallace Collection in London, said in an interview in the Evening Standard (June 15), at hand from John Baesch. The collection, assembled by four Marquesses of Hertford and the 4th Marquess' illegitimate son, Sir Richard Wallace, used a L10.6 million lottery grant to redevelop Hertford House in Manchester Square, where visitors can now see all 5,470 items in the collection, including some fakes, because the collection "exposes the misjudgements of the collectors, not to mention the machinations of the art market." And it's a nice place to view your favorite Greuze, John notes.

Discounted at Barnes & Noble: THE MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Grosset & Dunlap, 1996; 218 pp., now \$5.98); with nine of the stories, illustrated by Paul Bachem.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK OF MAGIC, by Jeff Brown (Colorado Springs: Piccadilly Books, 2000; 96 pp., \$10.00), offers explanations of almost 30 magic tricks, all related in some way to Holmes, Watson, or other Canonical characters (but if you're planning to put on a Sherlockian magic show, remember that everyone who has read the book will know what your secrets). \$13.20 postpaid from the Village Booksmith (233 Main Street, Hudson Falls, NY 12801) <booksmith@global2000.net>; credit-card orders welcome.

I recommended Chris Redmond's A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK highly when it was published by Simon & Pierre (Oct 93 #4), and it's still highly recommended, as well as available (CA\$29.99/L14.99) from the University of Toronto Press 5201 Dufferin Street, Toronto, ON M3H 5T8, Canada, or 2250 Military Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150 (800-565-9523) <utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca>; credit-card orders welcome. The book can be used and enjoyed both by Sherlockians and by those who are wondering just what Sherlockians do, and why.

Jul 00 #2 "There is a lack of firm scientific evidence about the effect on the welfare of a fox of being closely pursued, caught and killed above ground by hounds. We are satisfied, nevertheless, that this experience seriously compromises the welfare of the fox." According to a British government committee's report on the environmental, economic, and other aspects of the ruling Labor Party's proposed ban on fox-hunting. The Canon contains no mention of fox-hunting (although there is a mention of a foxhound), but it's quite important in Conan Doyle's stories "The King of the Foxes" (1898) and "The Crime of the Brigadier" (1900).

"I am one of those who believe that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in far-gone years will not prevent our children from being some day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Noble Bachelor"). Our new sheet of stamps honoring the Stars and Stripes includes one showing the Grand Union flag,

Nino Cirone's UPON THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE ASHES OF THE VARIOUS TOBACCOS is not Sherlock Holmes' long-lost monograph, but rather an interesting collection of interesting descriptions of 60 tobaccos, one for each of the Canonical tales, accompanied by appropriate period artwork. The 70-page book costs L14.99/\$25.00 from Ian Henry Publications, 20 Park Drive, Romford, Essex RM1 4LH, England; credit-card orders welcome.

It's odd that it should take so long for the American edition of FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER, AND OTHER EXTRACTS FROM THE FLASHMAN PAPERS to appear, but it's due from Knopf in August (346 pp., \$25.00). For those who didn't get the British edition (Oct 99 #4), George MacDonald Fraser's delightful tale, first published in the Daily Express in 1975, deals with Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (this being the third, in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).

"Cows Invade New York!" More than 500 life-sized fiberglass cow sculptures (each decorated or painted by a local artist) are to be found in streets, parks, and hidden corners in each of the five boroughs through Labor Day, according to publicity at hand from Ev Herzog. But none of them appear to be Sherlockian (at least not yet). You can call 302-291-4538 for more information, or see a map of cow locations at <www.cowparadenewyork.com>, and may even be possible for one of the local Sherlockian societies to sponsor a Sherlockian cow.

Issue #37 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine has David Stuart Davies' discussion of Granada's "The Eligible Bachelor" and Universal's "The House of Fear", essays by Roger Forsdyke's essay on real Victorian crime and criminals, and Grant Eustace's on "Baker Street Addictions", and much more (Sherlockian and otherwise); an annual subscription (six issues) costs L18.00 (U.K.)/L20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere). The magazine address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>. Credit-card orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.

Jul 00 #3 Barry Day has written three pastiches: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHAKESPEARE GLOBE MURDERS (London: Oberon Books, 1997; 190 pp.,

\$11.00); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ALICE IN WONDERLAND MURDERS (London: Oberon Books, 1997; 180 pp., \$11.00); and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE COPYCAT MURDERS (Palm Beach: Second Opinion, 2000; 192 pp., \$11.00). All three novels involve Holmes and Watson in complicated mysteries that involve assassination and attempts to overthrow the government or destroy the empire.

Ted Friedman's interesting series of articles about Sherlockian philately in Topical Times continues with "Literary Skills of Sherlock Holmes" in the July-August issue, which also has Allan Hauck's "Topics on Postmarks" with an illustration of the postmark created for the Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C. on Nov. 4-7, 1999 (the magazine costs \$5.00 postpaid from the American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181) <atastamps@juno.com> (credit card orders welcome).

The ATA has also announced a new 72-page handbook on THE PHILATELIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Dodson. \$11.00 postpaid for members of the ATA (\$12.00 for non-members) if you order by Oct. 1 (extra charges for shipping after that date); addresses in the preceding paragraph.

Reported: Stephen Kendrick's HOLY CLUES: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jun 99 #1) in a trade paperback edition (New York: Vintage Books, 2000; 208 pp., \$12.00); it's an interesting discussion of the faith, reason, mystery, and philosophy one can find in the Sherlock Holmes stories, especially with an expert guide.

"Psst... Did you know we are currently hiring..." asked an advertisement in the N.Y. Times (June 25) for a government agency that promises "Challenges for a Challenging World" (most positions are in the Northern Virginia area, but there is an opportunity for living abroad); it's the Central Intelligence Agency <www.cia.gov>.

Paulette Greene (7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433) offers copies of two older items: Madeleine B. Stern's 1982 monograph THE GAME'S A HEAD: A PHRENOLOGICAL STUDY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, with illustrations by Sam Greene (\$15.00), and Trevor H. Hall's 1986 monograph THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: IVY JOHNSON BULL OF BORLEY (\$30.00); both prices are postpaid (please pay by check of money order).

Noted by Dave Morrill: "Radio-Active Man" in Filmfax (June-July 2000), the first part of an excellent interview with long-time radio, television, and film actor Harry Bartell, who was the announcer for the Rathbone/Bruce radio series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" from 1945 to 1946.

Fans of "They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the 1971 George C. Scott film) may want to purchase the two-CD set "They Might Be Giants/Then: The Earlier Years" issued by Restless Records in 1997 (the set number is 72931-2); the contents include their two albums "They Might Be Giants" and "Lincoln", EP B-side recordings, and bonus tracks (only the name of the group is Sherlockian). They have a web-site at <www.tmbg.com> and their dial-a-song telephone number is 718-387-6962.

Jul 00 #4 Jane Seymour has received her award as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). She appeared on British television in 1974 in "Orson Welles' Great Mysteries: The Leather Funnel". Simon Ward was a young Englishman who went to Paris to propose to a French girl (Jane Seymour); her uncle (Christopher Lee) drugged Ward's drink and left him near the leather funnel.

Michael Caine, already honored as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1993, was knighted in the Queen's Birthday honors list in June. He starred in "Without a Clue" (1988) as Reginald Kincaid, a drunken actor hired by Dr. Watson to impersonate his fictional Sherlock Holmes.

Prescott's Press (the quarterly journal of The Three Garridebs) has been

revived after a lengthy hiatus, and issue 21 is now available, with Mona Morstein's "The Adventure of the Strange Case of the Woman with the Really Long Name" and Tom Cynkin's "The Worst Woman in London: An Opinion" (among other contributions to the literature); \$12.00 for four issues, from Warren Randall, 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.

THE BIG BOOK OF BAD, by Jonathan Vankin (New York: Paradox Press, 1998; 191 pp., \$14.95), is a collection of short comic-strip explications, including with two pages (artwork by Phil Jimenez) on "Moriarty: Professor of Crime".

Our "Celebrate the Century" souvenir sheets have reached the 1990s, and the new sheet includes a stamp honoring the world wide web, which has had a delightful impact on the Sherlockian world, and of course made it possible for many people to read this Sherlockian and Doylean newsletter without depending on the postal service or paying for a subscription. The URL is <members.home.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm>.

Many of the items in Tom Stix's fine collection of Sherlockiana were sold from a series of catalogs (Oct 98 #1), and the remainder (some in the earlier catalogs and some not) will be sold at auction by The Three Garridebs on Aug. 27, at the Sunset Supper Club in Tuckahoe, N.Y.; mail bids will be accepted until Aug. 22. A 70-page catalog is available from Ben Vizoskie (90 Ralph Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606) <garridebs@aol.com>.

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Tim Johnson's update on the collections and the move to the new underground facility, and Julie McKuras discussion of the collections' "Pipes, Matches, and Tobacco". If you'd like to be on their mailing list you can contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

George Perlman died on June 18, at the age of 103. He was a violin teacher and for 74 years he rented a studio in the Fine Arts Building in Chicago, where he taught generations of students to play the violin, continuing to teach until April of this year, when he was hospitalized after a fall. Ely Liebow wrote about him as "The Man Who wrapped with ACD" (in Baker Street Miscellanea, summer 1991); Perlman accompanied Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to a seance at the Auditorium Hotel in Chicago in 1923.

Jul 00 #5 Christopher Lee has been signed to play a "charismatic separatist" in "Star Wars: Episode II" (now filming in Australia and due for release in the summer of 2002), according to a report in the N.Y. Post (July 13), kindly forwarded by Marina Stajic. Lee has played three Canonical characters on film and television: Sir Henry Baskerville in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959), Mycroft Holmes in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and Sherlock Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1962), "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1992), and "Sherlock Holmes: Incident at Victoria Falls" (1992).

"We had occasion some months ago to strengthen our resources and borrowed for that purpose 30,000 napoleons from the Bank of France," Mr. Merryweather, said, in the cellar of the Coburg branch of the City and Suburban Bank (in "The Red-Headed League"). Thanks to Ted Friedman for spotting the stamp issued by France this year to honor the 200th anniversary of the founding of the Banque de France.

Further to the report (Dec 99 #3) on the development-versus-environment battle over Venezuela's Canaima National Park (one of 100 world Heritage Sites designated by the United Nations, and the sixth-largest national park in the world), Ray Betzner has noted an Associated Press report that Indian tribes in Venezuela's southeastern rain forests have signed an accord that will allow construction to resume on a

high-voltage electricity line through the park; the \$100-million 360-mile project will provide energy to Indian communities as well as to gold-mining companies and towns in north-eastern Brazil. The park contains Angel Falls (the world's tallest water-fall) and the mysterious flat-topped mountains said to have inspired Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World".

The four "Great Mouse Detective" mini bean bags (Basil, Dr. Dawson, Olivia, and Ratigan) are still offered in the Disney catalog, discounted to \$12.00 for the set (that's half price, which suggests a close-out). The item number is 20078-F20; Box 29144, Shawnee Mission, KS 66201 (800-237-5751) <www.disneystore.com>.

"Who Ordered the Rare Roast Beef? I Did, Said the Grosvenor Square Furniture Van." was the headline on a story about "Dinner with the Sherlockians in Washington" in the [Washington] Sunday Star on June 18, 1972. And the author of the article was Lynne Cheney, wife of (now) Republican vice-presidential candidate, who enjoyed her dinner with The Red Circle.

TO VISIT THE QUEEN, by Diane Duane (New York: Warner Books, 1999; 354 pp., \$14.99) (also in paperback this year; 366 pp., \$6.50), is translated from Ailurin, and features a team of feline wizards, caretakers of a time-gate at Grand Central Station in New York, who travel to London to help wizards there thwart a malevolent attempt to change history and destroy the world.

The Queen they visit, time-gating to 1874, is Victoria, who is the target assassination attempt, and in the midst of their battle to prevent Armageddon they are assisted by a young human named Arthur Conan Doyle. The fantasy is intriguing, the concept nicely executed, and the book well-written' young Artie is only a supporting character (and yes, he did indeed make a three-week visit to London in 1874, invited by his aunt Annette).

Jul 00 #6 Further to the report (May 00 #6) about the trials and tribulations of the modern "Aurora" (Britain's largest cruise liner, whose maiden cruise came to an abrupt end because of mechanical problems), John Baesch has forwarded Sandy Byrne's story from The Mail on Sunday (July 16) reporting on a quite pleasant cruise to the Canaries. And pleasant it ought to be, with a crew of 850 that includes 110 chefs.

Further to the report (Apr 00 #3) on Hallmark's ornament "The Detective" (Snoopy, dressed in standard Sherlockian costume, accompanied by Woodstock in Watsonian costume): the ornament now is in Hallmark shops (\$9.95).

Reported: THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, due from MPI on DVD on Oct. 3 (\$19.99); the disk will contain Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia", "The Solitary Cyclist", "The Naval Treaty", and "The Dancing Men". Nancy Beiman has noted, in a message posted at <www.amazon.com> that MPI plans to issue additional disks in the series only if there is sufficient demand for the first one.

THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES, VOLUME III is the new volume of Bill Brown's one-act radio plays performed by The Squeaking Axles to amuse and bemuse The Hansom wheels of Columbia, S.C. The new collection offers five plays, packed with puns and broad humor, and it costs \$15.00 postpaid from Lloyd W. Brown, Jr. (103 Snow Court, Lexington, SC 29073). The first two volumes (five plays each) are still available (\$10.00 each); \$25.00 for all three.

Ray Bradbury has high praise for cartoonist Erv Kaplan in the August issue of Playboy, and one of Kaplan's cartoons is Sherlockian.

The Ferret Company offers all sorts of imaginative collectibles for ferret fans, including a 2001 wall calendar with a November photograph (also shown on the cover) of a deerstalkered ferret with a magnifying glass. Box 7161, Redwood City, CA 94063 <www.ferretcompany.com>; \$13.95 plus shipping (\$4.95

to U.S. addresses), and credit-card orders are welcome.

Timothy Francis Sheil's THE SIAM QUESTION (London: Camden House, 1999; 603 pp., L19.50/\$30.00) is the first of two volumes of THE HOLMES REPORT, which Watson adapted on journals kept by M. Francois Villard when he accompanied Sherlock Holmes during the Great Hiatus from 1891 to 1894. The book covers their adventures in Tibet (where they help defeat a Russian attempt to gain control of the country) and Siam (where they help defeat a French attempt to gain control of the country) and London (where they help defeat Colonel James Moriarty's attempt to gain control of the government); the author has lived in Thailand, and the book is full of local color and history. It is available (\$35.00 postpaid) from Firebird Distributing, 2030 First Street (unit 5), Eureka, CA 95501 (800-353-3575) <www.firebirddistributing.com>; and (L19.50 plus shipping) from Camden House Publishing, 54 Kestrel Avenue, London SE24 EB, England <www.sherlockholmesreport.com>; credit-card orders welcome at both sources.

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

Aug 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Further to the report (Jun 00 #7) that Joe Bevilacqua's 1980s radio series "The Mis-Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" would air again on National Public Radio stations in September, the ten shows also will be available (on five CDs or five cassettes); \$16.00 each (postpaid) or \$59.00 for all five (also postpaid) from Joe Bevilacqua, Waterlogg Productions, Box 10723, Austin, TX 78766: payment by check or money order, please.

Laurie R. King has returned home from a trip to England, where she was researching her next Mary Russell book. Laurie also reports that she now has an official web-site at <www.laurierking.com>, maintained by her niece and offering information about Laurie and all of her books, and on how you can buy signed copies of her books from a bookstore near Laurie's home: Cross-Roads Books, 1935 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 9576 (831-728-4139).

The detailed schedule for the 18th annual (as well as the last) "Autumn in Baker Street" (May 00 #5) in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 28-29, is now available from Paula Perry (346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10120 (212-348-8817) <pjperry@msn.com>.

Don Weis died on July 26. He worked as an Air Force film technician during World War II, and then joined MGM where he became a director, then turning to television, where he earned six awards from the Directors Guild of America for best television director of the year. He directed more than 40 episodes of "M*A*S*H" and worked on many other series, including "Fantasy Island", for which he directed the 1982 segment "Save Sherlock Holmes" with Ron Ely playing a department-store detective in a fantasy that had him rescuing Sherlock Holmes (Peter Lawford) from Professor Moriarty (Mel Ferrer).

At least one Sherlockian author has followed in Stephen King's footsteps, publishing on the world wide web and asking readers to send money: for the electronically enabled, Paul Boler offers three stories: "The Whitechapel Horrors" <smallrain.homestead.com/whitec1.html>, "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" <oliviaj.homestead.com/rat2.html>, and "The Werewolf of Devon" <smallrain.homestead.com/werew2.html>.

The Red-Headed League of Jersey meets twice a year in Flemington, N.J., and managed to garner nice two articles about the society and about Conan Doyle in the local newspaper, the Trenton Times (Nov. 14, 1999); photocopies are available from Peter Christianson (4175 Milords Lane, Doylestown, PA 18901) <sunset@comcat.com>.

"We are making the hound mystery more ambiguous. Viewers will think it is from hell," director Rodney Gibbons explained to the National Post in Tor-

onto. He is now filming "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Quebec for Muse Entertainment Enterprises, with Montreal filling in for Baker Street, and Harrington for the bleak expanses of Dartmoor. The film stars Matt Frewer (Holmes) and Kenneth Welsh (Watson), and will air this fall on CTV in Canada and on the Odyssey Network in the United States. Charles Prepolec offers the electronically-enabled a lot more information about the film at his web-site <www.geocities.com/sirharryflashman1/hound.html>. And Howard Ostrom reports that Muse will start work on "The Sign of the Four" this fall,

Aug 00 #2 Sir Alec Guinness died on Aug. 5. He began his acting career in 1934, as Osric and the third player in a production of "Hamlet" (with the assistance of John Gielgud), and went on to starring roles that included Col. Nicholson in "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957) and Obi-wan Kenobi in "Star Wars" (1977). Sherlockians will recall him as the blind butler Benson in "Murder by Death" (1976), which had cameo appearances by Keith McConnell as Holmes and Richard Peel as Watson, cut from the theatrical release but restored for the first television broadcast in 1979. And George MacDonald Fraser has written that the late John Ford is said to have had Conan Doyle's THE WHITE COMPANY "in his sights at the end of his career, with John Wayne and Alec Guinness in mind."

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere," Al Rosenblatt reports. Even on peaches, which (at least in upstate New York) are labeled individually as "Holmes Grown in South Carolina".

Otto Penzler notes in the July issue of The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter that he has acquired "a superb collection of Sherlock Holmes books, pamphlets, and ephemera, including many inscribed copies of books by Edgar W. Smith, Vincent Starrett, Christopher Morley, etc. If you have particular wants of more obscure titles, or variant editions of the Canon, please send you wants lists, or make an appointment to see the collection." 129 West 5th Street, New York, NY 10019 (800-3520-2840) <mysteriousny@worldnet.att.net>.

There's some Sherlockian gossip about the "Harry Potter" film that Warner Bros. hopes to have in theaters in time for Thanksgiving 2001. Pam Russell noted a report posted by Brian Linder on June 11 at the IGN FilmForce web-site at <filmforce.ign.com/harrypotter/> that Jean Hirshenson, the film's American casting director, has been testing American children for the title role, under the guise of casting for a "Young Sherlock Holmes" film; the screenplay for "Young Sherlock Holmes" was written by Chris Columbus, who is directing the "Harry Potter" film. According to Linder's source, scenes from the Holmes script were chosen that closely parallel some of the scenes from the Potter story, including the one where Holmes and Watson first meet (parallel to the scene where Harry and Ron first get to know each other on the train).

THE YOUNG WITCHES IV is a three-issue mini-series continuing the thoroughly adults-only comic-book series from Eros Comix (7563 City Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115) (800-657-1100) <www.eroscomix.com>. Sherlock Holmes returns in the first issue (June 2000); \$3.50.

Readers of this newsletter will have noted that I like show postage stamps that have some connection to the Canon or to Arthur Conan Doyle: Larry Dodson's THE PHILATELIC ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jul 00 #3) offers not pastiches or parodies, but rather a well-researched and nicely-illustrated review of postal items that show Conan Doyle, Holmes, other Canonical characters, musicians mentioned in the Canon, and actors and an executive producer associated with Sherlockian films. 72 pp., \$11.00 postpaid for members of the ATA (\$12.00 for non-members) if you order by Oct. 1 (shipping charges extra after that date); American Topical Association, Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87181) <atastamps@juno.com> (credit card orders welcome).

Aug 00 #3 Daniel Stashower has turned his attention from biography (TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE) to mysteries, and

THE DIME MUSEUM MURDERS (New York: Avon/Twilight, 1999, 249 pp., \$5.95) is both interesting and amusing. It's billed as a Harry Houdini mystery, but Harry's brother Dash does some fine detecting as well; the story is set in New York in 1897, when Houdini was still trying to launch his career as an escapologist, and liked to quote from the Sherlock Holmes stories. A second book in the series (THE FLOATING LADY) is due in December.

J. Brendan Shaw (son of Mary and grandson of Dorothy and John) edits a new newsletter called Scene of a Crime Magazine; \$7.55 for four issues (1205 East Meinecke Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53212), and the first issue (May 2000) has eight pages of reviews and interviews (non-Sherlockian this time).

The late Bill Rabe's VOICES FROM BAKER STREET I, II, AND III was a landmark four-record boxed LP album (Dec 83 #3), described by Bill as "sounds to deduce by" and offering a fascinating aural history of the Sherlockian world. And Bill's son John has found a few mint sets, still in the original cellophane wrapper, available for \$50.00 postpaid (\$60.00 outside the U.S.) from John S. Rabe, 1742 Grevelia Street #I, South Pasadena, CA 91030; payment by check or money order, please. Note: you will need a phonograph to play LP records, which are sometimes mistaken for large, thick, CDs.

Susan J. Beasley died on Aug. 14. She was an artist, and a mystery (and science fiction and fantasy) writer, and head of the Sherlockian society The Nonpareil Club in Fort Worth, Texas.

Ben Macintyre's excellent THE NAPOLEON OF CRIME: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ADAM WORTH, MASTER THIEF (Feb 98 #2) reports on the stolen Gainsborough portrait of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, and what happened to the man who stole it, and contributed to Conan Doyle's portrait of Moriarty; it's available, discounted to \$5.98, along with many other inexpensive books, from Daedalus Books (Box 6000, Columbia, MD 21045) (800-395-2665) <www.salebooks.com>.

Spotted by Ted Friedman: STICKS AND STONES: 7 WAYS YOUR CHILD CAN DEAL WITH TEASING, CONFLICT, AND OTHER HARD TIMES, by Scott Cooper (New York: Times Books, 2000; 160 pp., \$13.00); with an interesting section about a "Sherlock Holmes technique" that children can use in starting conversations and keeping them going.

"So vivid are [Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson] that they have become the object of a worldwide cult coupled with a make-believe scholarship: The members of the dozens of Sherlock Holmes societies pretend that Holmes and his friend were historical persons whose lives are recorded in minutest details in the sixty stories. Since these were not written to be consistent or complete, inferences from the data are the subject of endless argument, much of it carried on with the subdued humor that is itself an engaging aspect of Doyle's narratives. This manifestation of modern pedantry does not differ from that shown in the single-author societies and collectors' bibliographical concerns. But the Holmes-and-watson 'findings' show how easy it is to draw plausible conclusions from verbal hints when the truth is in fact unknowable." Jacques Barzun, in FROM DAWN TO DECADENCE: 500 YEARS OF CULTURAL TRIUMPH AND DEFEAT: 1500 TO THE PRESENT (1999).

Aug 00 #4 Off-topic (as they like to say in the world of the Internet): don't miss a chance to hear a performance by the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra, which does a splendid job of accompanying silent films, and performing Scott Joplin's music, on tour in the United States and Canada. Their schedule is posted at a web-site at <www.paragonragtime.com> and it's in their newsletter (The Paragon Ragtime News), and they offer their music on cassettes and CDs, and on a videocassette "The Charlie Chaplin Moving Picture Show" (their address is: Box 247, Lewisburg, PA 17837).

John Baesch notes that the ENGLISH PUBS 2001 CALENDAR (BrownTrout, \$19.99) shows the facade of The Sherlock Holmes in London on the cover and on the page for February. In book stores (now or eventually), and from the Calendar Club (800-366-3645) <www.calendars.com>.

Guernsey has issued an attractive set of ten stamps celebrating the beauty of some of the flowers to be found in Candie Gardens in St. Peter Port; the stamps were designed by Petula Stone, and one of them portrays the *watsonia*, which has tall spires of vivid red or pink petals, and comes from the winter-rainfall areas of the Cape in South Africa. It's quite likely named for a Watson than the one in the Canon, but perhaps some Sherlockian (or even Watsonian) botanist will have more information about the flower.

John Milford died on Aug. 14. He was a character actor, with appearances in more than 500 films and television shows, and was credited with the original design for the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He played Dave Taylor in "My Dear Uncle Sherlock" on ABC-TV in 1977.

Midnight Marquee (9721 Britinay Lane, Baltimore, MD 21234) (800-886-0313) <www.midmar.com> still offers the expanded American edition of Christopher Lee's autobiography TALL, DARK AND GRUESOME (Aug 99 #1) for \$20.00 (autographed), and the one-volume edition of Peter Cushing's AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY AND PAST FORGETTING (Aug 99 #1) for \$35.00 (cloth) or \$20.00 (paper); shipping costs extra, and credit-card orders welcome. Their sales list offers many other titles, and FANEX 15 will be held at the Hunt Valley Inn in Baltimore on July 6-8, 2001.

OCCASIONALLY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, edited by Joseph Coppola for The Mycroft Holmes Society Press, offers 156 pages of scholarship, poetry, pastiche, and artwork devoted (appropriately) to Mycroft Holmes; the cost is \$24.95 postpaid, from Joseph A. Coppola (103 Kenny Street, Fayetteville, NY 13066).

Carol Wenk has asked Trish and Jay Pearlman to assist with the work of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society, and they report that they're at work on setting up a web-site, and other things; those who attended the Saturday-afternoon cocktail party during the birthday festivities in 1999 will recall the delightful miniature of the sitting-room displayed by the Pearlmans. They'll be in touch soon with members of the society; if you're not a member, and would like to know more about the society, their address is 1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229 (718-998-5351) <minitongasociety@aol.com>, and there's a web-site at <hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.

Aug 00 #5 The Hotel Algonquin, for many years the unofficial headquarters for Sherlockians during the birthday festivities in New York, may become the first major New York hotel property to be run by a foundation, according to a story by Ward Morehouse III in the N.Y. Post (Aug. 8), at hand from Ted Friedman. Ian Lloyd-Jones, president of the Camberley Hotel Co. which bought the Algonquin in 1997 and has renovated the lobby and rooms, said that he is planning to set up a foundation to run the Algonquin that would be similar to the Shubert Foundation, which owns and operates 16 historic Broadway theaters. A foundation would provide the Algonquin with more protection than its current designation as a landmark, and ensure that it "will never fall into the wrong hands" and subsequently be torn down or substantially altered, Lloyd-Jones said.

Chuck Kovacic has founded a new Sherlockian society (The Baker Street Builders), for those who actually have created a full-scale reproduction of the sitting-room at 221b Baker Street. There is a lapel pin, gold for full members (free) and pewter for others (\$10.00 postpaid); his address is 9337 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343 (818-891-4069) <cfkovacic@aol.com>. And his own version of the sitting-room is on display for visitors (by appointment only); North Hills is near Los Angeles, and there's a different lapel pin available (free) for those who visit from out of state, or twice in one year from California.

"Sherlock at Saratoga" offered those who had made their reservations early enough) a pleasant day at the races on Aug. 19 (Hero's Tribute won The Silver Blaze by two lengths, driving); an enterprising con artist who claimed to be a television journalist and was hoping to finagle four free luncheons (the Sherlockians weren't fooled, needless to say); and entertaining papers at the brunch on Aug. 20. "Sherlock at Saratoga" will repeat in 2003.

"I am not Sherlock Holmes," said O. J. Simpson, at a news conference where he explained that he's still trying to find the killer of his wife and Ronald Goldman. "I can't do those things--other people do those things." The wire-service report was noted by Arnie Matanky in the Grimpen Mire Gazette (which he edits for Hugo's Companions).

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" was first exhibited in Croydon in England (Oct 95 #2), and has been in Des Moines and Fresno (Jun 99 #6), and it's now scheduled at The Health Adventure in Asheville, N.C., Sept. 25 to Dec. 31, 2000; there will be a gala event (dress black tie or Victorian costume) on Oct. 13, with a Victorian meal and live and silent auctions of Sherlockian and other material. Additional information is available from the museum (2 South Pack Square, Asheville, NC 28801) (828-254-6373 ext 0) <www.thehealthadventure.org>.

Audio Book Contractors (Box 40115, Washington, DC 20016) offers readings of a long list of authors, including Arthur Conan Doyle, on cassettes for rental or purchase. The Conan Doyle titles, read by Flo Gibson, Grover Gardner, or Richard Brown, are THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD, THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, THE LOST WORLD, SELECTED CASES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and A STUDY IN SCARLET; THE VALLEY OF FEAR is a coming attraction.

Aug 00 #6 This year's Kennedy Center Honors will be presented on Dec. 2, recognizing the life-long artistic achievements of actor/director Clint Eastwood, musician Chuck Berry, dancer Mikhail Baryshnikov, tenor Placido Domingo, and actress Angela Lansbury, who portrayed mystery-writer Jessica Fletcher in the television series "Murder, She wrote" (which premiered in 1984 with a two-hour pilot "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes")

The Pleasant Places of Florida offer their lapel pin, window decal, books, and water glasses (from which some may wish to drink something other than water, of course); an illustrated sales-list is available from Wanda Dow, 1737 Santa Anna Drive, Dunedin, FL 54698 <wjced.dunedin@worldnet.att.net>.

Kay Price reports in the current issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter that this year's Walden West Festival (Oct. 8, in Sauk City, Wis.) will feature a play based on the Solar Pons story "The Unique Dickensians" and the publication of the new original-text version of THE SOLAR PONS OMNIBUS (\$130.00). Membership in the society costs \$15.00 a year (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583) <www.derleth.org>. The guest speaker at Walden West will be Robert Weinberg, who owns the copyright to (as well as a complete collection of) the magazine Weird Tales.

THE LOST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 00 #4) has now been published, as THE HIDDEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bill Paxton (Independence: Omnibus Enterprises, 2000; 239 pp., \$25.00), with four pastiches involving Holmes with a robbery of gold from the Bank of England, handwriting analysis, the Baha'i religion, and the Knights Hospitaller. \$30.00 postpaid from the publisher (12907 East 36th Street Terrace, Independence, MO 64055).

Carl Barks died on Aug. 25. He started working for Walt Disney in the early 1930s as an "in-between" (drawing frames between action in animated cartoons), moved on to the story department, and in the 1940s was working on Disney comic books, where he gave Donald Duck what has been described as a career-prolong-

ing personality transplant (he liked to say that he turned Donald into an everyman, albeit one that quacks). He also created fabulously wealthy (and stingy) Scrooge McDuck, who encountered the "Hound of the Whiskervilles" in 1960, and appeared with Sir Sherlock in "The Invisible Intruder" in 1963.

There are still some of us who fondly remember an era when the Saturday afternoon cocktail party each January was held in Julian Wolff's Upper West Side apartment at 33 Riverside Drive, where hors d'oeuvres were laid out on the dining-room table (which the rest of the year was used by Julian as the desk where he edited *The Baker Street Journal*). To show what inflation is all about, *New York* magazine noted (Aug. 14) that a three-bedroom, three-bath, 1,800-square-foot co-op in Julian's building has been sold (time on market: one week) for \$1.425 million.

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

Sep 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The summer issue of *The Baker Street Journal* has much of interest, including Michael Dirda's reflections on Sherlock Holmes and *The Baker Street Irregulars* (presented to a capacity audience during the birthday festivities in January), and Leslie S. Klinger's interview with Hugh M. Hefner (at the Playboy Mansion, but there are no Playmates visible in the photograph that accompanies the interview); \$21.00 a year for four issues (\$23.50 outside the U.S.), Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

The BSJ also is considering publishing a complete run of the journal on a CD-ROM disk, in PDF format readable with Adobe Acrobat software (included), in early 2001, for \$100. Expressions of interest are requested (payment is not due until the disk is shipped), to help determine if there will be sufficient demand. Please contact Les Klinger (2029 Century Park East #3290, Los Angeles, CA 90067) <lsklinger@home.com>.

Bob Ennis reports that Eve Titus (the creator of Basil of Baker Street) is seriously ill in hospital in Florida (she has Guillian-Barre syndrome and is on a respirator), but she is awake and alert, and you can send get-well cards to her at Columbia-Aventura Hospital (CCU-8), 20900 Biscayne Boulevard, Aventura, FL 33180; Bob also will be happy to bring her e-mail greetings sent to him at <lsterndale@aol.com>.

Kazuo Ishiguro's novel *THE REMAINS OF THE DAY* won the Booker Prize in Britain, and his *WHEN WE WERE ORPHANS* has just been published by Knopf; he was born in Nagasaki and raised in southern England, and Helen M. Jerome's interview with him was published in *Book* magazine (July-Aug. 2000), reported by Tom Huntington: "By the age of ten, Ish [as he likes to be called] had discovered Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes and became 'quite nerdy' in his obsession with the language of those books, books in which people would say 'pray tell me' and 'my dear Watson.' Ish laughs as he confesses: 'I went around speaking like that and it must have been very bizarre, this little boy from Japan talking Victorian English.'" Book costs \$4.95, or \$20.00 a year (10 Bank Street #204, Summit, NJ 07901) (800-317-2665).

Found by Bob Robinson at his local Target store: *MOTHER GOOSE: SILLY PEOPLE RHYMES* (Lincolnwood: Publications International/Rainbow Books, 1996; 99c); with a bloodhound in Sherlockian costume illustrating "Peter White".

Further to the item about "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" in Asheville, N.C. (Aug 00 #5), the exhibit will also be on view in the Hall of Ideas at the Midland Center for the Arts in Midland, Mich., Jan. 20 to Apr. 23, 2001. Additional information is available from the museum (1001 West Saint Andrews, Midland, MI 48640) (571-631-5930) <www.mcfta.org>.

Luke Steven Fullenkamp's new pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE DRAGONS (Bloomington: 1stBooks Library, 2000; 192 pp., \$13.98) is set in 1879, with Holmes and his friend Dr. Johnathan Watson defending London and the Queen from an evil Chinese villain. The book can be downloaded over the Internet for \$4.95 <www.1stbooks.com> (and you can read a preview at the web-site), and it also is available in paper covers for \$14.70 post-paid from the publisher (2511 West 3rd Street #1, Bloomington, IN 47404).

Sep 00 #2 "Operation Tatzelwurm" is a series of mystery weekends underway in Meiringen, according to a flier at hand from Jurg and Bice Musfeld-Brugnoli, proprietors of the Parkhotel du Sauvage (which has long been a haven for Sherlockian visitors). "Wir freuen uns sehr auf ihre Anmeldung," they note, and additional information is available from the hotel (CH-3860 Meiringen, Switzerland) <www.parkhotel-du-sauvage.ch>.

Sorry about that: last month's item about "Autumn in Baker Street" on Oct. 28-29 in Tarrytown, N.Y., had the wrong ZIP code for contact Paula Perry; her correct address is 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128 (212-348-8817) <pjperry@msn.com>.

Ray Betzner spotted a <www.prnewswire.com> announcement (Sept. 5) that the Dutch company BEA Hotels NV has acquired a long-term lease on the Sherlock Holmes Hotel in Baker Street; the lease will cost £10 million plus £450,000 a year for the 125-room three-star hotel, and the hotel will be refurbished to upgrade it to a four-star rating.

G. Joseph Sills died on Aug. 31. He was a Fulbright scholar and a lawyer, and served as a Maryland workers' compensation commission for many years. He was a member of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, and the Little Big Horn Association, and he was able to combine those interests in a scholarly paper on "Holmes's Last Stand" (1987) in which Joe suggested that Holmes had spent his early life in America and had survived Custer's Last Stand, and thus was a deserter from the 7th U.S. Cavalry.

Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-544-7297) <www.bitsandpieces.com> has a seventh mystery jigsaw puzzle in its series "The Continuing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes": "The Adventure of the Suicidal Secretary" (item 04-H0140-003) costs \$7.95 plus shipping.

Ev Herzog spotted the item in the Aug.-Sept. issue of Irish American Magazine about a Gathering of Clan Moriarty, beginning Oct. 7 in Dublin. The nine-day event includes a clan reception in Dublin, a bus tour of the west of Ireland, and a clan rally in Killarny. The contact is Fr. Jim Moriarty (St. Pius X Parish, 4314 South Oak Park Avenue, Stickney, IL 60402) (708-484-7951) <jmoriarty.ync.net>.

The musical "Cats" (based on poems in T. S. Eliot's "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats") holds the record as the longest-running show in Broadway history; it opened on Oct. 7, 1982, and closed on Sept. 10, 2000. Fans of "Macavity: The Mystery Cat" will still be able to see him, however, since the show's still in theaters in other cities.

Penelope Fitzgerald, who died on Apr. 28 (May 00 #2), was the daughter and niece of great names in the Sherlockian world: her father was E. V. Knox, who used the pen-name "Evoe" when he edited Punch in the years when it published much excellent Sherlockian material, and one of her uncles was Ronald Knox, inventor of the grand game so many Sherlockians play. She wrote a fine biography of THE KNOX BROTHERS in 1977 (her two other uncles were Dillwyn, a classical scholar and a noted code-breaker in both world wars, and Wilfred, an Anglo-Catholic priest and teacher), and her book has just been reprinted (Washington: Counterpoint Press, 2000; 304 pp., \$26.00).

Sep 00 #3 "The greatest challenge is Catullus, who could be very filthy," an Oxford professor said recently. Yes, the volume of Catullus that Holmes, in disguise as an old bookseller, offered Watson, was a dirty

book, especially if it was in the original Latin. According to a story in The Times (Aug. 22), at hand from John Baesch, the Loeb Classical Library, which since 1911 has been censoring the naughty bits in translations of authors such as Catullus and Aristophanes, now is owned by Harvard University Press, which hopes that the classics can become best-sellers if the profanities and obscenities are restored.

Groombridge Place is for sale. Andrew de Candole, who bought the house and grounds eight years ago, is selling reluctantly, because he's spending much of his time overseas and can't give it the attention it needs, according to an article in the Daily Telegraph (Aug. 24), at hand from Jon Lellenberg. The 17th-century house is surrounded by a moat dating back to 1230, and is set in 200 landscaped acres. Acknowledged by Conan Doyle to have inspired the moated manor house of Birlstone in "The Valley of Fear" (Sir Arthur not only visited Groombridge, but was accused of stealing its ghost), it can be seen to good advantage in the Peter Greenaway film "The Draughtsman's Contract" (1983). The property draws up to 100,000 visitors a year, and the gardens will remain open to the public until the end of October.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for dinner in honor of the world's first forensic geologist at 7:00 pm on Nov. 15 at the Liberty Belle Saloon, Museum & Restaurant in Reno. If you would like to join us for the festivities, please contact Paul and Jenny McFarlane (10180 Deadwood Drive, Reno, NV 89506) (775-972-9141) <mcfarlane@sprintmail.com> or me (addresses at the end of the newsletter).

Sir Julian Critchley died on Sept. 9. The former Tory member of Parliament was famous for his battles with prime minister Margaret Thatcher, whom he described as someone "who cannot see an institution without hitting it with her handbag" (he received a knighthood only after Thatcher left office, at the recommendation of her successor John Major). Critchley wrote an appreciate essay about Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD for the Illustrated London News (Christmas 1976), noting that it is "one of the best adventure stories in the language" as well as high comedy, and that "Conan Doyle was one of the greatest figures in the literature of Edwardian England, surely soon to be recognized as a silver age in our letters."

The Liberton Bank House saga continues: further to the earlier report (May 00 #3) about attempts to save the house where Arthur Conan Doyle lived when he was five to seven years old from being demolished so that McDonald's can build a restaurant on the site, McDonald's and its partner Pearl Assurance filed a new application that would have kept the house bricked-up and isolated at the rear of the restaurant site, with no access road and no ground around the house. Local historian Allen Simpson sent out an e-mail alert on Sept. 3, and the Dundee Press Agency reported on Sept. 7 that the Cockburn Conservation Trust had offered to buy and preserve the house. Edinburgh City Council planning convenor Bob Cairns said that he had received e-mail from the United States, Brazil, and New Zealand urging the council to reject the latest McDonald's proposal, and that "we will be looking very closely at whether the application harms the building or its setting."

Sep 00 #4 An exhibition "South: The Race to the Pole" has opened at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, and it can be seen until Sept. 2001. It's the world's first major exhibition on Antarctic explorers Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Capt. Roald Amundsen, and there's a web-site at <www.nmm.ac.uk>, It was Scott who brought to the Antarctic a copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, and it's still there, in the small hut from which Scott set off on his ill-fated attempt to reach the South Pole.

"Lost World Babes" is the cover story on the October issue of Femme Fatales (which is devoted to "the luscious ladies of horror, fantasy, and science-fiction), spotted by Dana Richards. Jennifer O'Dell is on the cover, and there are stories about her and Rachel Blakely and the CGI special effects. "Yes, they also shoot a European version of the show which is a little more

'revealing,'" O'Dell said. "If we're going to show any T&A in the episode, then they'll show it in the European version. \$5.95 on the newstands; 7240 West Roosevelt Road, Forest Park, IL 60130 <www.femmesfatales.com>.

For those who came in late, O'Dell and Blakely star in the television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost world" (with Peter McCauley as Challenger), syndicated on local stations here. TV Guide noted (Sept. 9) that a second season will debut in October, and that O'Dell "trades in her original loincloth (which was auctioned off to a lucky fan at the end of last season for an even skimpier outfit."

Mike Ward offers original watercolor artwork for two illustrations by British artist Paul Hogarth for a French pastiche "La main brune" published by Gallimard: a deerstalker (29 x 40 cm, signed, L125) and a pipe (24 x 32 cm, initialed, L75). You can see them on the web at <www.users.waitrose.com/~clapplin/deerstalker.jpg> and <www.users.waitrose.com/~clapplin/shpipe.jpg>. Mike's address is (27 Addison Road, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3QQ, England) <michaeljohnward@btinternet.com>.

The Walt Disney cartoon "Lonesome Ghosts" (1937) featured Mickey and Goofy (wearing deerstalkers) and Donald pursuing ghosts in a haunted house, and Julie McKuras spotted a new limited-edition (2,500 copies) sericel called "Ghouls Rush In" (showing the trio) at \$295 (framed and matted) at a local Disney Store. Your local Disney Store may have a copy, or might be able to order one for you.

Reported: discussion of "The Dancing Men" in Simon Singh's THE CODE BOOK: THE EVOLUTION OF SECRECY FROM MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS TO QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY (New York: Doubleday, 1999; 402 pp., \$24.95) just reprinted in paperback as THE CODE BOOK: THE EVOLUTION OF SECRECY FROM ANCIENT EGYPT TO QUANTUM CRYPTOGRAPHY (New York: Anchor, 2000; 416 pp., \$14.00).

Curt Siodmak died on Sept. 2. He created "The Wolf Man" for Universal Pictures in 1941, and wrote or co-wrote more than 70 screenplays between 1928 and 1979, and his science-fiction novel DONOVAN'S BRAIN (1943) has become a classic in the genre. He wrote the screenplay for "Sherlock Holmes und das Haslband des Todes" (1963, which starred Christopher Lee as Sherlock Holmes and Thorley Walters as Dr. Watson, and was dubbed and released in English in 1968 as "Sherlock Holmes and the Necklace of Death".

Sep 00 #5 "L'homme n'est rien, l'oeuvre tout," Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand, and while those aren't the exact words to be found in "The Red-Headed League", it's what Flaubert did write to Amantine Lucile Aurore Dupin, the Baroness Dudevant, who was the most famous woman writer in France in the 19th century. And she's the subject of Belinda Jack's new biography GEORGE SAND: A WOMAN'S LIFE WRIT LARGE (New York: Knopf, 2000; 395 pp., \$30.00).

"The Golden Spiders: A Nero Wolfe Mystery" debuted on A&E cable on Mar. 5, starring Maury Chaykin as Nero Wolfe and Tim Hutton as Archie Goodwin, and a brief glimpse of the portrait of Sherlock Holmes on the wall over Goodwin's desk in Wolfe's office; it's now available on cassette (100 minutes) from A&E Home Video (\$19.95). John McAleer (Rex Stout's biographer) asked him, "Did Archie hang up the picture of Sherlock Holmes that is found over his desk, or did Wolfe put it there?" Stout replied, "I was a damn fool to do it. Obviously it's always an artistic fault in any fiction to mention any other character in fiction. It should never be done."

The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has nice tributes to the late Cameron Hollyer, and Dayna McCausland's examination of Sherlockian comic strips and comic books; copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@idirect.com>. And (for the electronically enabled), the Friends' web-site is at <www.acdfriends.org>.

The 1932 Czech film "Lelicek ve sluzbach Sherlocka Holmesa" [Lelicek in the Service of Sherlock Holmes] was directed by Karel Lamac and starred Martin Fric as Holmes, and it's now available on an NTSC-format videocassette (in Czech, without subtitles) from Video EL Canada, 583 William Street, London, ON N6B 3E8, Canada; CA\$41.00 or US\$37.00 postpaid (checks or money orders, please).

Further to the earlier report (Aug 00 #1) on the new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Matt Frewer as Holmes), the film is scheduled to debut on the Odyssey Channel on Oct. 21. The Odyssey Channel most likely can be found among the digital channels available from some cable services.

Patricia King examines "The Dyeing Detective" in the September issue of The Camden House Journal (the monthly four-page newsletter published by the Occupants of the Empty House), and that's not a misprint: it's hair dye, and she comes to a surprising and interesting conclusion about what Holmes did after he encountered Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls. A subscription to The Camden House Journal costs \$12.00 a year from Stan Tinsley (105 Wilcox Avenue, Ziegler, IL 62999); copies of "The Dyeing Detective" are available (free) from Stan, who's also at <srtin@hotmail.com>. And the society has a web-site at <www.75megs.com/camdenhouse/>.

For the electronically-enabled: the SciFi Channel's web-site at <www.scifi.com/set/originals/> offers a Seeing Ear Theater web-page with a long list of audio adaptations, and you now can (if your computer is fancy enough), listen to Poul Anderson's imaginative pastiche "The Martian Crown Jewels" starring Bronson Pinchot as Syaloch (and with a script by Andrew Joffe).

Sep 00 #6 There has been a lot of publicity about Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle colluded with his publishers to deny B. Fletcher Robinson recognition for devising the plot and supplying much of the local detail for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and then in 1907, worried that his affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys would be discovered, poisoned Fletcher Robinson with laudanum. According to a story in the Sunday Times (Sept. 10), Garrick-Steele moved into Park Hill House, Fletcher Robinson's former home, in the 1980s, but was unaware of its literary connections until "a photograph of the young Conan Doyle was mysteriously left on the doorstep." According to a story in the Sunday Express on the same date, Garrick-Steele's 500-page manuscript has been rejected by 90 publishers, and he is hoping that "publicity surrounding his allegations will be enough to get the book into print." He has been described in the press as a former driving instructor, undertaker, and property developer; it remains to be seen if he will become a published author.

A new stamp honors the 150th anniversary of California's statehood; California is mentioned in three Sherlock Holmes stories ("A Study in Scarlet", "The Noble Bachelor", and "The Valley of Fear"). The spectacular view of the Pacific coast is one that Conan Doyle might well have seen when he visited California in 1923. "It is a nice question," he wrote in OUR SECOND AMERICAN ADVENTURE, "whether San Francisco does not stand first in natural beauty of all cities in the world."

Almost three years ago I wrote about a new CD-ROM disk, and it is just as interesting and useful now as it was then, and, since there are many more Sherlockians and Doyleans who have computers with CD-ROM readers now, I'll reprint my review:

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 com-

puters. 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, please.

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

Oct 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's going to be a lot going on in mid-November in and near Washington: Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" will be performed in Arlington, Va., on Nov. 17-19; "A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes: Sherlock Under the Lens" will be held at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 18, and The Red Circle of Washington celebrates its 50th anniversary at dinner on Nov. 20.

A synopsis of the play: "William Gillette has invited the cast of his revival of 'Sherlock Holmes' to his Connecticut home for the weekend. Someone is trying to murder Gillette, and he has reason to suspect that it is one of his guests for the weekend, and the intrepid and eccentric Gillette has taken on, in real life, his greatest role: he plans to solve the case a la Sherlock Holmes! Shots in the dark, a stormy night, and bottles over the head, all lead to misbegotten suspicions among the guests." There will be three performances, on Nov. 17 (8:00 pm), Nov. 18 (8:00 pm), and Nov. 19 (2:00 pm), at the Bishop O'Connell High School at 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22213; tickets cost \$8.00 (or \$5.00 for students and seniors) (and there's a special family rate for members of the Knights of Columbus), and reservations are needed if you want a good seat (the box-office telephone number is 703-237-1448).

"A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" is sponsored by the Sherlockian societies in Baltimore; it's the 21st annual program, and it starts at 10:00 on Nov. 18, with presentations by local Sherlockians, and the festivities will end at 1:00. There's no charge, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library is located at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

And The Red Circle will celebrate its 50th anniversary at dinner at The National Press Club in Washington, with Karen Anderson (the founder and still the president of the society) on hand, accompanied by her husband Poul Anderson; drinks at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. Dinner costs \$36.50, and reservations are important; please contact Peter E. Blau (addresses at the end of the last page of this newsletter).

John A. Kerr died on Oct 13. He was a certified public accountant, proud of his Scots ancestors (he wore his kilt to help the Bootmakers of Toronto celebrate their 25th anniversary), and a member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, The Clients of Sherlock Holmes, The Denizens of the Bar of Gold, and other societies on the mid-Atlantic coast.

Marina Stajic and Paul Singleton have discovered a Baker Street restaurant and pub in New York, at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street); there's a Sherlockian silhouette on the menu and matchbooks, and their web-site may be up and running now at <<http://www.bakerstreetny.com>>.

Planning continues for the 10th annual dinner of the STUD Sherlockian Soci-

ety, at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, Ill., on Mar. 2, 2001, with Steve Doyle as featured speaker, a silent auction of material from the late Dennis France's collection of Sherlockiana, as well as the traditional awards, toasts, and door prizes. And there will be a Solar Pons Breakfast and other events on Mar. 3. Additional details are available from Allan T. Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <atdevitt@mediaone.net>.

Oct 00 #2 For the completists: Tom Baker's autobiography WHO ON EARTH IS TOM BAKER? (London: HarperCollins, 1997; 268 pp., £17.99) has been remaindered, and includes minor discussion of his appearances on television as Doctor Who in "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (1977) and as Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982) and in Hugh Leonard's play "The Mask of Moriarty" (1985).

Further to the obituary for Curt Siodmak (Sep 00 #4), the latest issue of Scarlet Street (#39) offers some fine articles about him and his films; the magazine costs \$35.00 a year for six issues (Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452). <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.

Scarlet Street also reports that Arts & Entertainment cable plans to follow their "The Golden Spiders: A Nero Wolfe Mystery" with another two-hour film ("The Doorbell Rang") and ten one-hour episodes starring Maury Chaykin and Timothy Hutton. If they use the same set for Wolfe's office, there may be more glimpses of the portrait of Sherlock Holmes hanging on the wall over Archie Goodwin's desk.

Claire Pierce, who provides Special Events Bulletin Boards for the Touring America Guild, has kindly created one for Sherlockian events, and if you have access to the world wide web, you can see how it works at the web-site at <<http://www.touringtiles.com/bulletin/sherlock/wwwboard.htm>>, and post your own notices (and there's no charge for posting or access).

Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938) has been honored in our series of "Literary Arts" stamps. He's best known for his novel LOOK HOMEWARD, ANGEL (1929), and Stephen M. Black's "A Meeting Between Sherlock Holmes and Thomas Wolfe--A Possible and Plausible Scenario" was published The Thomas Wolfe Review (Spring 1983).

Does anyone recall anything about Arthur Conan Doyle having visited Elton Manor? Eliza Wright spotted a passing mention of this in THE MARIAN CONSPIRACY, by Graham Phillips (London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 2000); Phillips says that Conan Doyle stayed at Elton Manor in 1899, and that the manor was the inspiration for Baskerville Hall, but cites no source.

A new issue of The Sherlockian Times has arrived from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>> with a nice selection of books, mugs, audio and videocassettes, and other collectibles, including a new "Sherlock Hare" (complete with birth certificate); do your Christmas shopping early.

It has been a while since I mentioned The Edgar Wallace Society, whose members are devoted to their hero as we are to ours; Edgar Wallace was one of the most prolific authors in modern literature (and he wrote the dialogue for the 1932 film version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). The society has the blessing of Wallace's granddaughter Penny Wyrde, and has a quarterly newsletter called The Crimson Circle, and membership costs £15.00 in Europe (£10.00 for students and seniors) and £20.00/£15.00 elsewhere. Additional information is available from Kai Jorg Hinz at Kohlbergsgracht 40, NL-6462 CD Kerkrade, The Netherlands <<http://www.edgarwallace.org>>.

Oct 00 #3 John Baesch has forwarded a review by Jim Carey in The Sunday Times (Sept. 24) of HOW THE ENGLISH MADE THE ALPS, by Jim Ring (London: John Murray, 2000; 290 pp., £19.99); it appears that British mountaineers who were members of the Alpine Club, founded in 1857 by people who

believed that Alps were only to be climbed, were far from happy when Arthur Conan Doyle launched the sport of downhill skiing, which one member of the club called "a return to the primitive delights practised by savages."

The Sept. 2000 "mostly new arrivals" catalog from Peter L. Stern (55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111) <psbook@aol.com> offers some interesting Sherlockiana and Doyleana, including the 12-page manuscript for "The Coming of the Huns" (one of his fine tales of Roman history), offered at \$37,500.

The Easton Press (47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06875) (800-211-1308) is still offering THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES in three volumes; first issued in 1987, it's a handsome leather-bound reprint (with color frontispieces) of the Heritage Press edition published in 1952 and 1957; \$54.00 per volume postpaid.

Stradivarius violins continue to make the news: John Baesch has forwarded a story from the Daily Telegraph (Sept. 25), about the Messiah Stradivarius, which has been owned by the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford for a century and a half and, now that experts have concluded it's authentic, is valued at £10 million. The violin is in perfect condition, which made it suspect in the view of some who believed it a 19th-century fake, but a study of tree rings in the violin's Alpine spruce top show it to be far older, and perhaps even made from the same tree as two other Strads created in 1717.

Morton Lowry died on Aug. 22. He began his acting career on stage in London, and moved to Hollywood in the 1930s, acting in films for more than 20 years; he played John Stapleton in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) and the steward Sanford in "Pursuit to Algiers" (1945).

Forecast: Gerard van der Leun's THE QUOTABLE SHERLOCK HOLMES ("a comprehensive compendium of the first consulting detective's wit, wisdom, and philosophy"), from the Mysterious Press in November (256 pp., \$12.95).

Jerry Kegley presented a paper on "The Magic Bullet Pre-Kennedy: Dr. John H. Watson at the Battle of Maiwand" at a meeting of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street on Sept. 17; copies of the 23-page paper (which Jerry describes as a "definitive chapbook") are available from the author (110 El Nido Avenue #41, Pasadena, CA 91107 (\$7.50 postpaid).

Further to the item (Sep 00 #1) on the possibility of a CD-ROM disk with a complete run of The Baker Street Journal, The Baker Street Irregulars have announced that the disk will be published, with the Old Series, the Christmas Annuals, and 50 volumes of the New Series (through the end of 2000) in PDF format; and with Don Redmond's subject, author, and title indexes; and with search and cut-and-paste features; and with Adobe Reader software in both windows and Macintosh formats. The cost will be \$105.00 postpaid (or \$110.00 outside North America); checks (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to The Baker Street Irregulars, 2029 Century Park East #3290, Los Angeles, CA 90067, and the disks will be shipped early in 2001.

Oct 00 #4 Peter Melonas (Sherlock Holmes Mystery Book Store, 1770 Sixth Crompton Square, Memphis, TN 38134 <capedthief@cs.com> offers copies of Joe Barros' 1981 "A Three Pipe Problem" lithograph portrait of Sherlock Holmes (\$45.00 postpaid), and of John Northcross' 1992 print showing Holmes and Watson (\$12.00 postpaid). Illustrated flier are available on request.

Further to the item (Jul 00 #1) about the boxed set of "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" with 48 hours of audio material on 36 cassettes, I neglected to mention that all those hours are the BBC radio series that starred Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (the first time the entire Canon has been recorded with the same actors as Holmes and Watson); the set costs £150, and the cassettes also are available separately.

Available from Thomas Biblewski: a chrome-plated lapel pin with

a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes. \$7.00 postpaid, from the Baker Street Dispatch, Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613.

Noted by Paul Churchill: William R. Hanson's article "The Adventure of the Detective Stamp" in October issue of American Philatelist, about many of the postage stamps that have honored Sherlock Holmes. Hanson has designed more than 3,000 stamps for some two dozen countries, and one of his designs may be new to Sherlockian philatelists: a young woman of Queen Victoria's day shown in front of the Northumberland Hotel in London, on the souvenir sheet issued by Bhutan in 1990 to honor Stamp World London 90. Box 8000, State College, PA 16803; \$3.95.

Further to the item (Sep 00 #6) on Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stole "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from B. Fletcher Robinson, had an affair with his wife, and murdered him, Variety reported on Oct. 11 that Nash Entertainment has bought the film, stage, television, and book rights to the Garrick-Steele manuscript. Nash Entertainment is a Hollywood production company responsible for television series such as "The Sexiest Bachelor in America", "I Confess!", "Speed Dating", and "Wanted!".

William S. Dorn has been teaching courses on Sherlock Holmes at the University of Denver for more than 25 years, and the results of his work are now available in A STUDY GUIDE TO SHERLOCK HOLMES, which offers quizzes, questions, and exercises in chronology. The first volume (with 288 pages) has a foreword by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt and covers the four novels, the Adventures, and the Memoirs; it can be ordered from The Sherlock Store (2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210), and the postpaid cost is \$19.95 (to the U.S.), \$20.95 (Canada), and \$25.95 (elsewhere). A CD-ROM disk (without answers to the questions) can be used to generate print-outs of assignments and costs \$9.95/\$10.95/\$12.95 postpaid.

"2001: A New Sherlockian Odyssey: a Journey Through the Shaw 100" will be held in Minneapolis on June 29-July 1, 2001; the conference will focus on John Bennett Shaw's "Basic Holmesian Library" (with an exhibit at the Elmer L. Andersen Library), and there will be distinguished speakers, an auction, a banquet, a meeting of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and other entertainment. Details are available from Julie McKuras (13512 Grand Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) <mike9750@aol.com>.

Oct 00 #5 Peter Turgeon died on Oct. 6. He started his acting career as one of the Day children in a touring production of "Life with Father" in 1940, and worked in film and television as well as on stage, and he was a writer, director, and actor at the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center in Waterford, Conn., where in 1973 he played Holmes in the world premiere of Allen Sternfield's one-act play "Holmes and Moriarty, or An Extension of Philosophy, or The Rape of Mrs. Hudson".

The American Firm, a Sherlockian society whose "resident patient" project raises money to buy large-print editions of the Canon for adult homes and nursing homes, welcomes donations for the project, and offers badges, bookmarks, mouse pads, tea towels, a quiz book, and other Sherlockian merchandise; an illustrated sales-list is available from Edward S. Smith, Jr. (Box 353, Williston Park, NY 11596) <amerfirm@aol.com>.

Elfed Jones offers original, excellently-preserved issues of The Times and the Pall Mall Gazette from the 1880s and 1890s ("as read by Holmes and Watson"); \$19.00 each (Yesterday's News, 43 Dundonald Road, Colwyn Bay, Clwyd LL29 7RE, United Kingdom).

Cerebro (Box 327, East Prospect, PA 17317) <<http://www.cerebro.com>> (800-695-2235) offers a wide variety of colorful antique label art (cigar box, fruit crate, and can labels), and their new catalog includes the Sherlock Holmes cigar box labels: inner lid label (\$8.00) and outer label (two variants, \$24.00 and \$75.00).

The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers warm tributes to the late E. W. McDiarmid, by Andrew Malec, Julie McKuras, and John Bergquist, and news of the collections and notes on some of the more interesting items. If you'd like to be on their mailing list you can contact Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@maroon.tc.umn.edu>.

The Ferret Company Catalog is now available, with a colorful illustration of The Ferret Calendar 2001 cover photograph of a deerstalkered ferret with a magnifying glass (Jul 00 #6). The calendar costs \$13.95 plus shipping (\$4.95 in the U.S.); Box 7161, Redwood City, CA 94063, and can see the photograph at <<http://www.ferretcompany.com>>.

Issues #38 and #39 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offer David Stuart Davies' continuing series of articles on the Granada series; Roger Llewellyn's report on his tour of Canada in the play "Sherlock Holmes - The Last Act!"; Roger Johnson's tribute to Solar Pons; an interview with Matt Frewer (who played Sherlock Holmes in the new television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"); Nick Utechin's two-part discussion of parodies and pastiches (adapted from his BBC radio broadcast in July); and much more (Sherlockian and otherwise). Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £18.00 (U.K.)/L20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>, and their U.S. agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>>. Credit-card orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.

Oct 00 #6 The Shoso-in Bulletin's tenth volume, published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo and edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes, offers 208 pages of articles, poetry, essays, pastiches, parodies, and artwork, from contributors on five continents, all in English and nicely done as usual. \$12.00 postpaid from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders welcome. And the Shoso-in Bulletin has its own web-site, at <<http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm>>.

Spotted by Jennie Paton: a "Stuffins" seated Santa, about 10" high, wearing a deerstalker, in "The Island of Misfit Toys" soft-toys series, exclusively at CVS stores; \$12.95. Stuffins is at Box 124, Brielle, NJ 08730.

Plan ahead: The Canonical Convocation and Capar, held in Door County, Wis., from 1989 to 1998, will hold a reunion (not restricted to alumni) on Sept. 7-9, 2001, at the Waterbury Inn in Ephraim. Donald B. Izban, Tom and Janet Biblewski, and Joel and Carolyn Senter comprise the CCC Committee, and they note that reservations are first come, first served. Details are available from Donald B. Izban (213 Ivy Court, Streamwood, IL 60107).

Jacques Barzun's FROM DAWN TO DECADENCE: 500 YEARS OF CULTURAL TRIUMPH AND DEFEAT: 1500 TO THE PRESENT (Aug 00 #3) has been nominated for the National Book Award. The winners of the awards will be honored by the National Book Foundation in New York on Nov. 15, when Ray Bradbury will receive the 2000 Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters.

The Czech Republic has joined the list of countries that have Sherlockian societies: Ceska spolecnost Sherlocka Holmese [The Czech Sherlock Holmes Society] will have its first meeting on Nov, 25 in Prague. The contact is Ales Kolodrubec (Milesovska 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic) <classifieds@praguepost.cz>.

Reported: James R. Stefanie's THE CHARTERS AFFAIR: BEING A REMINISCENCE OF DR. JOHN H. WATSON (428 pp., \$20.95); a pastiche involving Holmes in an investigation of a 16th-century mystery that has culminated in a 19th-century murder. The book can be ordered through bookstores, and from retailers on the world wide web; it's published on demand by iUniverse, a company that's

similar to Xlibris (Apr 00 #3), offering authors who can provide electronic text a way to have books published at little or no cost. You can get more information about iUniverse at <<http://www.iuniverse.com>> (800-376-1736).

Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes is one of the more than 120 stars of the 1930s and 1940s portrayed by the late George I. Parrish, Jr., in his print (35 x 14.5 in.) "The Golden Era of the Movies"; it's available for \$75.00 from Barwick Publishing (Box 5355, Maryville, TN 37802), and they now have a web-site at <<http://www.barwickpublishing.com>>.

"They Might Be Giants" (the rock group that took its name from the George C. Scott film) is touring: Nov. 2/9/16/23/30 at the Bowery Ballroom in New York (212-982-6115); Nov. 3 at the 9:30 Club in Washington (202-265-0930); Nov. 4 at the Recher Theater in Baltimore (410-337-7178); Nov. 10 at Pales-tra in Rochester, N.Y. (716-275-2332); and Nov. 18 at the Avalon Ballroom in Boston (617-262-2424). Their web-site is at <<http://www.tmbg.com>>.

Oct 00 #7 Sherlock Holmes' 147th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 5, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the celebration actually starts on Thursday evening, when the BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club at 24 East 39th Street (between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be Madeleine B. Stern, author of the classic paper "Sherlock Holmes: Rare-Book Collector (1953), and for decades an expert book dealer (\$10.00); seating is limited, and you are advised to reserve early; details below).

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 hotel provides its guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day (and pay \$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; \$36.00 (Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014). And Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house at The Mysterious Bookshop (129 West 56th Street) from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sherlockian authors will be on hand to sign their books.

The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Union League Club at 38 East 37th Street. The Baskerville Bash (open to all Sherlockians and their friends) offers dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club at 201 West 52nd Street (between Broadway and Seventh Avenue); \$65.00 until Dec. 15, then \$75.00 (Paula J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128) <www.homestead.com/baskervillebash/BB.html> (and please let Paula know your e-mail address, and your primary Sherlockian society affiliation). Early reservations are advised for the William Gillette luncheon and the Baskerville Bash.

Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs in the dinner packets can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to James B. Saunders (3011 47th Street, Astoria, NY 11103) and 140 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.

On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available in a dealers' room on the 2nd floor of the Hotel Algonquin at 59 West 44th Street, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; for information on vendor tables, contact Ralph Hall, 2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218 (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com>.

The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent gathering) at the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm (possibly in the lobby, or elsewhere, depending on how many people show up). If you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@mediaone.net>.

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); there will be an open bar, and hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, and the usual traditional and untraditional entertainment, and the cost of the event is \$35.00 (details below) or \$45.00 at the door.

Oct 00 #8 There will be an early-Saturday-evening event, also at the National Arts Club, where Paul Singleton will present "The Celluloid Hound" reviewing the many film and television versions of the story; this will take about 30 minutes, and it will start reasonably soon after the reception ends, and there will be a nominal charge for the event.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have arranged an informal brunch on Sunday, at noon at the Baker Street restaurant at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street); it's open to all, and reservations are advised, to Marina Stajic (425 East 51st Street #4-A, New York, NY 10022) <mstajic@aol.com>.

The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$195.00 a night (Tuesday through Sunday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI (the special rate is the equivalent of \$170.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians; contact the Algonquin directly (there's a firm mid-December cut-off deadline) and ask for the Baker Street Irregulars rate (212-840-6800).

And here are the details: you can request a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, and the Saturday reception, from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; he will mail out the reservation forms by mid-November.

Mary Ellen Rich has kindly provided a list of hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, along with a warning about non-optional extras: \$2.00 a day occupancy tax, 8.25% state tax, and 5% city tax. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate), and if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and you should request a written confirmation. Best Western Manhattan (17 West 32nd St.): \$89 (promotional: single/double) (212-736-1600); Comfort Inn Midtown (129 West 46th St.): \$89 \$99 (double) (212-221-2600); Thirty Thirty Hotel (30 East 30th St.): \$90 (promo: single/double) (212-689-1900); Red Roof Inn (6 West 32nd St.): \$90 (corporate: single/double) (212-643-7100); Quality Hotel (59 West 46th St.): \$99 (single/double) (212-719-2300); Best Western Woodwood (210 West 55th St.): \$119 (single/double) (212-247-2000). And Mary Ellen recommends <<http://www.panix.com>> for links to Manhattan hotels, hostels, and bed-and-breakfasts.

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 return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance can also be mailed to Dr. Watson at the same address.

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

Nov 00 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The 18th "Autumn in Baker Street" in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Oct. 28-29 was a delightful gathering, with some 125 people on hand for the festivities, and to pay tribute to Bob Thomalen, who has both arranged and presided over all

of the gatherings. This was his swan song, and the weekend was full of fun and games, and a bit of scholarship, and a dinner that featured warm tributes to Bob and Terry, and a rousing performance by the Sherlettes and the Sherhunks (who will perform again at the Baskerville Bash in January), and an after-hours songs-and-cigars room-party that was raided by the hotel security chief, who wisely offered the celebrants a larger meeting room next to a wedding party that was almost as raucous; the room's smoke alarm was disabled, and it was reported at breakfast that the party concluded at the canonical hour of 2:21 am.

Bouchercon 2000 was held in Denver on Sept. 7-10, and (according to reports from all quarters received) quite successful, and there were three 45-minute sessions of particular interest: "Sherlock's Radio Plays" (David Haugen and Bill Seil) [BCX09-420]; "Spirits and Spitoons: Arthur Conan Doyle in America" (Daniel Stashower) [BCX09-840]; and "The Sherlockian Canon: High Crimes" (David Haugen, Bill Seil, and Stu Shiffman) [BCX09-910]. Bouchercon sessions are audiotaped, and you can purchase cassettes from Tree Farm Communications, 23703 N.E. 4th Street, Sammamish, WA 98074 (800-468-0464) <<http://www.treefarmtapes.com>>; \$11.00 each postpaid (credit-card orders welcome).

Bouchercon will be in Washington on Nov. 1-4, 2001 (Box 11700, Washington, DC 20008) <<http://www.bouchercon2001.com>>, and then in Austin in 2002 (Box 27277, Austin, TX 78755 <acs@crimeandspace.com>).

Reported: Adam Goodheart's article "The Last Island of the Savages" in the autumn issue of American Scholar, about North Sentinel Island, which is a close neighbor (30 miles away) of Great Andaman Island in the Indian Ocean; the first "friendly visit" occurred in 1991, when a small group of Indian officials managed to land on the island and distributed gifts of coconuts without being killed by the Sentinelese. That also may have been the only friendly visit: Goodheart approached the island in a small boat, but did not attempt to land.

"Swift Goes to the Races!" is the theme of this year's Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal, which will offer Wayne B. Swift's comprehensive history of the Silver Blaze races (world wide) since the first such event was held in 1952. The 64-page annual is not part of subscriptions to the BSJ, and you'll need to place your orders by Dec. 15 in order to be sure of getting a copy. Orders can be sent to The Baker Street Journal (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); \$11.00 postpaid in the U.S. (checks only, please), and \$12.00 postpaid to other countries (credit-card orders welcome).

The most recent volumes in The Baker Street Irregulars' excellent archival-history series (edited by Jon L. Lellenberg) also are available: IRREGULAR PROCEEDINGS OF THE MID 'FORTIES (1995), and IRREGULAR CRISES OF THE LATE 'FORTIES (1999) cost \$27.90 each postpaid (\$28.90 outside the U.S.) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331.

Nov 00 #2 Dirk J. Struik died on Oct. 21. He began teaching mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1926, and his landmark two-volume CONCISE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS was published in 1948 (a revised fourth edition was issued in 1987 and is still in print). He also was a fervent Marxist and in 1951 was accused by a county grand jury of advocating the overthrow of the government, and MIT suspended him from teaching until the case was dropped five years later. His article on "The Real Watson" was published in The Baker Street Journal in Jan. 1947, and he was still a Sherlockian when he was a centenarian; Dirk greatly enjoyed attending annual dinners of The Friends of Irene Adler, and toasting his fellow mathematician Professor Moriarty. "I've lived this long because I didn't die," he told the Associated Press in 1999, when he was 104.

Arthur Conan Doyle wrote "The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe: A True Ghost Story" toward the end of the 1870s, and submitted it to Blackwood's Magazine; the story was never published, but the magazine kept the manuscript,

which was discovered in its archives, now at the National Library of Scotland. The story is being published for the first time, on Dec. 1, with an introduction by Owen Dudley Edwards, an afterword by Christopher Roden, and a reproduction of the first page of the manuscript, by the Ash-Tree Press (Box 136, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada). The book costs CA\$45.00/US\$35.00/L21.00 plus shipping (credit-card orders welcome), and there's a web-site at <<http://ash-tree.bc.ca/ashtreecurrent.html>>.

"Mr. Holmes was a dinner guest at the white House," Washington Evening Star reporter Ben McKelway was told by an official at the National Theater on Jan. 6, 1930. Of course it wasn't Holmes, but rather William Gillette, who had arrived to begin a one-week run of his play and had been invited to luncheon with President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover. Our new stamp honors the bicentennial of the opening of the white House, which has been visited by notable Sherlockians, including Christopher Morley, whose article about "What the President Reads: Notes on a Visit to the White House" in the Saturday Review of Literature (Sept. 24, 1932) said of President Herbert Hoover: "Though not a great zealot of the detective story he knows his Sherlock Holmes, Anna Katharine Green, Mary Roberts Rinehart, S. S. Van Dine."

Mark Alberstat's 2001 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 post-paid, and his address is 5 Lorraine Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2B9, Canada.

Laurie R. King is home after her promotional tour to Australia, and is now at work on her next Mary Russell book, JUSTICE HALL, scheduled for publication next year. There's lots of information about Laurie and her books at her official web-site at <<http://www.laurierking.com>>, with information on how to get signed copies of her books from a bookstore near Laurie's home: Cross-Roads Books, 1935 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 9576 (831-728-4139).

And Laurie's "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" is now on the air in Great Britain, dramatized by Sean Prendergast and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in four weekly episodes beginning on Nov. 15, starring Monica Dolan (Mary Russell), James Fox (Sherlock Holmes), and Sean Prendergast (Dr. Watson).

Nov 00 #3 The Northern Musgraves offer some attractive new merchandise: a bronze bust of Peter Cushing as Holmes, a pewter statuette of Peter Cushing as Holmes, and a bone-china cup with the Musgrave Ritual and the society's logo. An illustrated sales-list is available from Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bingley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England.

Further to the item (Oct 00 #6) about the Shoso-in Bulletin, editor Yuichi Hirayama welcomes submissions (especially from countries where English is not the primary language) for the next volume; Yuichi's address is: 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan <hirayama@parkcity.ne.jp>.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for dinner at the Liberty Belle Saloon in Reno on Nov. 15, welcomed by Paul and Jenny McFarlane and other members of The Jarveys of the Metropolis. As usual, we toasted the world's first forensic geologist, and then many other people, including Sarah Andrews, whose sixth mystery novel about forensic geologist Em Hansen (AN EYE FOR GOLD) has just been published by St. Martin's Minotaur. Sarah brought along her friend David A. Spencer, who carried a paperback copy of her earlier ONLY FLESH AND BONES with him to Mount Everest, and left it behind at the camp at 6,502 meters, establishing Em Hansen as our most elevated forensic geologist. Our next dinners will be in Denver in June and in Boston in November 2001.

William T. Hurtz died on Oct. 14. He was a splendid animator who began his career with Walt Disney in 1938 (working on the dancing mushroom sequence in "Fantasia")

in 1940), and went on to launch United Productions of America (he was the layout artist for "Gerald McBoing-Boing"), and in 1959 moved to Jay Ward Productions (where he was one of the first to direct and supervise "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle"). He drew this Sherlockian "Rocky and Bullwinkle" artwork for Jerry Margolin, who reproduced it on his 1984 Christmas card.

Many Sherlockians have visited William Gillette's home (Gillette Castle and State Park) in East Haddam, Conn., but I don't recall anyone reporting on a visit to Gillette's grave in Riverside Cemetery in Farmington, Conn. William Force spotted the story in the Farmington Valley Post (Oct. 26): enter the cemetery through the south gate, and look for the brownstone Civil War Monument; Gillette's grave is several steps to the east of the monument.

Allen Mackler reports some nice finds in a catalog from The Scholar's Bookshelf: Richard D. Altick's WRITERS, READERS, AND OCCASIONS: SELECTED ESSAYS ON VICTORIAN LITERATURE AND LIFE (1989) discounted to \$12.95; Altick's THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESENT: TOPICS OF THE DAY IN THE VICTORIAN NOVEL (1991) discounted to \$19.95; Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1999) discounted to \$19.95; and THE SUPERNATURAL TALES OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1987) discounted to \$8.99; the address is 110 Melrich Road, Cranbury, NJ 08512) <<http://scholarsbookshelf.com/literature/>>.

Nov 00 #4 Those who enjoyed "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" on BBC-2 in Britain in January and on PBS-TV in the United States in May (starring Ian Richardson as Joseph Bell and Robin Laing as Arthur Conan Doyle) will welcome the report from script-writer David Pirie that shooting began on Nov. 13 on four more 90-minute episodes.

Further to the mention of The Edgar Wallace Society (Oct 00 #2), the House of Stratus is bringing Wallace's books back into print: 28 titles are now available, with 28 more due in February, and members of the society receive a discount. Details are available from Penny Wyrde (84 Ridgefield Road, Oxford OX4 3DA, England) <<http://www.edgarwallace.org>>.

Tom Huntington notes Sherlockian dialogue in the new film "Best in Show": when Harlan Pepper (played by Christopher Guest) enters the show arena with his bloodhound Hubert, the clueless commentator (Buck Laughlin, played by Fred Willard) asks his co-commentator if the bloodhound would stand a better chance if he came on wearing a Sherlock Holmes cap and with a pipe that could be rigged to blow smoke.

And Mia Stampe has reported that in Robin Williams' film "Jakob the Liar" (1999), one of the old men says that he has played minor roles in some Shakespeare plays, and Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

John Broush's artwork is shown on new "Shirts from the South Downers" (polo shirts and T-shirts), available in various colors and sizes; an illustrated flier with full details is offered by Tim O'Connor (6015 West Route 115, Herscher, IL 60941); the deadline for orders is Dec. 31.

The Red Circle of Washington celebrated its 50th anniversary at dinner at the National Press Club on Nov. 20 with our founder Karen Kruse Anderson on hand for the festivities. Karen reminisced about the society's early days, Jon Lellenberg paid tribute to six members of The Baker Street Irregulars who attended meetings in the 1950s, Sarah Rosenbaum reviewed significant events of later decades, Mike Whelan offered ideas on why so many Sherlockian societies have been so long-lived, and Beau Briggs and Nora Myers offered a dramatic bilingual toast to Emilia Lucca. And as

might be expected, national politics was not neglected: both presidential candidates were reported to be suffering from medical problems. George W. Bush was receiving treatment for erectile dysfunction, and Al Gore was having trouble with premature congratulation.

Further to the item (Oct 00 #4) about the boxed set of "The Complete Sherlock Holmes" on 36 cassettes starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams (in the series broadcast by BBC radio), Bert Coules notes that you get all 50 hours for your L150 (and he should know, since he wrote many of the series scripts).

Sherlock Holmes continues to turn up in medical journals: Richard Lackritz spotted Krishnansu S. Tewari's "The Adventure of the Three Abnormal Paps" in *Obstetrics & Gynecology* (Nov. 2000). in which Holmes is consulted by Sir William Gull and meets Dr. Frederick Treves (of Elephant Man fame).

Nov 00 #5 Forecast for December: THE SCOTTISH PLAY: A MYCROFT HOLMES MYSTERY, by Quinn Fawcett (Forge, \$24.95); the fourth novel in the series of pastiches ("when an actor resembling him mysteriously disappears, Mycroft Holmes must step into his shoes in Macbeth, while his allies search London for the missing man and battle to the enigmatic Brotherhood").

Forecast for January: a paperback reprint of SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON, by Larry Millett (Penguin, \$5.99). INTO THE MUMMY'S TOMB, edited by John Richard Stephens (Berkley, \$14.00); contents include essays by Egyptologists Arthur Weigall and Howard Carter, and short stories Anne Rice, Bram Stoker, Elizabeth Peters, Arthur Conan Doyle, and others.

An auction of "illustrative paintings and drawings" at Illustration House on Nov. 4 included a painting by Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle, ("Man at the edge of the pits of Hell", in watercolor and gouache en gris-aille) which sold for \$2,200 (plus 10% for the buyer's premium). The electronically-enabled may still be able to see the painting (lot 14) at their web-site at <<http://www.illustration-house.com>>. If you'd like to be on their mailing list for future auctions, their address is 96 Spring Street, New York, 10012 (212-966-9444).

Forwarded by Bob Reynolds and Joe Coppola: Howell L. Hodgskin Jr.'s "'The Game Is Afoot'" in the November issue of *American Philatelist*, reporting on his Sherlockian stamps, postcards, and covers, with an illustration of his advertising cover from Parker Brothers in 1904 that promotes the company's "Sherlock Holmes" game.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be produced at the Long Beach Playhouse on Dec. 1-16 and Jan. 5-20. The theater is at 5021 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804 (562-494-1014).

"I wish I could say that Plato, Aristotle and other worthies were my fare, but my tastes at the period were for fun and adventure and mystery," Julia Child told Amy Wallace and Jerry Griswold when they asked celebrities about their youthful reading for an article in *Parade Magazine* (Mar. 13, 1983). "Kiddie adventure stories were my favorite reading," she reported, listing G. A. Henty's, the Sherlock Holmes stories, and western sagas by Zane Grey. On Nov. 19, Scott Monty has reported, Julia Child was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest honor, in recognition of her work in ensuring that "any literate person with a reasonable amount of manual dexterity can concoct praiseworthy French meals." One hopes that she recalls that Sherlock Holmes received the same honor, for the tracking and arrest of Huret, the Boulevard assassin.

Things do change: those who remember the Hotel Iroquois as an inexpensive alternative to the Hotel Algonquin will have noticed that the Iroquois has been renovated and now far from inexpensive. William Grimes wrote in his "Diner's Journal" in the *N.Y. Times* (Oct. 27) that: "On 44th Street, the Algonquin has always held sway over the Iroquois next door. But the Iro-

quois, in the final phase of its transformation into a chic boutique hotel, has trumped its old rival. It has created a restaurant worth eating at." The new restaurant is called Triomphe, and it has 11 tables and an interesting menu, with dinner entrees \$23.00 to \$27.00.

Nov 00 #6 Lee Shackelford's play "Holmes & Watson" had its world premiere at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1989, and it was performed in New York during the birthday festivities in 1990, and it will be revived next year at the Library Theatre of the Hoover Public Library in Hoover, Ala., on May 10-12 and 18-20. The theater address is 200 Municipal Drive, Hoover, AL 35216 (205-444-7888) <<http://www.gulliver.cc/h&w.htm>>.

Frank Thomas was honored by The Blustering Gales from the South-west at a dinner in Los Angeles on Oct. 21; he made his first stage appearance in 1932, and acted in a dramatization of Christopher Morley's novel "Thunder on the Left", and appeared in his first film ("A Dog of Flanders") in 1935, and on television as "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet" in the 1950s. After retiring from acting, he began new careers as an author and as a bridge teacher, and in the 1980s and 1990s wrote a series of Sherlockian pastiches.

Mary Burke reports that the exhibition "Art for the Nation: Collecting for a New Century" (at the National Gallery of Art in Washington through Feb. 4) displays recent acquisitions by the museum, including "The Shipwreck" by Sherlock Holmes' great-great-grandfather Claude-Joseph Vernet.

Further to the report (Apr 96 #2) on the postage stamp issue by Great Britain honoring the 50th anniversary of the wildfowl & wetlands Trust and its efforts to save endangered birds that include the bittern, one recalls that Stapleton suggested (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns." John McGowan has noted a story in the Daily Telegraph (Nov. 20) that records some cheerful news: there are 22 surviving pairs of bitterns, and one of them has produced young, at a sanctuary run by the Lincolnshire wildlife Trust at Barton.

Sotheby's (34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England) is offering some interesting Dorothy L. Sayers material at auction on Dec. 19 (sale L00215), and lot 279 consists of items relating to her interest in Sherlock Holmes. There's an unpublished BBC radio script of Lord Peter Wimsey's tribute to Sherlock Holmes (broadcast in 1954), an annotated proof copy of her article "Dr. Watson's Christian Name", an autograph notebook with her notes on "The Priory School", and other intriguing material. Sotheby's estimates the lot at £2,500-3,500. The electronically-enabled can view a full description at <http://www.sothebys.com/cgi-bin/osform.exe/lotservice?osforms_template=CatalogueSearch.oft> (type in the sale and lot numbers).

There's a delightful stained-glass portrait of Sherlock Holmes on display in the O'Shaughnessy-Frey Library at the University of St. Thomas, designed by Austin H. Lange, manufactured by Conrad Pichel, and installed in 1959. John Bennett Shaw showed the portrait on his Christmas card in 1975, and it can also be seen on the dust jacket of the 1977 Bramhall House reprint of Ronald B. De Waal's THE WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DR. WATSON, and it now is one of the illustrations in a booklet about the library, recently at hand from Bob Brusic. Copies of the booklet are available on request from the Library (2115 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55105).

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Dec 00 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The formal announcement for the grand gourmet dinner (honoring the centennial of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park on May 12 is ready: the cost of the black-tie event will be \$120.00, and you should send your checks to Albert and Julia Rosenblatt,

300 Freedom Road, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569. And quickly, because seating is limited, and it's first-come, first served.

Bert Coules reports that Michael Williams has been awarded a Papal Knighthood, presumably for services to the Church rather than for being the only actor to have portrayed Dr. Watson in all sixty Canonical stories.

Inspector Morse died last month, on British television, in the last of 33 television programs starring John Thaw, according to a Reuters dispatch at hand from Jay Hyde. Colin Dexter, who created the detective, said that "by killing Morse now, I am ending it while the show is still a success," and that "Morse deserves to die. He's not looked after himself -- he is diabetic and drinks too much. So it is no wonder he keels over. It happens to us all one day, so why should Morse be any different?" And John Thaw praised Morse's fallibility: "It's one of the things I loved about him, the way he got things wrong but was so convinced he was right. Sometimes he would be chasing the wrong man for three quarters of an episode. He was never Sherlock Holmes."

Michael Ross notes a new Sherlockian pastiche (in German): DER VIERTE KOENIG [THE FOURTH MAGI], by Stefan Wings (Cologne: Emons Verlag, 2000; 255 pp., DM 19.80); Holmes is called in to unravel the theft of the relics of the Biblical magi from Cologne Cathedral. \$10.00 postpaid (to any address) from Baskerville Buecher (Postfach 42 06 70, 50900 Cologne, Germany); currency only, please.

Claire Pierce, who provides Special Events Bulletin Boards for the Touring America Guild, continues to offer one for Sherlockian events, and if you (or anyone in your Sherlockian society) has access to the world wide web, you can see how the bulletin board works (and post your own notices, at no charge) at <<http://www.touringtiles.com/bulletin/sherlock/wwwboard.htm>>.

"Whoever plays him, the Doctor is a cosmic meddler. with no ideology except an aversion to suffering and injustice," Lloyd Rose wrote in the Washington Post (Dec. 2), discussing the television series "Doctor Who" (which is now being aired on Maryland Public Television). "As a hero, he belongs to the class of Eccentric English Bachelor Geniuses, of whom the supreme example is Sherlock Holmes. Like Holmes, he is cerebral, solitary, and curious, in both senses of the word. He doesn't find wickedness fearsome as much as supremely irritating."

The British Tourist Authority (551 Fifth Avenue #701, New York, NY 10176) (800-482-2748) <<http://www.travelbritain.org>> does a splendid job of helping tourists. Their "Literary Britain" map offers discussion of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes, and their "Movie Map" includes the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series. There's also a brochure for The Original London walks <<http://www.walks.com>> with various walks devoted to Sherlock Holmes.

Dec 00 #2 Laurie R. King will be on tour next year, promoting her new (non-Mary Russell) novel FOLLY. Her schedule is: Mar. 5 at the Capitola Book Cafe in Capitola, CA; Mar. 6 at Stacey's in San Francisco, CA, and Kepler's in Menlo Park, CA; Mar. 7 at Rakestraw in Danville, CA; Mar. 10 at M Is for Mystery in San Mateo, CA, and the Bookshop in Benicia, CA; Mar. 11 at the Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, AZ; Mar. 12 at Murder by the Book in Houston, TX; Mar. 13 at Anderson's in Naperville (near Chicago), IL; Mar. 14 at Once Upon a Crime in Minneapolis, MN; Mar. 15 at Borders in Bailey's Crossroads, VA; Mar. 16 in bookstores in New York and at Book Revue in Huntington, Long Island; Mar. 18 at Nicholas Hoare in Toronto, ON; Mar. 21 at Elliott Bay in Seattle, WA; Mar. 22 at Borders in Tigard (near Portland), OR; Apr. 25 at the Bookshop in Santa Cruz, CA. And she will be in England the first week in May, but with no schedule set yet.

Classic Specialties offers Hugo's Companions' gold-plated lapel pin; \$17.00 postpaid, or \$15.00 if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); credit-card orders welcome (Box 19058,

Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>.

The Pleasant Places of Florida had "The Missing Three-Quarter" as their adventure of the evening on Nov. 18; David R. McCallister prepared souvenirs for the occasion that include a carefully-researched "Rugby for Sherlockian Dummies" complete with contemporary illustrations; copies of the souvenirs are available from David (8142 Quail Hollow Boulevard, Wesley Chapel, FL 33544 (\$2.00 postpaid). And the 11th running of The Florida Wessex Cup is set for Tampa Bay Downs in Florida on Feb. 10. Details also are available from David McCallister.

The latest issue of the August Derleth Society Newsletter has Kay Price's report on this year's Walden West Festival in Sauk City, and a reprint of an essay "Of Books and Great Books" Derleth wrote for one of Ben Abramson's Argus Bookshop catalogs in the early 1940s. A year's membership in the society costs \$15.00 (Box 481, Sauk City, WI 53583) <<http://www.derleth.org>>.

Evelyn P. Black died on Nov. 23. She was for many years a dealer in used and rare books, an ardent mystery buff (she liked to play Miss Marple with the theatrical troupe Murder by Invitation), and a member of The Men on the Tor in Rocky Hill, Conn.

OVER THE EDGE: THE CRIME WRITERS OF CANADA ANTHOLOGY, edited by Peter Sellers and Robert J. Sawyer (East Lawrencetown: Pottersfield Press, 2000; 224 pp., \$18.95), includes Sawyer's Sherlockian time-travel pastiche "You See But You Do Not Observe" (reprinted from the 1995 anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ORBIT). OVER THE EDGE costs \$21.00 postpaid from the publisher (83 Leslie Road, East Lawrencetown, NS B2Z 1P8, Canada).

"Attorney General Investigating the Venerable Players Club" proclaimed the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Nov. 12), kindly forwarded by Francine Kitts. The Baker Street Irregulars held their annual dinner there in years past, but that's not the reason for the investigation. The Players share their building (actor Edwin Booth's home) on Gramercy Park South, and board of directors members, with the Hampden-Booth Theater Library and the John Drew Fund, and there's now a dispute about who owes money to whom.

Dec 00 #3 The Christopher Morley Knothole Association continues its efforts to honor Morley's memory on Long Island: the latest issue of their newsletter notes that there will be a CMKA Reading Scholarship at the Bryant Library on Jan. 9, and the society contributes funds to maintain the Knothole (his writing studio, complete with Buckminster Fuller's dymaxion bathroom), now open to the public during the summer; membership costs \$20.00 a year (Christopher Morley Knothole Association, The Bryant Library, Paper Mill Road, Roslyn, NY 11743).

The electronically-enabled can listen to readings of poems by Edgar Allan Poe, including Basil Rathbone's "The Raven" (if you can run the software) at <<http://www.angelfire.com/pa3/poeaudio>>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the First English Gentleman" is a two-act play written by Doug Warwick that had its world premiere at St. Vlad's Theatre in Toronto last March; the electronically-enabled can read the script, Nancy Beiman reports, at <<http://www.dramex.org/ftp/scripts/sherlock.txt>>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London offers a 32-minute videocassette, in both European (PAL) and American (NTSC) formats, of the festivities honoring the unveiling of the statue of Sherlock Holmes in London in 1999. The postpaid cost is £10.95 (U.K.), £11.95 (Europe), \$19.85 (U.S.), or £13.25 (elsewhere); from Mrs. E. M. Godden, Apple Tree Cottage, Smarden, Kent TN27 8QE, England (checks made payable to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, please). You can also request information about a wide range of other memorabilia, including neckties, umbrellas, mugs, cameos, bookmarks, posters, lapel pins, medals, and pens,

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London also welcomes new members: associate members receive only The Sherlock Holmes Journal, and full members also receive notices of meetings. Prices vary depending on where you are, and on whether you're an adult or a junior, and details are available from R. J. Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU England; the society has a website at <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org>>.

And the Society's forward schedule is intriguing. Of particular interest is an event scheduled for June 10, 2001: a cricket match, in Victorian costume, played to 1895 rules, at the private cricket ground of Sir Paul Getty in Buckinghamshire.

Further to the report (Oct 00 #7) on the "Stuffins" seated Santa wearing a deerstalker, in "The Island of Misfit Toys" soft-toys series exclusively at CVS stores, Al Gregory reports for completists that there are three sizes: small (\$5.99), medium (\$12.99), and large (\$24.99). The large size, which is a standing Santa holding a sack, has (at least) three variants, with an elf, an elephant, or a Raggedy Ann doll in the sack.

The registration brochure for "Footprints of the Hound" in Toronto is now available: the conference on Oct. 19-21, 2001, is sponsored by The Bootmakers of Toronto, The Toronto Public Library, The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and the schedule is an excellent one. The brochure is available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <dougwrig@idirect.com>.

Dec 00 #4 I don't know how many Sherlockian and Doylean artists are represented in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution, but one of them is the Polish-born illustrator Wladyslaw Theodore Benda (1875-1948), whose mixed-media theatrical mask of Myrna Loy (ca. 1940) is owned by the National Portrait Gallery and is shown (in full color) at the week of Sept. 9-15 in the Smithsonian: America's Treasures 2001 engagement calendar (\$16.99). Benda illustrated Conan Doyle's work (including "The Sussex Vampire") in the Metropolitan Magazine, Nash's-Pall Mall Magazine, and Hearst's International Magazine from 1918 to 1924.

Ron Fish has founded a new Sherlockian society: The Master's Masons, which is open to any male belonging to a Masonic Lodge. Ron's address is Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 <ronf404@aol.com>.

Ron also has begun work on a new "Commomplac Book" project that will have entries for individual Sherlockians (in North America only) and on meetings of Sherlockian societies; the information will be published on floppy disks each January (beginning in 2002), and copies of his questionnaire will be in dinner packets at the birthday festivities in New York. Copies also are available from Ron (addresses as above).

Issue #40 of Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine offers the usual fine mix of Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian material, with a report that Random House plans to issue a series of books, beginning in May, based on the television series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes", and Alan Perry's review of MURDER THROUGH THE AGES, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Headline, £12.99) with a new S'ian pastiche by June Thomson. Annual subscriptions (six issues) cost £18.00 (U.K.)/£20.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Classic Specialties is the agent in the U.S. (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (toll-free 877-233-3823) <<http://sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>>. Credit-card orders welcome at both addresses; back issues are available.

Kate Karlson is selling some of her Sherlockian books collection at a website at <<http://home.stny.rr.com/edware/books/>>. Her sales-list also is available if you send a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope to Kate at 1259 Fowler Place, Binghamton, NY 13903.

John Clark has kindly forwarded a report from The Independent (Nov. 26) on the latest news from Britain's Police Information Technology Organization: Holmes 1 has been upgraded, and Holmes 2 is expected to be in national use by 2002. Both systems are powerful computers, and Holmes 1 was created in 1985; Holmes 2 can store fingerprints, photographs, and even the recorded voices of suspects. There was no mention in the story of the original name of the computer for which HOLMES is an acronym: the Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System (Aug 85 #5).

Spinning Graves Productions performed Bart Lovins' dramatization of "The Sign of Four" during the birthday festivities last January, and they will be performing his "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at Freaks Local at 413 West 44th Street (between 9th and 10th Avenues) on Jan. 4-6. Seating is limited, and the telephone number for reservations is 212-613-3023.

Dec 00 #5 William A. S. Sarjeant continues to pursue his varied interests in geology and science fantasy, contributing an introduction to a first-ever reprint of Bohun Lynch's MENACE FROM THE MOON (first published in 1924); the book costs \$31.00 (postpaid) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada).

Tom Darcy died on Dec. 6. He was an editorial cartoonist for Newsday, for many years, and won a Pulitzer prize in 1970 for work he said was "not for the amusement of the comfortable." His colleague Doug Marlette described Darcy's work as having "a stainless steel quality that cut through everything, demanding that you paid attention." And he drew Sherlock Holmes from time to time; this cartoon was in Newsday on Aug. 1, 1975.

Bill Nadel has reported that the York Theatre Company will perform a "concert version" of the musical "Baker Street" (1964) on Jan. 19, 20, and 21. The theater is at 619 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10022 (212-935-5820).

The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#40) has three articles and interviews by Charles Prepolec dealing with the recent Canadian television version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Matt Frewer and Kenneth Welsh), plus the usual coverage of the mystery-and-horror genre. \$35.00 for an annual subscription (six issues); Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, and there's a web-site at <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>.

Catherine Cooke reports that London now has two statues of Sherlock Holmes, the second one being a "living statue" she describes as "a bloke dressed as Sherlock Holmes sprayed bronze, who stands motionless on a low plinth." He can be seen in Leicester Square, on the northeast corner near the Old Swiss Center.

Harold Prince, director of the musical "Baker Street" (1964), was one of those selected to receive a National Medal of Arts this year; the winners of the National Medals of Arts and National Humanities Medals were honored at Constitution Hall and at dinner at the White House on Dec. 20.

The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Daniel Stashower's interesting comments on Rodger Garrick-Steele's accusation that Arthur Conan Doyle was a plagiarist and a murderer: "If only it were true," the headline on Dan's article suggests, and if you'd like to know more, the newsletter is available from Doug Wigglesworth, 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <dougwrig@idirect.com>. And the Friends have a web-site at <<http://www.acdfriends.org>>.

Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine celebrates the birthday festivities in the

Feb. 2001 issue, with an attractive cover by Chris Kotsakis, a new "Stately Homes" parody by Arthur Porges, and Sherlockian cartoons by David Hurd and Richard Tomasic.

Dec 00 #6 Further to the report on BBC plans for a new television version of "The Lost world" (May 00 #8), there was a story in the Telegraph (Nov. 12) headlined "BBC will Strip Conan Doyle of Racial Overtones" with a quote from producer Christopher Hall: "Some of the Victorian obsessions and concerns are now viewed differently. There are things about Conan Doyle which are old-fashioned, particularly his view of natives. We feel differently now." The BBC expressed concern about the story's references to "sub-human natives noted for their savage behaviour and low intellects."

Ray Betzner noted a Reuters dispatch from Montreal (Dec. 1) reporting that Telecene Film Group intends to file for bankruptcy so that it can reorganize its finances. The company said that this will not affect production of the second season of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost world" (with Peter McCauley as Prof. Challenger). The series is broadcast in syndication on Warner Bros. channels in the U.S., and six episodes of the second season have already aired.

Sorry about that: I got the name of Quinn Fawcett's new Mycroft Holmes mystery wrong (Nov 00 #5). It's THE SCOTTISH PLOY (Forge, \$24.95). Thespians will understand my Shakespearean slip in referring to "The Scottish Play".

Jon Lellenberg's DISJECTA MEMBRA: STRAY SCRAPS OF IRREGULAR HISTORY, 1932-1950 is a 96-page interim addition to his continuing archival history of The Baker Street Irregulars, offering letters and other material from early Sherlockians that has come to light since earlier volumes were published. The contents range from Edgar W. Smith's birth certificate to a report to the stockholders of The Baker Street Irregulars, Inc.; the annotations and explanations are helpful, and the glimpses of the early days are interesting as always. Copies will be available during the birthday festivities in New York, and by mail from Jon (3133 Connecticut Avenue NW #827, Washington, DC 20008); \$13.00 postpaid (\$13.50 outside the U.S.).

Susan Rice's THE SOMNAMBULIST AND THE DETECTIVE: VINCENT STARRETT AND SHERLOCK HOLMES is a delightful reminder for those who knew him of how talented he was, and (far more important) a welcome introduction to Starrett and his work for those who have come more recently to the Sherlockian world. It's Musgrave Monograph Number Ten, with 60 pages and nicely illustrated, and it costs (postpaid) L7.00 (U.K.)/L9.00 (Europe)/US \$15.00 or CA \$25.00 (elsewhere); checks (US or CA dollars welcome) payable to The Northern Musgraves can be sent to Anne Jordan, Fairbank, Beck Lane, Bigley, West Yorks. BD16 4DN, England). Copies may also be available from Susan Rice (212-989-1768) <srice@virtuoso.com>.

HOUDINI AND THE SEANCE MURDERS, by Christopher Farran (Bend: Salvo Press, 2000; 169 pp., \$12.95), has Harry Houdini, Houdini's nephew Ira, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Sir Arthur's granddaughter Lucinda (who'd rather be called Solitaire) investigating a murder committed during a seance in Trieste; Ira and Solitaire get to visit Paris, and they do most of the adventuring. The novel is available in bookstores and on-line, and the distributor is Seven Hills, 1531 Tremont Street, Cincinnati, OH 45214.

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