

Jan 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The schedule for the birthday festivities in New York appears to have stabilized at Wednesday-to-Sunday, for those who can manage (or survive) that long a weekend. This year featured dire warnings of a blizzard that never occurred, and an unusually large number of celebrants who came down with or came home with ailments that ranged from a black eye to gastroenteritis.

The first event was an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts. Thursday's schedule featured the Christopher Morley walk, led by Jim Cox, and a rendezvous with other Morley enthusiasts at McSorley's for lunch; an excellent staged reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" (dramatized by Andrew Joffe and starring Paul Singleton as Holmes, Mary Ellen Rich as Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Breckinridge); and the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker, Douglas G. Greene, who gave an entertaining and knowledgeable lecture at the Williams Club about "female ferrets" and the books in which the early female detectives starred.

The Hotel Algonquin was a nice venue for an informal Mrs. Hudson Breakfast on Friday morning, and more than 142 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Andrew Joffe and Paul Singleton read some of the letters written to Gillette in 1929 by celebrities congratulating him on the occasion of his last farewell tour; this was the 50th anniversary of the luncheon, and the 150th anniversary of William Gillette's birth. And Otto Penzler's afternoon open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

There were 170 on hand for the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars at the Union League Club, where Sherry Rose-Bond offered a cocktail-party toast to the woman: Janice Fisher, who responded with comments on the two-editor home she shares with her husband Steve Rothman, and left to dine at the Algonquin with others who have been the woman). The dinner agenda included the usual toasts and traditions, with Bill Vandewater honoring Old Irregular Haycraft and Ely Liebow leading a responsive reading of the Musgrave Ritual in Yiddish. Other highlights of the evening included Philip Shreffler and Mary Ellen Rich enacting Holmes' dealings with a thoroughly confused travel agent arranging his itinerary for the Great Hiatus, and a grand rendition by Bruce Montgomery of a new version of "Aunt Clara" ("What Became of Old Sherlock" with lyrics by Al Rosenblatt).

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Ed Christenson ("Antonio"), Al Gregory ("The Grimpen Postmaster"), Susan Vizoskie ("Mrs. Saunders"), Joe Coppola ("The Stranger's Room"), and Mia Stampe ("The Dynamics of an Asteroid"); and the Two-Shilling Award (presented "for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") to Don Novorsky.

The Baskerville Bash also took place Friday evening, at the Manhattan Club and with more than 80 people on hand, and with entertainment that featured a presentation by the newsdesk of CNN (that's the Canonical News Network), a "You Bet Your Life" broadcast with Jay Pearlman starring as Groucho Marx, and an investigation of "The Case of the Missing Sherlettes" (who appear to be in Tahiti en route to the Andaman Islands).

Jan 03 #2 On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was as usual crowded with sellers and buyers, and shortly after noon The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Watson and Wodehouse) commandeered the lobby for their now-traditional Junior Bloodstain, which featured a reading of Anne Cotton's playlet "Sherlock Holmes and the Gentleman's Gentleman".

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 240 people to the National Arts Club, where Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies who have been honored as the woman over the years, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported in verse on the events of the previous year and the previous even-

ing. Bob Schultz was applauded as the new winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$500) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year (his article "Upon the Dating of Bloodstains" in the winter issue), and the Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from a raffle of Scott Bond's portrait of the winner (Evelyn Herzog) and from enthusiastic bidders in the traditional auction.

The Watson Fund (administered by a carefully anonymous Dr. Watson) offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to this year's auction included The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (an attractive set of Sherlockian jewelry created by Maggie Schpak), Joe Coppola (a hand-crafted wooden clock with Sherlockian decorations), Don Hobbs (copies of Ron De Waal's first two bibliographies, inscribed to Dorothy Shaw), and Enrico Solito (a limited-edition plate created for the speakers at the conference arranged by Uno Studio in Holmes in Sesto Fiorentino in 2001).

On Sunday about 60 locals and visiting long-weekenders gathered at Wylie's for a brunch arranged by the Adventureesses of Sherlock Holmes; the agenda was thoroughly French, and the first of many events that will celebrate the tenth anniversary of The Sherlock Holmes Society of France.

And (for those who wish to plan ahead) the next birthday dinners will be held on Friday, Jan. 16, 2004. For those who wish to plan farther ahead, The Baker Street Irregulars are arranging a weekend in the Valley of Fear on Oct. 22-24, 2004; the event is open to all Sherlockians, but hotel and bus space is limited, and reservations are essential: only double rooms are available, and you should send a \$50 (per person) deposit to Michael F. Whelan (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, there will be much more in The Baker Street Journal, which is published quarterly and costs \$22.50 a year (\$25.00 outside the U.S.), and checks (credit-card payments accepted from foreign subscribers) should be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); there's a website at <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.

And yes, as usual, there were all sort of new books published just in time for the festivities, including a new facsimile of a manuscript ("Shoscombe Old Place"), available for purchase during the weekend and afterward, and I will have lots of reviews in the next issue of this newsletter.

Jan 03 #3 Christmas crackers are a long-standing Christmas-dinner tradition in Britain, and now elsewhere, including the U.S., where they come with "fortunes" that often are a series of joke, in English and in French. And Gayle Harris reports that one of the jokes in her Christmas cracker last month was: "Watson: Dites-moi Holmes, a quelle école êtes-vous allé? Holmes: Elementaire, mon cher Watson, elementaire."

ExxonMobil Corp. announced in December that it will end its sponsorship of "Masterpiece Theatre" at the end of 2004. Mobil (now ExxonMobil) has been the only sponsor of the series since it first aired in 1971, contributing more than \$250 million to PBS programs; its recent funding of "Masterpiece Theatre" is reported to have been about \$9 million a year. An ExxonMobil spokeswoman said that: "We felt that the time had come for us to consider some alternative sponsorship and outreach activities," particularly in the area of public health and the environment. PBS-TV hopes to find new sponsors, but it's not easy to do that in the present economic climate: Mobil had already stopped funding "Mystery!", and there was no sponsor for that series' dramatization of Tony Hillerman's "Skinwalkers" in November.

Al Hirschfeld died on Jan. 20. He began his artistic career in 1921 as art director for Selznick Studios, creating posters for "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" and other films,

and in 1926 began contributing sketches of Broadway plays to the N.Y. Herald Tribune. In 1928 he was commissioned by the N.Y. Times to draw Harry Lauder, and Hirschfeld's energetic style made him one of America's best-known artists; he received a special Tony Award in 1975, and New York City officials declared him a living landmark in 1996. His caricatures of actors as Sherlock Holmes included Fritz Weaver, Paxton Whitehead (shown here), and Frank Langella for the N.Y. Times, and Basil Rathbone in a limited-edition print.

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota have published their "Christmas Annual 2002", edited by John Bergquist; the contents include Philip G. Bergem's examination of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, with a census of known copies, Gary K. Thaden's examination of Dr. Watson's library, and much more; the 46-page pamphlet costs \$6.00 (postpaid), and checks (payable to The Norwegian Explorers) should be sent to John Bergquist, 3665 Ashbury Road, Eagen, MN 55122.

Edward Fox was awarded an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's New Year's honours list. He played Dr. Watson on television in "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" (1974) and Major Alistair Ross on television in "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991).

The new version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" has now aired in Canada, Britain, and the United States (Canadians missed a few bits and pieces, and the "making of" featurette). Anglofile notes that Richard Roxburgh was the second choice for the role, which was offered first to Jeremy Northam, who had to decline due to prior commitments. Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$16.00 a year).

Jan 03 #4 Japanese readers have some interesting new books available, all translated by Masamichi Higurashi, who also has provided introductions, afterwords, photographs, and explanatory notes. Two of the books are hard-cover editions: SHERLOCK HOLMES DAI-HYAKKA-JITEN is Jack Tracy's ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA (Tokyo: Shobo Shinsha, 2002; 476 pp., Y4,800); and SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEIKA-GAI NO SATSUNIN IS MURDER IN BAKER STREET, the 2001 anthology edited by Martin H. Greenberg, Jon L. Lellenberg, and Daniel Stashower (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2002; 400 pp., Y1,800). And six more titles have been added to the Aoi Tori Bunko MEITANTEI HOLMES series of children's paperbacks each with one of the long stories, or four or five of the short stories, cover artwork by Kazuyo Kazumi, and illustrations by Hitoshi Wakana and "Ki" (Tokyo: Kodansha, 2000-2002; 184-352 pp., Y530-720).

It's fascinating to see how useful 21st-century technology can be: mp3 is a compression program: the playing time on worldtainment's mp3 CDs runs from 8:08 to 11:13 hours, and with excellent sound quality. And it's all portable: RadioShack currently offers a "road-ready" player for CDs and mp3 CDs for \$79.99 (discounted from \$99.99). Or you can play them on your computer (if your computer has a CD-ROM or DVD drive, and it's difficult to purchase a computer now without a CD-ROM or DVD drive).

Richard Horner died on Dec. 28. He was a Broadway theater-owner and producer who won a Tony award for the revival of Eugene O'Neill's "Moon for the Misbegotten" in 1974. He was one of the producers of Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" on Broadway in 1978, and one of the executive producers when the play was broadcast on television in 1991.

A correction to my review of David Pirie's THE NIGHT CALLS (Dec 02 #5): the book is not based on the British television series "Murder Rooms": The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes". It's the other way round, as David has explained: the books are always written first. "They are not novelizations," David notes, "if they were, I'd get someone else to do it!" And there is indeed much more in the book than in the television program (his third book

about Bell and Conan Doyle is due this year).

Patrick Horgan began his Sherlockian career playing Captain Gregg in the musical "Baker Street" in 1964, and went on to play Sherlock Holmes in the William Gillette play, and in "The Speckled Band" and in a television commercial, and to play William Gillette (in Kenneth Ludwig's play "Dramatic License"), making him one of the very few actors to have played both Sherlock Holmes and an actor who has played Sherlock Holmes. He also has read the entire Canon for the Library of Congress recordings for the blind, and for Worldtainment, which offers all the Sherlock Holmes stories, and "The Lost World", "The Poison Belt" and "The Leather Funnel", and Horgan's own book of Sherlockian scholarship "The Detection of Sherlock Holmes" on ten CDs in mp3 format (you'll need an mp3 player or a computer with an mp3 program). Horgan has an excellent voice, and an imaginative approach to Sherlockian scholarship (and in his book cheerfully describes the Baker Street Irregulars and its scion societies as "large groups of otherwise respectable people"). And it's delightful to see how useful the latest technology can be: the mp3 CDs cost \$9.95 each, and more information is available at <<http://www.worldtainment.com>>; their postal address is 1002 Quentin Road, Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Jan 03 #5 "Going for a Record: LP Sparks an Odd Little Bidding War" was the headline on Tim Page's story in the Washington Post (Jan. 9) about an eBay bidding war for a recording of Bach's Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin by Johanna Martzy; the three-LP set sold for \$4,906. More interesting to Sherlockians, perhaps, was a statement by rare-record dealer Lawrence F. Holdridge that "the greatest rarities of all would be the two discs the celebrated tenor Jean de Reszke (1850-1925) made in 1905 for the Fonotipia company. 'Those would be quite literally priceless,' he said. 'De Reszke made the records, but he was dissatisfied with the results and ordered the masters smashed and never made another record. Some test copies are supposed to have survived--but who knows?' De Reszke was perhaps the leading tenor of the late 19th century--imagine Pavarotti and Domingo rolled into one--so it is not surprising that there is a great deal of interest in anything he might have recorded." It was at the conclusion of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Holmes suggested to Watson that they go to a concert by Jean and Edouard De Reszke in "Les Huguenots".

Sherlock Holmes is on the cover of the January catalog from Critics' Choice Video (Box 749, Itasca, IL 60143 (800-367-7765) <<http://www.ccvideo.com>>. Well, actually, it's Guy Henry, who played the title role in the television series "Young Sherlock" (1982), which is now available (for the first time) on three DVDs or videocassettes for \$42.96. The catalog also has the new Roxburgh/Hart "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on DVD and cassette (\$16.96), and three Rathbone/Bruce films ("Dressed to Kill", "The Woman in Green", and "Terror by Night") on DVD (\$6.99 each).

Philip Attwell has kindly provided more information on British digital radio that's also available on the Internet. BBC 7 airs in Great Britain on DAB digital radio and on television channels on Freeview 78, Sky, and Digital Cable, and it's available (with schedules listed) worldwide on the Internet <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio>>. BBC 7 announced that they would air all the "Sherlock Holmes" stories, and since Dec. 17, 2002, they have been broadcasting the Morrison/Williams adaptations on weekdays. There is also a "Crime/Thriller" slot on weekdays that is now featuring sleuths such as Cadfael and Julie Enfield.

And ONEWORD is broadcast in Britain on DAB digital radio and on television channels on Freeview 85 and Sky 877, and it's available (with schedules) on the Internet <<http://oneword.co.uk>>. Edith Meiser's "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Bridge" (with John Stanley and Alfred Shirley, from 1947) was heard in the "Vintage Classics/Cult Comedy" slot this month. Philip also recommends <<http://www.mydigiguide.com>> as a useful site for finding upcoming Sherlock Holmes broadcasts on British radio and television.

Len Haffenden's souvenir for this month's annual dinner of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia is a 16-page pamphlet reprinting his speech about "Sherlock Holmes and Mensa" (presented to the Pacific Northwest MENSA Convention last October); US \$8.00 postpaid. Also available are the souvenir from last year's annual dinner, "Who Was H.B.?" (\$5.00); the 36-page program for the society's commemoration of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Aug. 2001 (\$8.00), and a 12-page "The Priory School Tyre Directional Guide" (\$5.00). Checks payable to the Hansom Press, please and Len's address is 1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada.

Jan 03 #6 Walter Pond ("Brunton, the Butler, of Hurlstone") died on Jan. 11. He was an attorney, a Sherlockian scholar, and a dedicated collector; Julian Wolff once described Walter's collection of Sherlockiana as "one that cannot be surpassed in private hands," and that was true for decades: Walter owned a page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and complete manuscripts of "The Veiled Lodger" and "The Three Gables", a splendid copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, first editions in dust jackets, and many other treasures. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1970.

Jean Weidner is offering her Sherlockian and Doylean books on-line at the Advanced Book Exchange <<http://www.abebooks.com/home/JEANWEIDNER/>>; those who don't have access to the web can request a copy from Jean (9421 North 50th Drive, Glendale, AZ 85302).

The Silver Blaze, conceived by Thomas L. Stix, Sr., was run for the first time at Jamaica Race Course on Long Island in 1952; it was revived by The Baker Street Irregulars at historic Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York in 2000. The next running of the race at Saratoga will be on Aug. 2, and it will be a weekend event, with a brunch on Aug. 3. If you'd like to be on the mailing list, contact Lou Lewis (Box 2990, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) <[lewisgreer@aol.com](mailto:lewisgreer@aol.com)>; you can expect to receive full details shortly.

MC Black advises overseas visitors that the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's first-Friday-of-the-month "club nights" at the New Commonwealth Club at 18 Northumberland Avenue (between Trafalgar Square and the Embankment underground station) will be discontinued after the meeting on Feb. 7, due to declining attendance.

Michael Rieders, who was one of the panelists at the workshop on "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" arranged by Marina Stajic at the annual meeting of the Society of Forensic Toxicologists in Detroit last year (May 02 #1 and Nov 02 #4), will repeat his presentation at National Medical Services in Willow Grove (near Philadelphia) on Feb. 13 at 6:00 pm. According to Rieders, "This humorous presentation will include time for audience solutions and ends with my toxicological conclusions!" If you would like to attend the event, please contact Gideon Hill 19038 (215-887-8110) or e-mail <[gideonhill@earthlink.net](mailto:gideonhill@earthlink.net)>.

And a few commercials: a 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.25 postpaid. An 81-page list of 810 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 431 active societies, is \$4.70 postpaid. A run of address labels for 354 individual contacts (recommended to avoid duplicate mailings to those who are contacts for more than one society) costs \$10.55 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.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>.

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

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Sorry about that: I omitted one Investiture from last month's report on the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars: David Greeney ("Uncle Ned"). It nicely appropriate, too, since David lives in Auckland, and so did Mary Sutherland's uncle.

It was in "The Red-Headed League" that Holmes said, "'L'homme c'est rien-- l'oeuvre c'est tout,'" as Gustave Flaubert wrote to George Sand." The "January Sale Catalog" from David Schulson Autographs (234 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10122 (212-629-3939 <<http://schulsonautographs.com>> offers an autograph letter from Sand to Flaubert, signed "Your old Troubadour" and dated Feb. 28, 1870, for \$1,440 (discounted from \$1,850). There's also an undated letter from Conan Doyle with literary content, offered for \$1,465 (discounted from \$1,850); the catalog suggests that the letter refers to THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM, but the reference almost certainly is to THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA: ITS CAUSE AND CONDUCT.

Debbie Clark spotted a tribute to Conan Doyle in the current catalog from Levenger (420 South Congress Avenue, Delray Beach, FL 33445) (800-544-0880 <<http://www.levenger.com>>: they offer a child's bookcase and show a photograph of Sir Arthur and the quote, "It is a great thing to start life with a small number of really good books which are your very own." Others have used the quote before, and it's from THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR (1907).

Janet Hutchings, editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, was at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars, and was applauded for continuing the tradition established decades ago by Fred Dannay of ensuring that EQMM issue that coincides with the annual dinner has Sherlockian content; there were four such items in the Feb. 2003 issue (Dec 02 #2). And the Feb. 2003 issue of Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine had Sherlockiana: a reprint of August Derleth's Solar Pons pastiche "The Adventure of the Proper Comma".

Fans of John Mortimer's delightful legal eagle Horace Rumpole will welcome news of plans afoot to create The Rumpole Society of Great Britain; members are to include "devotees of John Mortimer's writings, all branches of the legal profession, and raffish free spirits who down cheap claret." Additional information is available from the society (9 Alba Place, London W11 1LQ, England) <[rumpolesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:rumpolesociety@yahoo.com)>.

The comic-book series RUSE continues, with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop: a new story began in issue #15 (Jan. 2003; \$2.95), and there's a report of a spin-off series ARCHARD'S AGENTS (also \$2.95); and issue #4 in the second volume of THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN (\$3.50) extends the account of the efforts of members of the League to combat against the Martians who have invaded England.

Paulette Greene 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; and Trevor H. Hall's 1986 monograph THE LAST CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: IVY JOHNSON BULL OF BORLEY (\$35.00 each postpaid; please pay by check or money order). Paulette's address is: 7152 Via Palomar, Boca Raton, FL 33433) <[greenecbooks@juno.com](mailto:greenecbooks@juno.com)>.

Feb 03 #2 Cynthia Harvey was at the George Eastman House (in Rochester, N.Y.) on Jan. 12 for the world-premiere screening of a new 97-minute restoration of John Barrymore's "Sherlock Holmes" (1922). A second print, with the missing original intertitles, was discovered in the Eastman vaults a few years ago, and was used to create a new and better version of the film, which was based on William Gillette's play.

The December 2002 issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers interesting tributes to Julian Wolff by Jon Lellenberg and John Bergquist, and reports from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue

South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Bill Mauldin died on Jan. 22. He was serving as an Army sergeant during World War II, drawing cartoons for the 45th Division News and for Stars & Stripes, when he created his war-weary characters Willie and Joe, and won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1945. He went on to a career as an editorial cartoonist, winning a second Pulitzer 1959, and he used Sherlockian themes in at least three of his editorial cartoons; this one, published on July 1, 1987, showed Ed Meese and was captioned "He's got a rear-view mirror on his magnifying glass."

Further to the item (Nov 02 #3) about the museum show "Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" now at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Mass., (through May 6), Maureen Corrigan (book reviewer on National Public Radio's "Fresh Air" and associate editor of MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE WRITERS) will lecture on "The Haunting of Sherlock Holmes" at 7:00 pm on Apr. 12 (emphasizing "The Hound of the Baskervilles", which she calls a "giant boggy metaphor for the human mind"). 39 South Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (413-443-7171) <<http://www.berkshireremuseum.org>>.

Alexian Gregory <grimpen@nac.net> offers "The ABC of BSI Investitures" as a word 97 attachment (available only by e-mail); it's an alphabetical listing of all Baker Street Investitures and their years of bestowal.

Tom Wheeler, who is about to publish FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON, a book that identifies more than 200 places in London associated with Sherlock Holmes, will guide a tour exploring Sherlock Holmes' London on May 19-27; he'll be happy to provide more information about the tour, and if your spouse isn't interested in spending all that time on Sherlock Holmes, he also has tickets for the Chelsea Flower Show. He's at 6875 Honey Locust Cove, Memphis, TN 38119 <londonsecrets@london.com>.

"Non-Canonical Holmes" is the title of the 22nd annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, in Dayton on Mar. 14-16; the speakers will focus on stories, novels, plays, comic books, and television and radio shows not written by Conan Doyle. Additional information is available from Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.

Feb 03 #3 The third volume in The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series was unveiled during the birthday festivities: G. K. CHESTERTON'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and with an introduction by Steven Doyle, offers a facsimile of Chesterton's illustrations for a never-published edition of the stories, scholarly articles on Chesterton by Dale Ahlquist and Pasquale Accardo, commentary on the artwork by Scott Bond, and reprints of four Sherlockian essays by Chesterton. It is delightful to see the illustrations, owned and preserved by the Lilly Library at Indiana University in Bloomington, now widely available, with interesting discussion of the artist (and writer) and his work. \$35.00 plus shipping (\$8.00, or \$9.50 outside North America) from The Baker Street Irregulars, Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada <<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com>>.

Also available is a limited-edition folio with hand-colored versions of the 19 Chesterton drawings, suitable for framing; there are 50 numbered copies of the folio, and the cost is \$75.00 postpaid (see the paragraph above for the address and methods of payment).

Mary Ellis died on Jan. 30, at the age of 105 (including, according to her obituary in the N.Y. Times, the three years that Hollywood publicists subtracted in the 1930s). She signed a four-year contract with the Metropolitan Opera in New York at the age of 18, then acted on Broadway (starring in "Rose-Marie") and in London, and retired from the stage in 1970 but con-

tinued acting on radio and television; she appeared in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series twice: as Lady Florence in "The Eligible Bachelor" (1993), and, in her last role, as Mary Maberly in "The Three Gables" (1994).

Paul Herbert reports that Paul Giovanni's play "The Crucifer of Blood" will be performed Nov. 7-23 at the Indianapolis Civic Theatre (at 1200 West 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46208) (317-923-4597) <[www.civictheatre.org](http://www.civictheatre.org)>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominees for the Edgar Allan Poe Awards, which will be presented at the MWA's banquet in New York on May 1. "The West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel, and produced last year at the Bay Street Theatre in Sag Harbor, N.Y.) was nominated for a "best play" Edgar. And a special Raven Award (for outstanding achievement in the mystery field outside the realm of creative writing) will be presented to Otto Penzler, owner of the Mysterious Bookshop in New York.

Planning for Bouchercon 2003 continues: the venue is Las Vegas, on Oct. 16-19, with James Lee Burke, Ian Rankin, and Ruth Rendell as guests of honor; Deen Kogan heads the organizing committee (507 South Eighth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147) <<http://www.bconvegas2003.org>>.

"221B Coronation Street" was the subject line on David Hough's message to The Hounds of the Internet, quoting the Manchester Evening News (Feb. 7): The set for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" no longer exists, but Granada has revamped the set for its long-running soap opera "Coronation Street" to include a pizza parlour that has the doorway to 221B Baker Street, mock glass paneling and numbers intact. "It's a superstitious thing," Granada's production chief said, "because it's a chunk of history, the doorway to Sherlock's lodgings, and we're hoping it might bring us luck."

Feb 03 #4 GreenPrints ("The Weeder's Digest") is an interesting and light-hearted quarterly that has published four amusing pastiches by Jeff Taylor about garden detective Sherlock Jones (and his assistant Ms. Bubbles Watson): "The Carrot Caper" (summer 1997); "The Return of Sherlock Jones" (summer 1998); "A Midwinter Mystery" (winter 1998); and "The Case of the Speckled Slug" (summer 1999). Box 1355, Fairview, NC 28730 (800-569-0602) <<http://www.greenprints.com>>; \$22.97 a year.

Bill Hyder watched the BBC television program "Queen and Country" broadcast on PBS-TV this month, about how the relationship between Queen Elizabeth II and the British people have changed during the fifty years she has been on the throne, and reports that at the conclusion of the program the narrator described the Queen as "the one fixed point in a changing age." "Sherlock Holmes couldn't have put it better," Bill notes.

Murray Shaw died on Dec. 18, 2002. He was a kitchen designer and consultant, and author of the textbook PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN DESIGN; in the Sherlockian world Murray was an enthusiastic member of Moulton's Prospectors in Phoenix, and an author of pastiches for young readers, including MATCH WITS WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES, a series of eight children's books published by Carolrhoda Books from 1990 to 1993. And two other tales (ANATOMY OF TWO MURDERS and SHERLOCK HOLMES FINDS THE LOST DUTCHMAN MINE) have been published in Otto Penzler's pamphlet series of pastiches and parodies.

Paul Martin notes that a new bargain-books catalog from Edward R. Hamilton (Falls Village, CT 06031) <<http://www.edwardrhamilton.com>> offers SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED SHORT STORIES, reprinted from The Strand Magazine (\$9.95 discounted from \$12.95); Larry Millett's THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$15.95 discounted from \$23.95); Alan Barnes' SHERLOCK HOLMES ON SCREEN (\$17.95 discounted from \$24.95); and June Thomson's HOLMES AND WATSON (\$5.95 discounted from \$24.00).

Laurie Fraser Manifold's artwork has enhanced the Baskerville Bash in recent years, and she has created two imaginative booklets to entertain those

who remember cutting out and coloring and enjoying paper dolls: MRS. MANIFOLD'S CUT OUT & FOLD 221B FURNITURE and HOLMES & WATSON AT HOME & AFIELD: PAPER FIGURES & WARDROBE TO COLOUR & CUT cost \$12.00 each postpaid, and her address is Box 387, Shenorock, NY 10587.

E. W. McGinley's AN ILLUSTRATED MONOGRAPH ON THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 1995, is now available in a second (revised and expanded) edition, offering a knowledgeable exploration of the topic, concentrating on the weapons used by Holmes and Watson. The 50-page booklet costs \$12.50 postpaid from Joseph Coppola, 103 Kenny Drive, Fayetteville, NY 13066.

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Beyond Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an exhibition of material from Fred Kittle's collection of Doyleana at the Newberry Library in Chicago from Apr. 9 through July 12 (60 West Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610) <<http://www.newberry.org>>. There will be special festivities on Apr. 11 (a dinner and a private showing) and Apr. 12 (a lecture by Richard Lancelyn Green); additional information is available from Donald J. Terras (2535 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60201) <d-terras@neiu.edu>.

Feb 03 #5 Marcello Truzzi died on Feb. 9. He was a sociologist and one of the founders of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal in 1976, but then resigned because he considered it more propagandistic than scientific; in 1981 he founded and directed the Center for Scientific Anomalies Research, and he was a skeptical friend of many self-proclaimed psychics. As an author his books included textbooks on sociology and a cookbook for witches that called for ingredients such as eye of newt, an article (with Scot Morris) on "Sherlock Holmes as a Social Scientist" in Psychology Today (Dec. 1971), and a chapter about "Sherlock Holmes: Applied Social Psychologist" in THE HUMANITIES AS SOCIOLOGY: AN INTRODUCTORY READER (1973).

Rose Louise Hovick, invited by The Baker Street Irregulars to the cocktail party before their annual dinner in 1943, is the subject of an interesting article by Laura Jacobs in the March issue of Vanity Fair. There's no mention of the BSI, but "Taking It \*All\* Off" offers a fine explanation of why those at the dinner enjoyed telling family and friends that they had had a drink with Gypsy Rose Lee.

Arrangements for The Silver Blaze at Saratoga Race Track have now been finalized: there will be a buffet luncheon at the Rail Pavilion (with a maximum of 60 people) on Aug. 2, and a buffet brunch and program at the Prime Hotel & Conference Center on Aug. 3, all for \$100 per person. The deadline for reservations is May 1; checks (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Lou Lewis, 11 Raymond Avenue #24, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

The U.S. Postal Service has continued its "Chinese New Year" series, honoring the Year of the Ram, or the Goat or the Sheep (depending on which calendar you consult). Goats and sheep are mentioned in many stories, but both are can be found only in one ("The Hound of the Baskervilles").

Jon V. Wilmunen died on Jan. 13. He taught art in the Mountain Iron-Buhl school system in Minnesota, and in the 1960s and 1970s his amusing artwork and parodies were published by The Musgrave Ritualists Beta, The Three Students Plus, and his own society The Gamekeepers of Northern Minnesota, and in The Baker Street Journal (Sept. 1965 and Mar. 1966).

Further to my mention (Jan 03 #2) of a new facsimile of a manuscript, THE ADVENTURE OF SHOSCOMBE ABBEY, now owned by the Fondation Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Lausanne, has been published by the Bibliotheque cantonale et universitaire, with an introduction (in French) by Vincent Delay (president of the Societe d'etudes holmesiennes de la Suisse romande) and two essays (one in French and the other in English) by Lausanne University professor Ernest

Giddey (whose CRIME ET DETECTION: ESSAI SUR LES STRUCTURES DU ROMAN POLICIER DE LANGUE ANGLAISE was published in 1990). Manuscripts are a splendid way to watch an author write, adding and subtracting and refining, and as with other facsimiles, Sherlockians will find some interesting changes in the story. The cost of the new facsimile is \$25.00 (plus \$12.00 shipping for one copy), and you can order from Laurent Dubois (atelier photo), Bibliotheque cantonale et universitaire, Dorigny, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland <laurent.dubois@bcu.unil.ch>; credit-card orders welcome.

Feb 03 #6 Stacy Keach Sr. died on Feb. 13. He was a drama teacher and an actor, and father of the actor Stacy Keach and the actor-director James Keach. He began his career in films as a contract player at Universal Pictures, where he also was dialogue director for "The Scarlet Claw" (1944). He developed, produced, and directed "Tales of the Texas Rangers" on radio and television, and appeared in hundreds of films, radio and television programs, and commercials over more than 50 years.

There have been many weekends with Sherlock Holmes at the Victorian Villa Inn over the years, and now Professor Moriarty on hand to entertain visitors, with weekend events scheduled for Mar. 22, Apr. 26, and May 13. Additional information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094 (800-348-3445) <<http://www.avictorianvilla.com>>.

Leslie Fiedler died on Jan. 29. He was a noted, and provocative, literary critic who called himself a "literary anthropologist." He was a respected teacher as well, in the United States and Europe, and he contributed an introduction to an edition of MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES published by Schocken Books in 1976.

The East Lynne Theater Company will present a staged reading (with live piano accompaniment) of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on Mar. 7 and 8 during a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J.; the company's phone number is 609-884-5898 <<http://www.eastlynnecompany.org>>.

Peter O'Toole has decided to accept his honorary Oscar, and is expected to attend the ceremony in March. According to Anglofile, O'Toole had declined the award earlier because he was "still in the game and might win the lovely bugger outright," but was told by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences that the award was meant not as a coda to his career but rather as a tribute. O'Toole (who was Billy Wilder's first choice for the title role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes") was the voice of Sherlock Holmes on four Australian animations of the long stories (1985), and played Conan Doyle in the film "FairyTale: A True Story" (1997). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering detailed coverage of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$16.00 a year).

Jay Hyde (proud owner of a Scottish terrier) observed the Westminster Kennel Club's best-of-breed competition on Feb. 10, and noted the winner: Ch Friendship Hill Dr. Watson, whose sire was Ch So What Moriarty. Details at <[http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2003/scotty\\_r.html](http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2003/scotty_r.html)>.

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, EPISODE 6, read by Edward Hardwicke, is the latest set of audiocassette available from CSA Telltapes, and Hardwicke is excellent as always; there are two cassettes, and the stories are "The Priory School", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Blue Carbuncle" (issue by Tangled Web Audio in 1996 as SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF AVARICE). CSA Telltapes's address is: 6a Archway Mews, 241a Putney Bridge Road, London SW15 2PE, England) <[www.csatelltapes.demon.co.uk](http://www.csatelltapes.demon.co.uk)>; the new set costs L9.99 post-paid, and CSA offers other sets of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

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

Mar 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Erik Larson's *THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY* (New York: Crown Books, 2003; 464 pp., \$25.95) is an examination of the planning for the world's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and of Herman Webster Mudgett, the serial murderer who built and ran the world's Fair Hotel in which many of his victims died. Mudgett used the alias H. H. Holmes, and at least two reviewers have suggested that Mudgett renamed himself after the famous detective. But Larson doesn't say that in the book. What he does say (on page 44) about Mudgett's arrival in Chicago is: "There in July 1886, the year Sir Arthur Conan Doyle introduced his detective to the world, Mudgett registered his name as Holmes."

The fifth volume of Leslie S. Klinger's *SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY* is *THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, with a interesting introduction by David Stuart Davies, who discusses the perils and pitfalls of bringing a star out of retirement (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2002; 150 pp., \$29.95); as in previous volumes, the annotations and appendices are based upon new and old Sherlockian scholarship. The book costs \$33.70 postpaid (or \$35.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46260).

"The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951) has been released on DVD (by Twentieth Century-Fox Home Video, \$19.98) with commentary by director Robert Wise and Nicholas Meyer, and a 70-minute "making of" featurette. The film is a science-fiction classic, with Michael Rennie as Klaatu and with Elmer Davis (a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as an early member of The Red Circle of Washington) as himself as a newscaster reporting on the alien spaceship.

Reported: *DURKHEIM IS DEAD! SHERLOCK HOLMES IS INTRODUCED TO SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY*, by Arthur Asa Berger (AltaMira Press, 2003; 200 pp., \$70.00 cloth or \$19.95 paper); "in this sociology textbook/mystery novel, students can join Sherlock Holmes and Watson as they discover a new area ripe for acrimony and intrigue: social theory."

The Sherlockians in France continue to publish intriguing material, including *Le Catalogue de la Franco-Midland numero 3*, which offers a guided tour (written by Yves-Charles Fercoq and Wladimir V. Bogomoletz) to the Pere La-chaise cemetery, where visitors will find many graves and monuments of people mentioned in or with connections to the Canon. It's in French and English, and nicely illustrated by Jean-Pierre Cagnat, and it's available free as an Acrobat Reader file from Thierry Saint-Joanis <mail@mycroft.net>, or ink-on-paper for \$5.00 postpaid; dollar checks payable to Elisabeth Mignon and euro checks payable to SSHF can be sent to Thierry (26 avenue de la Republique, 75011 Paris, France), and credit-card orders are welcome by mail or e-mail.

Reported: "The Mystery of the Mummy" (The Adventure Company, \$19.99); a new computer game ("with his signature pipe in hand, super-sleuth Holmes takes kids to a turn-of-the-century Victorian mansion to find a missing archeologist and Egyptian mummy"). According to a review in the Washington Post on Mar. 2, the likeliest audience for the game is teenagers with time for tedious brain twisters ("Take copious notes and save often, and you might get the game done. But you might not care to make the effort.").

Mar 03 #2 Stephen H. Tolins ("John Straker") died on Feb. 24, 2003. He served with distinction as a doctor in the U.S. Navy, retiring with the rank of Captain, and taught surgery at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and at New York Medical College. Steve was a member of many Sherlockian societies in New York and Connecticut, and his articles about Canonical medicine appeared in *The Baker Street Journal*, Prescott's Press, and *Canadian Holmes*; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1991.

Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place B8016, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-884-2637) <<http://www.bitsandpieces.com>> offers its mystery jigsaw puzzle "The Watson Inheritance" discounted to \$6.99 (from \$10.99); item 04-U0140-007.

Details (and a registration form) for the twelfth annual Watsonian weekend (now a joint event with The STUD Sherlockian Society) on May 2-4, are now available from Susan Diamond and Allan Devitt (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@attbi.com>. The schedule includes dinner on Friday (with a performance by Sherlockian thespian Paul Singleton); brunch on Saturday, followed by an excursion to the Newberry Library to view the exhibit of Conan Doyle material from Fred Kittle's collection, and a pizza supper; and the annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Track on Sunday.

Karen Murdock spotted a report in This Is Local London (Feb. 19) that Mayday Hospital in Croydon is renaming its wards in honor of some of the Croydon's best-known figures. Arthur Conan Doyle will be one of the people to be honored.

James G. Jewell died on Feb. 27. He was a stalwart member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches of Philadelphia, one of the editors of and contributors to their anthology MORE LEAVES FROM THE COPPER BEECHES (1976), and an energetic, persistent, and always genial sales committee for the society's publications.

Ruth Berman has reported that the most recent issue of the literary magazine "The North Stone Review" (2002, n. 14) includes "Ciphers", a 16-line poem by Mary d'Angelo that alludes to "The Dancing Men"; there's much more non-Sherlockian material in the magazine, which costs \$14.00 (Box 14098, Minneapolis, MN 55414).

Issue #53 of SHERLOCK offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise); the contents include commentary (by Bert Coules) on the recent Roxburgh/Hart version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with a report of rumors that the producers are considering a sequel that would have Holmes and Watson investigating the strange mystery of Dorian Gray, and (by Gavin Collinson) on "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", and (by Richard Valley) on transvestism and the world of Sherlock Holmes. SHERLOCK is published bi-monthly and subscriptions cost £23.70 (U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); their address is Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Or you can order from their American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

Mar 03 #3 Walter Scharf died on Feb. 24. He began his musical career in Los Angeles in 1934 as an arranger for Rudy Vallee's orchestra, and then turned to composing and arranging film scores; he worked on more than 200 films and television programs and received ten Academy Award nominations. And his film credits included some of the original music in "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939).

Collectors of the Sherlock Holmes stories in various languages can add one more to the list: American Sign Language. Three videocassettes are available, with "The Blue Carbuncle", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Speckled Band" signed by Gilbert Eastman (in costume as Sherlock Holmes) and Patrick Graybill (as Dr. Watson), with voice-over narration, and a short biography of Conan Doyle at the end of each cassette. \$39.95 each or \$107.95 for all three (plus shipping), and orders can be sent to Sign Media (4020 Blackburn Lane, Burtonsville, MD 20866) (800-475-4756) <<http://www.signmedia.com>>.

HearthSong (Box 1050, Madison, VA 22727 (800-325-2502) <<http://www.hearthsong.com>> has a Sherlockian-themed cover on the box for a fingerprint kit in a new mail-order catalog (item 724165, \$9.95); the kit includes "dusting powder, fluffy feathers for dusting, tape squares to lift prints, print identification cards, a magnifying glass, and a comprehensive 16-page instruction booklet full of

interesting facts" (it's recommended for ages 8 and up. I confess that I'm not sure that forensic experts still use fluffy feathers.

Christie's is offering the third part of Richard M. Lackritz's collection of detective fiction on Apr. 8, at 20 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020 (212-636-2010) <<http://www.christies.com>>, with some attractive modern material and some older literature that includes Sherlockian editions, a manuscript letter from Conan Doyle to Grant Richards, and signed photographs of William Gillette and Basil Rathbone.

The March issue of The Holmes & Watson Report offers a thoughtful editorial by Brad Keefauver on what is so important about 221B Baker Street, which he describes as a "container of sorts that held within its cozy confines something bigger than the sum of its ingredients," and interesting suggestions by Jennie Paton on why Sherlockian films are or aren't successful; the periodical costs \$16.00 a year (for six issues) or \$22.00 outside North America, or \$3.00 for one issue, from Brad Keefauver (4009 North Chelsea Place, Peoria, IL 61614).

It was in "The Five Orange Pips" that Watson wrote that he was "deep in one of Clark Russell's fine sea-stories," and that sea-story may have been THE DEATH SHIP, which was first published in a three-volume edition in 1888 in London and which is available again, with an introduction (and an afterword about Charles Doyle) by Hugo Koch. The first edition was not illustrated, but the new edition has appropriate artwork by Charles Doyle, Gustav Dore, and F. W. Hayes, selected by Koch from other sources; 336 pp., \$41.00 postpaid from George A. Vanderburgh at The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.

Mar 03 #4 Further to the report (Feb 03 #2) on Thomas B. Wheeler's FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON, you don't need to go on his tour in May in order to have a copy of the book, which has 54 pp. and lists more than 200 Sherlockian sites, by adventure and by closest underground station. It costs \$15.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); his address is 6875 Honey Locust Cove, Memphis, TN 38119 <[londonsecrets@london.com](mailto:londonsecrets@london.com)>, and credit-card orders are welcome.

Martin Breese has moved (Breese Books, 10 Hanover Crescent, Brighton, East Sussex BN2 9SB, England) <[www.sherlockholmes.co.uk](http://www.sherlockholmes.co.uk)>, and offers discounts on more than a dozen pastiches written by Val Andrews, John Hall, William Seil, and others; details on that, and on his other titles, are available by mail or at his web-site.

Mary Campbell ("Brenda Tregennis") died on Mar. 17. She was a librarian at the University of Toronto, and an enthusiastic member of The Bootmakers of Toronto. Mary was their archivist for many years, and won awards for the best paper presented at a meeting in 1977 and for the best paper published in Canadian Holmes in 1983; she also was an active member of The Bootmaker Players, often performing as Mrs. Hudson, and was honored as a Master Bootmaker in 1985. Mary also was "Mrs. Merrilow" in The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and she received her Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2002.

The Sherlock Holmes Review sponsored five Sherlockian symposia from 1987 to 1997, and there will be a new one on Nov. 8-9 in Indianapolis, sponsored by Wessex Press/Gasogene Books. "From Gillette to Brett: Sherlock Holmes on Stage, Screen, & Radio" will feature Edward Hardwicke and Nicholas Meyer as special guests, and Susan Dahlinger, David Stuart Davies, Chris Gullo, Paul Herbert, and Gordon Kelley as speakers. You can contact Steven Doyle (540 West Sycamore Street, Zionsville, IN 46077 <[sdoyle221@aol.com](mailto:sdoyle221@aol.com)> for information on how to register for the event.

William S. Dorn's latest CD-ROM is SOME SHERLOCKIAN MORPHS, and it's an intriguing demonstration of what can be done with computers: you can watch 20

Sherlockian graphics morph into other Sherlockian graphics, comparing various actors with other actors, or with Paget or Steele illustrations, Holmes undisguised with Holmes disguised, etc. His address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; and the postpaid cost is \$13.03 (to Colorado) or \$12.95 (other U.S.) or CA\$22.00 (to Canada) or \$15.85 (elsewhere).

There's interesting news of new DVD releases in the latest issue of Scarlet Street (#47): advertisements for "Murder by Decree" (with audio commentary by director Bob Clark and other added-value material such as DVD-ROM of the original screenplay) from Anchor Bay Entertainment; the five two-hour Granada "Sherlock Holmes" programs from MPI Home Video; and some older material from Sinister Cinema: "The Sign of Four" (1932, with Arthur Wontner), "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1936, with Bruno Guttner, in German), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959, with Peter Cushing), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1979, with Vasily Livanov, in Russian subtitled in English). The magazine costs \$42.00 a year (for six issues); the address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <<http://www.scarletstreet.com>>. Sinister Cinema's address Box 4369 (Dept. S), Medford, OR 97501 <<http://www.sinistercinema.com>>.

Mar 03 #5 Reported: Svend Petersen's A SHERLOCK HOLMES ALMANAC, which he compiled and published 1956, now is available in a second edition, revised and expanded by Carl Will William Thiel, Karen Murdock, Frank Darlington, Edwin Christenson, and George A. Vanderburgh; the 388-page book is available for \$41.00 postpaid from The Battered Silicon Dispatch Box at Box 240, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada.

Norman Davis and Linda Crane report that they will be selling much of their Sherlockian collection (including "the interesting, arcane, desirable, and just plain weird") at auction on eBay <<http://www.ebay.com>> in weekly offerings beginning on Apr. 5 and continuing for many weeks; they'll include "BSI" in the title of each item, and their seller name is "bsi\_and\_ash".

"...that one glance told him that Cleveland in Ohio possessed the men whom he was in pursuit of," we are told (in "A Study in Scarlet"). The U.S. Postal Service has honored the 200th anniversary of Ohio's statehood.

Sorry about that: the production of "The Crucifer of Blood" on Nov. 7-23 in Indianapolis (Feb 03 #3) won't be seen this year; the play actually was produced there in 1997, but the year was omitted from the flier I received last month.

The new Britannia mail-order catalog has two pages of Sherlockian material, including James Sadler teapots and a mini bar set. And (due for release on Apr. 8) "Tommy & Tuppence: Partners in Crimes" on DVD; this London weekend Television series was based on Agatha Christie's stories and starred James Warwick and Francesca Annis, and included an episode ("Finessing the King") in which Tommy and Tuppence go to a fancy-dress ball dressed as Dr. Watson and Sherlock Holmes.

Sheldon Reynolds died on Jan. 25. He made his mark in television as producer and writer of the syndicated series "Foreign Intrigue" (1951-1955), and directed some of the episodes as well as the 1956 feature film that starred Robert Mitchum. His next series was "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in 1954, starring Ronald Howard and H. Marion Crawford, and his later work included the series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1981), with Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering. The second series was made in Poland while Reynolds was married to Andrea Reynolds, and production involved a dispute with the Polish authorities that resulted in Andrea temporarily lodged in a Polish jail; Reynolds later said that his greatest mistake was getting her out. He did change his mind, allowing that his greatest mistake was introducing Andrea to his friend Claus von Bulow; she abandoned Reynolds and energetically claimed credit for von Bulow's acquittal in his second trial for the attempted murder of his wife Sunny. Sheldon Reynolds was inventive and optimistic, and a delightful raconteur about his many years in televis-

ion and film.

Reported: a sidebar in the Jan.-Feb. issue of Book magazine on "the battle of the side-kicks," ranking supporting characters such as Dr. Watson, Hawk (from the Spenser novels), and Asta (Nick and Nora's dog). Hawk won first prize, and Sherlock Holmes (husband and mentor to Mary Russell in the series of novels by Laurie R. King) came in second.

Mar 03 #6 Phil Attwell notes that the film "Minority Report" (2002) now is available on DVD, with added-value special features that include discussion by director Steven Spielberg, who talks about the names of the three pre-cogs who are able to "see" murders before they happen: the twins Arthur and Dashiell were named after Arthur Conan Doyle and Dashiell Hammett, and Agatha after Agatha Christie.

Carolyn and Joel Senter have issued a new catalog from Classic Specialties (Box 1958, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>> (877-233-3823) with a nice assortment of Sherlockian books and other material.

And now for some film news, if you're willing to count rumor and gossip as news. There is a long list of past entertainment-world announcements that might be described as huffery-puffery: we never got to see "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (1986), which was persistently reported with Tony Randall as Holmes and Sid Caesar as Dracula ("Tony Randall asked me to inform you that unfortunately, he's never heard of the project," a public-relations staffer wrote to me in 1994, "although, he thought it sounded like a great idea"). Or a 1991 "Sherlock Holmes" television series starring Stephen Fry as Sherlock Holmes and Hugh Laurie as Dr. Watson. Or the 2001 film loosely based on "The Sign of Four" with Alan Rickman as Holmes, Gabriel Byrne as Watson, and Catherine Zeta-Jones as Holmes' love interest.

So here's some of the more recent buzz: "221bCAUSE" is a "Sherlock Holmes thriller" about a modern-day female Sherlock Holmes, with Britney Spears in talks about playing the lead (Sarah Michelle Gellar and Jennifer Love Hewitt saw the script and declined); the [London] Sun ran an amusing photo of Britney in a deerstalker on Jan. 3, and many readers didn't notice that the paper stated it was a fake. "Baker Street Irregulars" (the story of "the kids who were the secret army of Sherlock Holmes") is to star Malcolm McDowell as Holmes and Christopher Lee as Moriarty. And "Holmes and Watson" (an action-adventure) will be set in modern-day London ("the heir to the Holmes legacy will be portrayed as a twenty-something playboy who uses his talents mainly to pick up girls--until he is unwittingly drawn back into the family detective business by a young, sexy Dr. Jane Watson").

Karen Murdock (1212 Yale Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) offers Sherlockian bumper stickers (11.5" wide, with bright green background); \$2.00 each, or three for \$5.00. If you're outside the U.S., please send currency.

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

Apr 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's still time to reserve for this year's running of The Silver Blaze

at historic Saratoga Race Track in upstate New York: the event is sponsored by The Baker Street Irregulars, and the agenda will include a buffet luncheon at the Rail Pavilion on Aug. 2, with honors for the winner of the race, and a buffet brunch and Sherlockian program at the Prime Hotel & Conference Center on Aug. 3, all for \$100 a person. Checks for \$100 (payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) should be sent to Lou Lewis at 11 Raymond Avenue #24, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603; he'll also be happy to provide information on hotel accommodations in the area.

For those who missed Ian McKellen as Sherlock Holmes in the "Hot Air Balloon Mystery Theater" skit broadcast by NBC-TV on "Saturday Night Live" on Mar. 16, 2002, Ratana Ngini reports that there's an image at the web-site at <<http://img-www.theonering.net/images/170302-snlmckellen30.JPG>>.

Robin W. Winks died on Apr. 7. He was a professor of history at Yale University, with special interests in the environment, detective fiction, and the history of espionage. His reviews of mysteries appeared in the New Republic, the Washington Post, and the Boston Globe, and he wrote an introduction for a 1992 reprint of Howard Haycraft's THE ART OF MYSTERY FICTION. Winks edited THE HISTORIAN AS DETECTIVE: ESSAYS ON EVIDENCE (1969) and DETECTIVE FICTION: A COLLECTION OF CRITICAL ESSAYS (1980), and he wrote MODUS OPERANDI: AN EXCURSION INTO DETECTIVE FICTION (1982) and with Maureen Corrigan won an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America for MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE WRITERS: THE LITERATURE OF CRIME, DETECTION AND ESPIONAGE (1998). He often paid tribute to Conan Doyle, and once suggested that "when all is said and done, crime fiction is about the same craft as any fiction: writing well."

A new catalog from McCranie's offers a wide range of pipe tobacco in tins, among them McClelland's "221-B Black Shag" and "221-B Arcadia", and Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes". McCranie's address is 4143 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209 (800-523-8554) <[www.mccranies.com](http://www.mccranies.com)>.

The comic-book series FANTASTIC STORIES (Mar 02 #2), created by Don Marquez and published by Amryl <<http://www.amryl.com>> continues, with the first two parts (six and seven pages) of a three-part adaptation of "When the World Screamed" (Apr. 2002 and Dec. 2002); \$2.95 each in comic-book shops, or you can order from Don Marquez (1313 Young Wo Circle, Folsom, CA 95630), \$3.00 each plus \$3.00 shipping per order (please pay by check or via PayPal). He has a web-site at <<http://www.cartune.land.com>>, and he will sign the covers on request.

Reported: THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, by Mark Haddon (New York: Doubleday, 2003; 224 pp., \$22.95); according to Publishers Weekly (Apr. 7), "Christopher Boone, the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red--but not yellow or brown--food and screams when he is touched.... When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer."

Apr 03 #2 The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, honoring the world's first forensic geologist, on May 14, at 7:00 pm, at the Alta Club in Salt Lake City, during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. The Alta Club is at 100 East South Temple; our tradition is to discourage scholarly papers, slide shows, and quizzes (and our agenda consists entirely of toasts, some scholarly, but many not). We will be following in distinguished footsteps: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was entertained at the Alta Club during his visit to Salt Lake City in 1923, when he lectured at the Mormon Tabernacle. If you would like to join us for the festivities, please let me know.

Ann Skene-Melvin died on Apr. 9. She was a bibliophile, and proprietor of Ann's Books and Mostly Mysteries Books, and with her husband David compiled CRIME, DETECTIVE, ESPIONAGE, MYSTERY, AND THRILLER FICTION & FILM: A COM-

PREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CRITICAL WRITING THROUGH 1979 (1980). She was one of the founders of The Bookmakers of Toronto, a member of the executive committees that organized the Bookmakers conferences in 1986 and 1997, and (as "Beryl Garcia") a member of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.

Elizabeth Dow (ten-year-old daughter of Wanda and Jeffery Dow, and a member of The Pleasant Places of Florida) is a Girl Scout, and now the proud owner of a "Science Sleuth" badge (and of course it's nice indeed to see the Girl Scouts using a Sherlockian icon); the "Explore and Discover" booklet says: "Here are some questions you can ask or investigate, just like a scientist. There isn't always a 'right' or 'only' answer--that's the challenge of sleuthing."

Jon Lellenberg reports that the opening of the Newberry Library exhibition in Chicago on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Beyond Sherlock Holmes" was well-attended and interesting. There were about 120 people at the private dinner on Apr. 11 (the evening ended with a recording of Vincent Starrett reading his poem "221B"), and about 240 people on hand for a public lecture on Apr. 12 by Richard Lancelyn Green (the library's Saturday lectures generally attract fewer than 20 people). The exhibition offers an attractive display of many of the highlights from the material donated to the library by Fred Kittle, whose Doyleana covers four generations of Doyles and Conan Doyles), and will be on view until July 12; there's a well-illustrated list of what is in the exhibition at the library's web-site <<http://www.newberry.org>>.

And for those who might need an additional excuse to visit Chicago, Daniel Stashower will speak at the Newberry Library on May 28, on "Believers and Debunkers: Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini".

Karen Murdock noted the story in the Daily Express (Apr. 19): "an old golf club register may hold the clue to one of the last Sherlock Holmes mysteries," the report by Richard Palmer notes. Douglas Blunden, the historian of the Sheringham Golf Club in Norfolk, found the name of Mr. C. Moriarty in a visitors' book entry for 1901; Moriarty later became a full member of the club, and Conan Doyle became a member in 1903. Club officials now wonder if the two men met on holiday in Sheringham a decade earlier, when Conan Doyle first wrote about the evil Prof. James Moriarty.

Apr 03 #3 Jeffrey Schwartz ("Henry Baker") died on Apr. 7. He was vice president for international affairs for a Wall Street brokerage, and then moved to Houston to work for a Mexican bank; while he lived in the New York area he was a stalwart member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers and served as their quiz-master and (Irv Kamil has noted) designed team quizzes "of dazzling creativity." He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.

Reported: MGM/UA Video will release "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) on DVD on July 15 (\$19.98), with added-value features that include theatrical trailers, deleted sequences, and "Christopher Lee: Mr. Holmes, Mr. Wilder".

Admirers of "Aunt Clara" will recall that Bill Rabe reported in his "We Always Mention Aunt Clara" that one of the experts consulted in his research on the post-war history of the song was Art Buchwald, who was (Bill noted) "nightclub critic" for the Paris edition of the N.Y. Herald Tribune. They had met in March 1952, when Lt. Rabe was in Paris, following in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes, and a report on Bill's activities was featured in Buchwald's column. Buchwald, who joined the paper in 1949, reported in his syndicated column this month: "A funny thing happened the other day. Actually, it was not that funny. The International Herald Tribune in Paris canceled my column after 53 years." The N.Y. Herald Tribune closed many years ago, but the International Herald Tribune has continued to publish, operated jointly by the N.Y. Times and the Washington Post; last year the N.Y.

Times, in a hostile takeover, purchased the Washington Post's interest in the International Herald Tribune, and Buchwald, whose column has been published for decades in the Washington Post (and not in the N.Y. Times), is the latest casualty of the takeover. But his fans can continue to read his column in the Washington Post and other papers that carry it.

Boris Karloff was shown in a pane of ten stamps honoring "American Film Making" that was issued in February; the stamp is a photograph of Jack Pierce and an unidentified technician applying makeup to Karloff for "Frankenstein" (1931). Karloff also played Mr. Mycroft in "The Sting of Death" (which was adapted by Alvin Sapinsley from H. F. Heard's novel A TASTE FOR HONEY) on ABC-TV's "The Elgin Hour" on Feb. 22, 1955 (in an era before fans were quick to tape off-the-air, alas).

David Harlan would like to reactivate The Mystik Krewe of Sherlock Holmes (the Sherlockian society in New Orleans), and would be happy to hear from any locals; his address is: 833 East Lexington Avenue, Terrytown, LA 70056 <d100harlan@cs.com>.

Ted Friedman's interesting series about Sherlockian philately for Topical Times continues with his two-page article on "Vernet French Connections" in the May-June issue; he offers brief histories of the Vernet and Holmes families, and it's illustrated with stamps showing paintings by Carle, Emile Jean Horace, and Claude Joseph Vernet. The magazine costs \$5.00 postpaid (credit-card orders welcome) from the American Topical Association, Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004 <americantopical@msn.com>.

Apr 03 #4 "The actor Charles Dance wanted to perform 'Pursued by a Bear', in which Sherlock Holmes hunts a killer in an animal suit," according to Benedict Nightingale's story in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 23) about the career of playwright Peter Nichols, whose play "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg" was recently revived in New York. "Pursued by a Bear" is one of some 40 unproduced plays he has written; they are now in British Library, which bought his archive four years ago. Thanks to Greg Darak, who noted the mention of a Sherlock Holmes play.

Richard Valley reports that MPI Home Video will release the 14 Basil Rathbone/Nigel Bruce films on DVDs, beginning this fall; one film per DVD, and two DVDs per month; the Universal films will be the recently-restored versions in the UCLA archives (the 20th Century-Fox films will be cleaned up but not entirely remastered), and Valley will provide the chapter stops and liner notes (and it's possible that there will be extra features included).

Two enameled-metal lapel pins (Holmes reading Porlock's message is in six colors, and the hansom cab is in five) are offered by Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044); the pins cost \$12.00 each (post-paid) or \$15.00 each for orders from outside the United States (payment should be made in currency or with checks drawn on U.S. banks, please).

According to The Passengers' Log (summer 2003, p. 12), the Programme Preservation Society offers "The Life (in a Day) of Douglas Wilmer", a 165-minute interview in which he reminisces about his acting career (including his performances as Holmes and his recorded readings of the Canon) on a video-cassette. The PPS notes that Wilmer has written about the interview that "I have decided that yours is the \*definitive\* one and, should anyone ever ask me again I shall simply recommend it to them." Their cassettes usually are available only to members, but readers of this newsletter are welcome to order this one if they hear from you by Aug. 1 (mention the magic word "Scuttlebutt"). The cassette is in PAL/VHS format, and costs £10.00 post-

paid to the U.K. (or £13.00 elsewhere); payment by sterling check or money order, please (checks payable to the PPS), and orders can be sent to Richard Berry (36-B Elvendon Road, Bounds Green, London N13 4SH, England). Additional information about the PPS and its other cassettes can be found at their web-site at <<http://www.pps-tv.co.uk>>.

James Eedle has prepared a comprehensive index for News from the Diggings, which was edited by Alan C. Olding and published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of Australia from 1980 to 2002. There's a general index, an index of references to stories, and an annotated list of contents, in word format on a 3.5" floppy disk, available for US\$25.00 postpaid (US\$ checks or currency welcome) from Alan (P.O. Box 13, Stirling, SA 5152, Australia).

Rebecca Bohner has a bit of news from Laurie R. King about a Mary Russell novel in the works: "THE GAME as in The Great Game, as in India's Northwest frontier, as in Kim. Yes, Kim. He's 47 now (that is, in 1924), and missing..." And Rebecca notes that that's Rudyard Kipling's Kim.

Apr 03 #5 The 2002 issue of the Beeman's Christmas Annual, edited by Janet N. Bensley for The Occupants of the Empty House, is a celebration of the society's first 25 years and a tribute to Father Raymond L. "Vic" Holly. The Occupants have met each month since Jan. 1977, and their 300 meetings through the end of 2002 may well be a record for Sherlockian societies; the 40-page booklet costs \$11.25 postpaid, and checks (payable to the society, please) should be sent to Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).

"What might have been" department: the spring issue of Irene Adler's Post-modern Victorian Gazette (published by Carole Nelson Douglas as part of her Midnight Louie's Scratching Post-Intelligencer) reports that Carole sent a copy of GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES to Jane Seymour for Christmas in 1990, hoping to interest the actress in playing the role. The actress called Carole to thank her, and went on to star in "Dr. Quinn: Medicine Woman" on television, and Carole went on to write more novels. The URL for Carole's web-site is <<http://www.catwriter.com>>.

Belgium issued a stamp commemorating the centenary of the death of Felicien Rops (1833-1898), who was a member of the Groupe des Vingts [XX Group], and Belgium's leading artist, when Sherlock Holmes was pursuing the Hound of the Baskervilles" (and Watson reported that Holmes "was entirely absorbed in the pictures of the modern Belgian masters"); the design shows part of Rops' painting "La foire aux amours". The stamp was one of a set of four in a set that honored the 200th anniversary of the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent.

Dave Dobson spotted Massimo Pigliucci's "Thinking About Science" column in the May-June issue of Skeptical Inquirer" "Elementary, Dear Watson" notes that Sherlock Holmes used induction rather than deduction, and explains the difference between the two forms of reasoning.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (a 1986 two-act "Victorian musical spoof" with book by Tim Kelly and music and lyrics by Jack Sharkey) will be performed at the Drama Lab Theatre at Orange Coast Community College on May 8-11 and 15-18. The theater is at 2701 Fairview Road, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (714-432-5880) <<http://www.occtickets.com>>.

Robert F. Hanson (6000 Cortaderia Street NE #3215, Albuquerque, NM 87111) offers a second printing of John Bennett Shaw's COLLECTING SHERLOCKIANA: AN ESSAY [Apr 91 #2]. The 16-page pamphlet includes a frontispiece photograph showing the Sage of Santa Fe in his library; \$6.50 postpaid (\$8.50 outside the United States).

Roger Johnson reports that Malcolm Williamson died on Mar. 2. He was appointed Master of the Queen's Music (the musical equivalent of poet laureate) in 1975, and he was a composer for films, including the score of "The Masks of Death" (1984). And that Lloyd Shirley died in Mar. 5. He was a leading television executive in Britain, and was executive producer of the Thames TV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).

Apr 03 #6 Here's your chance to star in some of the Sherlock Holmes stories: Customized Classics (5 Camelot Way, Markham, ON L3P 3V9, Canada) (905-201-9504) <<http://www.customizedclassics.com>> offers A STUDY IN SCARLET AND THE SIGN OF THE FOUR, THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (\$28.95 each postpaid) with customized covers and your name in the text in place of major characters. And you get a 20% discount if you mention the magic word ("Scuttlebutt"); please tell them your phone number when you order. Books by other authors also are available.

The Sherlock Holmes stories (as well as Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work) have been illustrated by some fine artists, including Wladyslaw Theodore Benda (1875-1948), whose mixed-media theatrical mask is owned by the National Portrait Gallery. An exhibit of "American Beauties: Drawing from the Golden Age of Illustration" at the Library of Congress last year included some of his striking art for the covers of "Hearst's International Magazine" (his illustrations for "The Sussex Vampire" appeared in that magazine in Jan. 1924).

The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Julie Mckuras' article about the collections' recently acquired print of the film "A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918); the film was made by the Ebony Film Corp. and starred Sam Robinson (in parody Sherlockian costume) as Knick Garter. The issue also has Michael Dirda's critique of W. H. Auden's discussion of mysteries, and Sherlock Holmes, in "The Guilty Vicarage"; and Jon Lellenberg's warm tribute to John Bennett Shaw's enthusiastic collecting, in Jon's reminiscence of how two century-old parodies wound up in John's collection. Dick Sveum also reports that the cataloging project funded by the Hubbs Family (and by the library and the Hench Endowment) has been completed. the newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <[sveum001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:sveum001@tc.umn.edu)>.

"The future of humankind is at stake and only two men can save it. Come on a journey back to the beginning of science, the beginning of civilization, the beginning of time. Where will it all end? Be prepared to see Holmes and Watson as you've never seen them before. In daring plots, in amazing escapades, in dubious disguise. In trouble." That's the promotion for the new play "Sherlock Holmes in Trouble" (written by Mark Long and Emil Wolk) that will have its world premiere at the Royal Exchange in Manchester, July 2 through Aug. 9. St. Ann's Square, Manchester N2 7DH, England (0161-833-9833) <<http://www.royalexchange.co.uk>>.

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

May 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Dennis Lien reports that a fourth (and final) edition of Allen J. Hubin's massive bibliography of crime fiction is to be published at the end of this

year. Al described the first edition, which appeared in 1984 and covered 1749-1975, as a list of "all mystery, detective, suspense, police and gothic fiction in book form published in the English language," and he's an expert in the field: his had more than 26,000 books in his collection, and he founded and edited "The Armchair Detective" and won two Edgar awards from the Mystery Writers of America. His CRIME FICTION IV: A COMPREHENSIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY 1749-2000 is to have about 2,700 pages in five hard-cover volumes (\$400 postpaid for pre-publication orders), from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <gav@bmts.com>, and there are plans for a CD-ROM edition from the Locus Press <<http://www.locusmag.com/index>>; the CD-ROM with the third edition costs \$49.95 (and one can assume that the new CD-ROM won't cost much more). The bibliography will list more than 109,000 titles, indexed by authors and pseudonyms, and indexes for settings, film adaptations, and much more.

Dennis Rosa's 1975 play "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the Dorset Theatre Festival from June 26 to July 12; Box 510, Dorset, VT 05251 (802-867-2223) <[www.dorsettheatrefestival.com](http://www.dorsettheatrefestival.com)>.

The television series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999), which was produced by DIC Entertainment and Scottish Television and broadcast in Britain in 1999 and in the United States in 2001, will now be seen in many other countries; according to the Hollywood Reporter (Apr. 29), the animated series is included in deals with Nickelodeon Asia, Fox Kids Italy, and Cartoon Network Japan. The series had 26 30-minute programs and featured the voices of Jason Gray Stanford as Sherlock Holmes, and John Payne as Dr. John Watson).

If you're planning a trip to England: The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning a cricket match against The P. G. Wodehouse Society on June 29, at the West Wycombe Cricket Club in Buckinghamshire. It's open to the public, and there's no charge for admission.

Reported: MY SHERLOCK HOLMES: UNTOLD STORIES OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE, edited by Michael Kurland (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2003; 370 pp., \$24.95) -- an anthology of pastiches, written to Kurland's rule: while Holmes must appear, the viewpoint character is not Watson, but some other figure from the Canon.

Jim Rock reports that the Bookfinder web-site <<http://www.bookfinder.com>> that allows users to search other used-book sites has noted what the most-searched-for books in various categories were during the last half of 2002. Under "mysteries and thrillers" that top ten were WHERE THERE'S A WILL (Rex Stout), THE RUBBER BAND (Rex Stout), THE RED BOX (Rex Stout), THE LEAGUE OF FRIGHTENED MEN (Rex Stout), TEN LITTLE NIGGERS (Agatha Christie), THE DEEP (Peter Benchley), THE IPCRESS FILE (Len Deighton), THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (William S. Baring-Gould), THE BOYS FROM BRAZIL (Ira Levin), and THE SILVER PIGS (Lindsey Davis). It's intriguing that THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES is on so many people's want lists 35 years after it was published.

May 03 #2 Further to the report (Jul 01 #1) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived as a child), award-winning Edinburgh architect Richard Murphy has drawn up plans to renovate the house for use by the Dunedin School. Opponents of a proposal by McDonald's for a restaurant on the site of the oldest surviving house where Conan Doyle lived welcomed the news.

Frank Darlington died on May 9. He was an energetic member of The Sound of the Baskervilles and The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia, and a genial contributor to The Hounds of the Internet, and his risqué Christmas cards issued from his scandalous Darlington Press were a delight. Thanks to his career in the U.S. Foreign Service he happily visited many of the countries mentioned in the Canon (Afghanistan, Austria, England, France, Italy, Pakistan, and the Sudan), and his home included a library full of Sherlockian souvenirs from his travels.

Further to the report (Apr 03 #3) on the MGM/UA Video release of "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) on DVD, Dave Kehr noted (N.Y. Times, May 11) that the added features include 30 minutes cut from the theatrical release.

There's plenty of Sherlockian scholarship in languages other than English: Le Registre d'Ecrou, published by Les Evades de Dartmoor, had four annual issues, and last year was succeeded by Le Carnet d'Ecrou. Information on subscriptions are available from Francois Hoff, 19 rue du Marechal Joffre, 67000 Strasbourg, France <lecarnetdecrou@hotmail.com>.

Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 8 now is available, with 68 pages of wit, scholarship, conjecture, pastiche, and artwork by members of The Hounds of the Internet; most of the material is new (one item was published earlier only in Japanese, and another is revised and expanded from a version published in 1997). The cost is \$10.00/CA\$15.00/L6.50/E9.00 postpaid by air; payment in currency or by PayPal to <bbarnes@ozemail.com.au> preferred, but checks (made out to R. W. Barnes) are acceptable.

Brian W. Pugh reports that he has published a second (expanded and corrected) edition of his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, now with more biographical references to Conan Doyle and with the dates of his works incorporated within the chronology. It's available from Brian at 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England; L16.00 postpaid to the U.K., or L19.00/E30.00/\$30.00 elsewhere; sterling checks only (euros and dollars in currency, please).

Further to the item (Mar 03 #4) about films available from Sinister Cinema (Box 4369, Medford, OR 97501) <<http://www.sinistercinema.com>>: they offer many more titles, including "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1936, with Bruno Guttner, in German), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1968, with Peter Cushing), and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1979, with Vasily Livanov, in Russian subtitled in English), on DVDs (\$16.95 each); and "The Sign of Four" (1932, with Arthur Wontner), "Murder at the Baskervilles" (1937, with Arthur Wontner, aka "Silver Blaze"), and "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962, with Christopher Lee), on cassettes (\$12.95 each).

May 03 #3 Fans of the recent series (with Maury Chaykin as Nero Wolfe and Tim Hutton as Maury Chaykin) will welcome the news that "Nero Wolfe: The Complete Season One DVD set" will be available (\$59.95) on June 10 at the A&E web-site <<http://store.aetv.com>>, with a poster showing Hutton Goodwin; or discounted (\$31.89) at <[www.deepdiscounteddvd.com](http://www.deepdiscounteddvd.com)>. The A&E web-site also offers Nero Wolfe floral ties and swirl ties. For those who came in late, many Sherlockians enjoy the speculation that Sherlock Holmes, during the Great Hiatus, rendezvoused with Irene Adler in Montenegro; after her return to New Jersey she gave birth to a child who inherited his father's expertise at deduction, and his uncle's physique.

Kathleen I. Morrison died on May 5. She worked for the Calgary Public Library for 42 years, and she was one of Canada's first Sherlockians (and the fourth baronet of The Canadian Baskervilles, Canada's first Sherlockian society); her article on "John H. Watson, M.D." was published in the Calgary Associate Clinic's Historical Bulletin in May 1943. Charles Honce's story about her ran on the Associated Press wire on Jan. 29, 1945, by which time she had been recruited by Clif Andrew as the corresponding secretary of the Scandalous Bohemians of Akron. Vincent Starrett was another of her correspondents, and she was quoted by Honce saying that "it has been an intriguing adventure, growing daily in color and scope."

Further to the item (Mar 03 #6) about recent news from Hollywood about New Line Cinema's "Holmes and Watson" action-adventure that's set in modern-day London, Josh Spector notes in the Hollywood Reporter (May 23) that New Line also has acquired Mark DiStefano's "untitled modern Sherlock Holmes spec in

a mid-six-figure deal" with Chris Bender and J. C. Spink as producer. It's described as a thriller with a historical hook, and the script centers on "a rookie New York cop who discovers that he is the descendant of the legendary sleuth. While Holmes' great-great-grandson does not share his last name, he does share his unique ability and quickly rises up the ranks to detective. But when his true heritage becomes tabloid fodder, a copycat criminal emerges and re-enacts many of the crimes Holmes once solved, putting the descendant to the test."

May 29 was Bob Hope's 100th birthday, and there have been many celebrations of his long career as an entertainer, on stage and screen and radio and television, and on his many USO tours performing for our armed forces. And his massive joke file (he kept careful records) is now at the Library of Congress, where they were scanned and digitized (but unfortunately one cannot run a word search to see if he told any jokes about Sherlock Holmes). You can, however, see a caricature of Bob "Sherlock" Hope at his official web-site at <<http://www.bobhope.com/JokePage.html>> (thanks to Scott Monty for observing and reporting on this); you can click on the image and listen to him telling jokes. You can also keep an eye out for advertising for the film "My Favorite Brunette" (1947) showing him in Sherlockian costume (it's only in the advertising, however, and there's no S'ian costume in the film itself). He also is reported to have performed in a skit on the "Donny and Marie Show" (1977) as Inspector Wonderful, with Jay Osmond as Doctor Datsum (alas, no one has reported having recorded this on videocassette).

May 03 #4 "I grew up with Conan Doyle," said Dick Wolf, producer of the television series "Law & Order", according to David Zurawick in the Baltimore Sun (May 4). "That's what I read when I was growing up. Sherlock Holmes is still my favorite fictional character. I started with the Hardy Boys, and then moved on to Sherlock Holmes." Thanks to Jay Hyde for forwarding the article. There was Sherlockian dialogue in the episode "Prescription for Death" (1990), and the episode "Kiss the Girls and Make Them Die" (1990) had many echos from "The Illustrious Client".

"Gigantic (A Tale of Two Johns)" opened at the Cinema Village in New York on May 23. The documentary film is about the rock band "They Might Be Giants" (the two Johns are John Flansburgh and John Linnell, who founded the group that took its name from the 1970 film that starred George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who believes he's Sherlock Holmes).

Father Raymond L. "Vic" Holly died on May 19. He was a charter member of The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, and the first person to attend a meeting of The Occupants of the Empty House (and in case you're wondering how he got to be the first person, he also was the only person, Michael Bragg reports: there was a huge blizzard and the meeting was postponed, and Vic, who hadn't told anyone he was coming, was the only one not told; he crawled through the blizzard and found the restaurant closed, so he got credit for attending, even though no one else did). As noted earlier (Apr 03 #5), the 2002 issue of the Beeman's Christmas Annual was a tribute to Vic; the 40-page booklet costs \$11.25 postpaid; checks (payable to the society, please) should be sent to Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).

Andy Peck has reported that the recently-restored 97-minute version of John Barrymore's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1922) will be screened with live musical accompaniment by the Film Society of Lincoln Center at their Walter Reade Theater on July 22 at 6:00 and 8:30 pm; the theater is located at 165 West 65th Street in New York. Tickets go on sale on July 16, and the box-office phone number is 212-496-3809 <<http://www.filmlinc.com>>.

David Otis Ives died on May 16. He was a reporter and editor, and in 1960 he went to work as assistant general manager of the WGBH Educational Foundation. From 1970 to 1984 he was president and chief executive officer of

WGBH, and approved projects such as "Nova", "Frontline", "Masterpiece Theater", and "Mystery!", which allowed viewers here to see the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Richard Roxburgh's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (and many references to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle in the wrap-arounds recorded in Boston by Vincent Price, Diana Rigg and Russell Baker).

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who might have a current address for Douglas Walker-Macran, who some years ago wrote to me from the Chateau de la Bastide d'Engras in Gard; he isn't there now, and the French post office doesn't have a forwarding address for him.

One of the more interesting Sherlockian-themed toys is VTech's "The Detectives" Search 'n Discover Book (see the next page for a reduced picture of what it looks like). It's for ages three years and up, and it costs about \$10.00 at toy stores. VTech can be reached at 800-521-2010 or (in Canada) 800-267-7377 <<http://www/vtechkids.com>> or <<http://vtechcanada.com>>.

[May 03 #5]

May 03 #6 Sherlockian allusions continue to appear in kid-vid television animations, demonstrating that producers assume that children (sometimes so young that they're not reading yet) will understand the reference. And of course many of the series are also available on videocassettes, one of them being "Hey Arnold!: Partners" (from Nickelodeon), with five 12-minute segments; the title segment of the cassette is synopsized: "First the great composing team of Spumoni and Reynolds split up. And now maybe Arnold and Gerald, too. Are all great performing duos doomed?" and there's an appropriate mention of Holmes and Watson. Thanks to Mike Kean for forwarding the cassette.

Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., has opened for the season (Memorial Day through Columbus Day), fully restored after an \$11-million restoration project funded by the state. A story in the Hartford Courant (May 22) reported that "Gillette's famous personal railroad cars, which once carried personalities such as Calvin Coolidge and Albert Einstein, are still being restored."

BBC Radio 4 continues to offer Conan Doyle material to listeners in Great Britain (and sometimes on its overseas broadcasts), and the material can isn't necessarily Sherlockian: BBC Radio 4's 30-minute series "The Darker Side of the Border" aired Martin Ross' dramatization of "The Captain of the Polestar" on Apr. 24, 2003. The border is the Scottish border, and the accents are thick enough to be cut by a knife. As far as I know, this is the first time this story has been dramatized; thanks to Roger Johnson for providing an off-the-air recording.

Issue #54 of SHERLOCK offers its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise), including the second part of Gavin Collinson's commentary on Billy Wilder's "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes", David Stuart Davies' discussion of "The Voice of Passion: How Arthur Conan Doyle's Private Life Influenced the Sherlock Holmes Stories", and Pat Ward's two-page report on "Sherlock Stateside" (a feature in each issue of the magazine). SHERLOCK is published every two months and a subscription costs L23.70 (to the U.K.)/L26.00 (continent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <<http://pmh.uk.com/sherlock/sherlock.htm>>. Or you can order from their American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

The spring issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Doug Wrigglesworth's report on the collection's acquisition (with funding assistance from the Friends) of books from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's library, Barbara Rusch's discussion of Cliff Goldfarb's research on the long-standing controversy about whether Conan Doyle helped marathon runner Dorando across the finish line at the 1908 Olympics (Conan Doyle was present for the race, but in the stands rather than on the track), and other news from the library. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <[dougwig@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougwig@sympatico.ca)>.

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

Jun 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

It is rare for the BBC to broadcast a repeat of an ITV television series, but the BBC has signed to repeat the first 13 programs of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" (with Jeremy Brett and David Burke) on BBC-2 on Saturday af-

ternoons in the "Watching the Detectives" slot. According to Adam Sherwin (in The Times on May 30), a BBC spokesman said that the deal didn't signal a retreat from its obligations to provide original programming, and that "we are always looking for new acquisitions and this is a series we think will be very popular with daytime audiences." And Nadine Nohr, Granada International's managing director, said that "This series starring the late, great Jeremy Brett as Holmes is still hailed as the definitive on-screen depiction of the world's greatest fictional detective. The series continues to resonate as evidenced by continued sales around the world."

Patricia Guy has reported on a new society: The Assorted and Stradivarious of Verona (the first scion of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes). They hold their meetings (in English, since the local members prefer to read the Canon in its original language), and visitors should contact Patricia Guy (Via Fama 11, 37121 Verona, Italy) <benguy@libero.it>.

The first running of The Silver Blaze at Belmont Race Track was in 1956, as noted by Wayne B. Swift in the The Street Journal Christmas Annual for 2000 (an excellent history of the original race, and its many offspring), and the last running there was in 1995. And there's a fine article about the track (where the 135th Belmont Stakes was run on June 7) in the Washington Post's sports section on June 2. Look for John Scheinman's "In the Spring of Kings, Belmont is the Palace" in your local library, or at the paper's web-site <<http://www.washingtonpost.com>> (look for "In the Sport of Kings, Belmont Is the Palace" as a headline).

Jerry Margolin offers a rare poster for sale: it's for the first Sherlock Holmes talking picture, "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), with Clive Brook as Holmes, with a hand-tinted photograph of Brook holding a magnifying glass and examining a gun. Jerry's asking \$3,000, and you can ask him for more information: 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219 (503-293-7274) <sherlock@teleport.com>.

The Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas has completed a two-year \$14.5 million renovation, according to a story in the Daily Texas on June 2 (spotted by Ken Lanza), and the center is displaying some of "the most famous elements of its collection": manuscript and signed works by George Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens, Albert Einstein, and Dylan Thomas, the original "Leatherface" mask from "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre", and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's golf clubs.

Jim Weiss' excellent recordings for younger audiences are available on CDs as well as cassettes, and his titles include SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone", "The Speckled Band", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! ("The Red-Headed League" plus tales by Poe and Chesterton); cassettes are \$10.95 each, and CDs are \$14.95 each, and orders can be sent to Greathall Productions, Box 813, Benicia, CA 94510 (800-477-6234) <<http://www.greathall.com>>.

Jun 03 #2 Reported by Roger Johnson: the sixth volume of David Timson's unabridged readings of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (with "The Gloria Scott", "The Resident Patient", "The Noble Bachelor", and "The Final Problem"), available from Naxos AudioBooks on three CDs (L13.99) or three cassettes (L9.99); 3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1SL, England) <<http://www.naxos-audiobooks.com>>. Naxos also offers ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE--A LIFE, by Hesketh Pearson, read (abridged) by Tim Pigott-Smith on two CDs (\$10.99) or two cassettes (\$8.99). And their web-site has a link to their prices-in-dollars site for American customers.

Julie Mckuras spotted Sherlock Snoopy, one of 16 stickers (all of them showing Snoopy in various costumes and poses) on a sheet of "Peanuts" stickers that's marketed to stationery and toy stores by SandyLion <<http://www.sandylion.com>>. The company is at 400 Cochrane Drive, Markham, ON L3R 8E3, Canada (800-387-4215) or Box 1570, Buffalo, NY 14240 (same toll-free number). Their "Peanuts"

series also offers "Woodstock, Charlie Brown, and the gang."

Sorry about that: I suggested (May 03 #6) that BBC Radio 4 might have aired the first dramatization of "The Captain of the Polestar" (on Apr. 24). The story was dramatized for and broadcast by the CBS Radio Mystery Theater on Oct. 6, 1978. If anyone recorded this program, please let me know.

Russ Mann spotted the story in The Scotsman (May 26): the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, founded in 1729 with just four beds, has closed its facility at Lauriston Place. According to Tara Womersley, "Joseph Bell, who became acting surgeon at the infirmary in 1871, quickly gained attention for his terse clinical observations, and he so inspired one of his students that he was immortalized in literature. In a letter, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle credited Bell for helping him to imagine the finest creation, writing: 'It is to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes.'" The Lauriston Place infirmary opened in 1879, and of course there is an intriguing echo of the place name in the Canon. The Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh continues operations at a new hospital at Little France.

Julie McKuras notes a web-site <<http://www.sherlocksofcelebration.com>> for Sherlock's of Celebration, an appropriately-themed restaurant and memorabilia shop in Florida: 715 Bloom Street #130, Celebration, FL 34747.

The Mystery Writer's Annual (the program for the MWA's annual Edgar Allan Poe Awards Dinner) includes an "In Memoriam" section, and this year there were three people I didn't mention in this newsletter. Henry Slesar died on Apr. 2, 2002; he wrote seven mystery novels and nearly 500 short stories, and contributed to "The Alfred Hitchcock Show" and "The Edge of Night" television series (one of his stories was "The Sherlock Method" in the Feb. 1959 issue of The Gent). Alvin Sapinsley, Jr., died on June 13, 2002; he adapted H. F. Heard's "Mr. Mycroft" novel "A Taste for Honey" for television as "The Sting of Death" on the Elgin Hour series (1955), and wrote the script for the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976). And Lloyd Biggle, Jr., died on Sept. 12, 2002; he wrote mysteries and science fiction, and novels and short stories, and two of his novels are entertaining Sherlockian pastiches, told by Edward P. Jones (one of the irregulars: THE QUALLSFORD INHERITANCE (1986) and THE GLENDOWER CONSPIRACY (1990).

Jun 03 #3 Jerry Margolin offers a rare poster for sale: it advertises the first Sherlock Holmes talking picture, "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), with Clive Brook as Holmes, with a hand-tinted photograph of Brook holding a magnifying glass and examining a gun. Jerry is asking \$3,000, and he'll be glad to supply more information: 10007 S.W. Quail Post Road, Portland, OR 97219 (503-293-7274) <[sherlock@teleport.com](mailto:sherlock@teleport.com)>.

Costa Rossakis spotted a colorful full-page advertisement for McClelland's pipe tobaccos in the summer 2003 issue of Pipes and Tobacco: their Sherlock's Black Shag and Watson's Arcadia will soon be joined by a "new 221B tobacco" that may not come in the appropriately Canonical box shown in the advertisement, but they have paid close attention to "The Cardboard Box".

Plan ahead: June 11-13, 2004, are the dates for the conference titled "A River Runs by It: The University of Minnesota's Elmer L. Andersen Library and Sherlock Holmes Collections, On the Banks of the Mississippi" sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers, The Arthur Conan Doyle Society, and The Sherlock Holmes Collections; you can contact Julie McKuras at 13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124 <[mike9750@aol.com](mailto:mike9750@aol.com)> to enroll on their mailing list.

Bill Force noted a report in the Hartford Courant (May 29) that Gillette's

"Sherlock Holmes" will be produced by the River Rep at the Ivoryton Playhouse on July 2-19. The box office is at Box 367, Ivoryton, CT 06442 (860-767-8348) <<http://www.riverrep.com>>.

And, further to the item (May 03 #6) about the opening of Gillette Castle, visitors should not neglect the exhibition "Honoring William Gillette" at the East Haddam Historical Society Museum on Route 82 (Town Street) (860-873-3944). The exhibits include a continuous running of Peter Loffredo's excellent 30-minute documentary "William Gillette: A Connecticut Yankee and the American Stage" (1986); Garrett Walters plays William Gillette, and the film features interviews that include one with Helen Hayes, who as a young woman acted with Gillette.

"Jane Austin's Mr. Darcy has emerged as the most romantic figure in English literature in a poll of women readers," according to a story by Nigel Reynolds in the Daily Telegraph (June 4), forwarded by Ken Lanza. Orange, a mobile phone company polled 1,900 women, and the runners-up, in order, were James Bond, Superman, Hercule Poirot, Inspector Morse, Heathcliff, Sherlock Holmes, Rhett Butler, Prince Charming, and Sharpe. Holmes also ranked 3rd their choice of a guest for an imaginary dinner party, behind Mr. Darcy and Hercule Poirot.

The film "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" (based on the comic-book mini-series, with story by Alan Moore) will open on July 17, with Richard Roxburgh as Mycroft 'M' Holmes, making him (I think) the second actor who has played both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes.

Jun 03 #4 The American Film Institute's "AFI's 100 Years . . . 100 Heroes & Villains" aired on CBS-TV on June 3, and the winners (selected from 400 nominations by an unidentified jury) were Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Gregory Peck) and Hannibal Lecter (Anthony Hopkins). The list is available at <<http://www.afi.com>>, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson (Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in "The Hound of the Baskervilles") were ranked #160.

The Queen's Birthday Honours list included a knighthood for Roger Moore, who played Sherlock Holmes in the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976).

William S. Dorn offers a new (and interesting) Sherlockian item: A Sherlock Holmes bobblehead doll (7.5" high); the postpaid cost is \$36.55 (to the U.S.)/\$38.55 (to Canada)/\$42.55 (elsewhere). And there's a new lapel pin with artwork by Nancy Beiman, at \$12.15/\$13.15/\$16.15). His address is 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; and he has a web-site at <<http://www.thesherlockstore.com>>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery visitors can solve), was first exhibited in England in 1995 and it has been touring the United States and Canada in since then; it is now at the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond, Va., through Aug. 31 (804-864-1400) <<http://www.smv.org>>.

The June 2003 issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has John Linsenmeyer's warm tribute to the late Stephen Tolins, Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" discussion of P. G. Wodehouse, and reports from and about the collections. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455)

<sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

"Your private detective does not--or did not ten years ago when he was my colleague--want to be an erudite solver of riddles in the Sherlock Holmes manner; he wants to be a hard and shifty fellow, able to take care of himself in any situation, able to get the best of anybody he comes in contact with, whether criminal, innocent by-stander or client." Dashiell Hammett, in his Introduction to the 1934 Modern Library edition of THE MALTESE FALCON, discovered recently by Bill Harker.

Marcus Geisser, who works for the International Committee for the Red Cross in Thailand, reports that he has been scuba-diving at Sukorn, which is located on the west coast of Thailand, on the east side of the Andaman Sea. I'm sure there are other scuba-diving Sherlockians, and it occurs to me to wonder what their Sherlockian society might be called.

Jun 03 #5 Barry Day, has written five Sherlockian pastiches, and he now has edited SHERLOCK HOLMES: IN HIS OWN WORDS AND IN THE WORDS OF THOSE WHO KNEW HIM (New York: Taylor Trade Publishing, 2003; 224 pp., \$24.95); it's an interesting literary biography, based on quotations from the Canon, with commentary by Day and illustrations from The Strand Magazine, and it's an excellent introduction to the Canon (and to some of its more important other characters). Day notes in his Introduction that "It surprises many people to learn that more has been written about Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson in one century than about Shakespeare in four," and he offers a welcome focus on what the Canon itself tells us.

Reported by Roger Johnson: SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DER FLUCH VON ADDLETON, the German edition of Mike Ashley's anthology THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES ADVENTURES (1997); Bastei Lubbe, Verlagsgruppe Lubbe GmbH & Co. KG, Bergisch Gladbach, Germany (E10.00). And MYCROFT UP AGAINST IT and MYCROFT OVER THE WATER, by Sam Bonnamy, as a downloadable e-book, or ink-on-paper (e-booksonline, 28 Bryntirion Drive, Woodlands Park Prestatyn, Denbighshire LL19 9NY, England); <<http://www.e-booksonline.net>>. And some new miniature books of Canonical stories, from R. F. Flower, 5 Foxglove Close, Ringmer, East Sussex BN8 5PB, England. Roger also forecasts SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RULE OF NINE, by Barrie Roberts, due in August from Severn House (9-15 High Street Sutton, Surrey SM1 1DF, England; L18.99). All this from Roger's excellent monthly newsletter The District Messenger, which costs \$15.00 (make your checks payable to Jean Upton, please) or L6.00 (checks payable to Roger); his address is Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DF, England <[rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk)>. And yes, that's "rojer" with a "j".

The auction at Sotheby's in London on July 10 offers a wide range of Winston Churchill material, including several of his cigars, some half-smoked and some smoked (an unsmoked cigar with a band reading "Especiales Sir Winston Churchill" is estimated at L500-600); a photograph of Harry Houdini, inscribed to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1920 (L1,500-2,000); a signed presentation copy of THE NEW REVELATION (L500-700), and other Sherlockiana. 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA, England <<http://www.sothebys.com>>.

I suggested (Jun 03 #3) that Richard Roxburgh was the second actor to play both Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes; the first actor was Christopher Lee, who has played Sherlock Holmes on television and Mycroft in a film (as well as Sir Henry Baskerville in another film). Ken Lanza has forwarded a story in the Sydney Morning Herald (June 14) noting that the trailer for "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" has a "booming American voice dubbed onto the lips of Australia's Richard Roxburgh," even though Sean Connery was allowed to retain his Scottish accent). "We must conclude that the producers think American audiences won't be attracted to a movie," David Dale wrote, "if it contains too many non-American renditions of the English language."

Hume Cronyn died on June 15. He began his acting career on stage in Washington in 1931, in the comedy "Up Pops the Devil" (he said years later that he over-rehearsed and blew his only line), and went on to a long and award-

winning career on stage and screen and television. In Alfred Hitchcock's film "Shadow of a Doubt" (1943) he played an avid mystery-magazine reader, and said "That little Frenchman beats them all. You can talk all you like about Sherlock Holmes. That little Frenchman beats them all."

Jun 03 #6 Karen Murdock has noted a story in the [Cardiff] western Mail (May 16) that reported that "the title of baron of the castle which is said to have inspired the name of the Sherlock Holmes novel THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES" has been offered for sale for £40,000. Owner Grace Pitchford said the history of 1,000-year-old Pencelli Castle, near Brecon in Wales and built by the 11th-century knight Ralph Baskerville, inspired the name of the novel, and that "Conan Doyle was a regular visitor to the castle during the reign of Queen Victoria." According to a story in This Is Herefordshire (May 22) the barony is being sold by the Pitchford family, who acquired the Pencelli estate in the 1930s from the trustees of Henry Barry, Lord Buckland of Bwich. The story also says that "new lords or ladies of the manors may use their style on passports, driving licences and credit cards." And you can join the Manorian Society of Great Britain. The barony is being offered by Manorial Auctioneers (104 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE, England) <<http://www.msgb.co.uk>>.

But there's a major problem: according to information at Paul M. Remfry's web-site <<http://www.castlewales.com/pencelli.html>>, Pencelli Castle "was probably built in the late eleventh century" and "The fortress was seized by the king in 1322 and probably fell into decay soon afterwards. Today the ruins of the great square keep can still be made out behind the hotel which itself dates to 1584." It is possible, of course, that Conan Doyle stayed at the nearby hotel, but one should recall that just about every old house in Britain that has been owned by someone named Baskerville has been claimed as inspiring the book, despite the fact (which was widely reported, in the Sherlockian world) that the book was inspired by a story told to Conan Doyle by Fletcher Robinson, and the name was taken from Fletcher Robinson's coachman Harry Baskerville.

Occasionally one finds an unusual reference to Sherlock Holmes repeated in an unusual place: Colbert I. King's op-ed column (Washington Post, June 21) was headlined "Searchin' Every Which A-way for WMD", and in it King quoted from the Coasters' "Searchin'" (1957), which included the line, "Sherlock Holmes, Sam Spade, got nothing', child, on me." You can read King's column at <<http://washingtonpost.com>>, and the complete lyrics to "Searchin'" at <<http://www.rockabilly.nl/lyrics4/s0037.htm>>. The song also is available on various CDs, of course.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Pioneer Playhouse from July 15 to July 26; the theater is at 840 Stanford Road, Danville, KY 40422 (859-236-2748), and their web-site is <<http://www.pioneerplayhouse.com>>

I reported earlier (May 03 #1) on the Bookfinder web-site's list of the top ten most-searched-for books in the mystery and thrillers category. One of the books was Agatha Christie's TEN LITTLE \*\*\*\*\* (now sold retitled AND THEN THERE WERE NONE), and at least one subscriber to the electronic mailing lists to which I post the text of my newsletter encountered a problem reading the newsletter, because his e-mail manager had been set to block automatically (what is now euphemistically called) the "n-word".

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

Jul 03 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Scott Monty has reported an exhibition titled "Thomas Gainsborough, 1727-1788" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, through Sept. 24, with approximately 100 paintings and drawings. Gainsborough painted the splendid portrait of Georgina, Duchess of Devonshire, that was stolen by master-crimi-

nal Adam Worth, who was called by some "the Napoleon of crime" (and who may have served as an inspiration for Professor Moriarty). The Duchess is mentioned in the Canon (see "A Case of Identity"), and one of the Ronald Howard television shows was "The Case of the Haunted Gainsborough". More information is available at <[www.mfa.org/exhibitions/gainsborough/](http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/gainsborough/)>.

Spotted by Marina Stajic: DICTIONARY OF THEORIES, edited by Jennifer Bothamley (first published by Gale Research in 1993, and reprinted by Visible Ink Press in 2002); with an entry for "dynamics of an asteroid" (written by John Bowers), which says (in part): "initiated by C. F. Gauss (1777-1855), but reputed to have had its outstanding exposition in an elusive textbook by James Moriarty (c1840-1891)."

The August issue of Realm: The Magazine of Britain's History and Country-side has Sarah Matthews' four-page article about Conan Doyle ("A Knight for Mystery"); much of the article is illustrations, and they including a full-color reproduction of a portrait of Conan Doyle painted by Henry L. Gates in 1923. \$6.50 (\$39.00 a year for six issues), from Box 215, Landisburg, PA 17040 (800-998-0807) <[www.realm-magazine.com](http://www.realm-magazine.com)>.

SHERLOCK has a new publisher: Mark Coleman (Atlas Publishing), who has purchased the magazine from Peter Harkness; David Stuart Davies will continue as editor. Issue #55 has A. L. Blake's article on "Sherlock Holmes & the Vampire Connection", Gavin Collinson's discussion of the Michael Caine/Ben Kingsley "Without a Clue", M. J. Elliott's pastiche "The Adventure of the Mocking Huntsman", and other coverage of crime fiction. SHERLOCK appears every two months, and it costs £23.70 (to the U.K.) a year (£26.00 to Europe/\$40.00 elsewhere); Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6QJ, England <[www.sherlockholmes.com](http://www.sherlockholmes.com)>. Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <[www.sherlock-holmes.com](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com)>, is their American agent; credit-card orders welcome at both addresses.

"Shanghai knights" (in theaters earlier this year) has been released on DVD (\$22.99) and videocassette (\$17.99); the film stars Jim Fisher as Det. Artie Doyle (aka Arthur Conan Doyle), and the DVD includes out-takes and such.

Spotted by Ken Lanza: a story by Neal Jones in the New Haven Register (July 7) about plans by archeologists to investigate the remains of William Gillette's houseboat Aunt Polly (which sank on its moorings after a fire in December 1932). The Aunt Polly was a yacht, built for Gillette and launched around 1900, and he was sailing on the Connecticut River when he first saw the site where he eventually built his home (now Gillette Castle); he lived aboard the yacht during the five years it took to build the castle, and he then had the 100-foot yacht turned into a 144-foot houseboat. The wreck of the Aunt Polly was named an underwater archeological preserve by the Connecticut Historical Commission in May, and a team of archeologists will develop a booklet about the boat and mount a plaque near the site.

Jul 03 #2 Conan Doyle's THE TRAGEDY OF THE KOROSKO is a grand adventure story, set in Egypt in 1895, but it's also a surprisingly modern novel, according to Tony Robinson in his interesting introduction (and the American distributor of a new edition suggests in a press release that "some of the parallels with today's events are quite startling, including the Frenchman's refusal to go along with the proposed plan of the Americans and the English"). London: Hesperus Press, 2003; 121 pp., £6.99 (distributed here by Trafalgar Square Publishing, \$12.00).

The East Lynne Theater Company will present its third staged reading (with live piano accompaniment) of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" on Oct. 24 and 25, during a "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J.; the company's phone number is 609-884-5898 <[www.eastlynnecompany.org](http://www.eastlynnecompany.org)>.

If you've seen The Reduced Shakespeare Company's "The Complete works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)", or any of its other productions, you'll need not be urged

to see their new "All the Great Books (Abridged)"; it was developed at various venues last year, and debuted at the Kennedy Center in Washington on June 10, and it goes next to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and then on tour. The show is literary, irreverent, and hilarious, and of course one of the Great Books is "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Reed Martin has the deerstalker and calabash in the photo, but Austin Tichenor has them in the current version). <[www.reducedshakespeare.com](http://www.reducedshakespeare.com)>.

Leonard Koppett died on June 22. He was a sportswriter and author, and his career spanned nearly six decades, in New York and in California, where he was editor of the [Palo Alto] Times Tribune and contributed a general-interest column to the paper, and in the 1990s was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. At least three of the columns discussed Sherlock Holmes, and are listed in Ron De Waal's THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES; Emory Lee notes that Koppett attended (and enjoyed) at least one meeting of The Knights of the Gnomon in the late 1980s.

News of John Doubleday, who sculpted statues of Sherlock Holmes in Meiringen and in London: Karen Murdock spotted an article in the Essex Chronicle (July 18) reporting that he has been commissioned to sculpt a 30-foot high statue Maldon's Saxon hero Bryhtnoth, who died in battle defending Maldon against the Vikings more than 1,000 ago. Doubleday, who was born in Maldon, said, "It will be a genuine landmark and people will see it when they come in from the sea."

And Don Grant, in his article on "Clubbing: In Praise of Art and Alcohol" in the Independent on Sunday (July 20), says, "I don't know whether Conan Doyle was a member of the Traveller's Club, upon which the Diogenes Club was said to have been based, but he certainly was a member of the somewhat recherche London Sketch Club, which was founded in 1898 and is still going strong today." The club's studio "had a frieze of silhouettes of all the distinguished members right up to the present day, including Conan Doyle's, and on a red velvet chaise longue in the middle of the room lounged a beautiful Spanish life model."

Jul 03 #3 Anglofile reports that Richard E. Grant (who has played Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Stapleton on television) will provide the voice of Doctor Who in a new animated adventure to be released in November on the Internet (on BBCi) to mark the 40th anniversary of "Doctor Who". Grant said his interpretation of the Doctor will be "sort of a 'Sherlock Holmes in Space'". The new adventure is written by Paul Cornell, who included Holmes and Watson as characters in the "Doctor Who" novel HAPPY ENDINGS (Feb 98 #2). Anglofile is a monthly newsletter offering news of British entertainment; Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033 (\$16.00 a year).

Syd Goldberg died on July 15. His enthusiasms ranged from World War I to early film stars to Sherlock Holmes, and he was an assiduous collector (he happily noted that he had more than 19,000 items). He bequeathed his collection to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

Spotted by Karen Murdock: "I always watched Sherlock Holmes movies. It's fascinating to deal with people who are smart at something." William Peterson (Gil Grissom in "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"), quoted in a profile in the Glasgow Evening Times (July 1).

Further to the report (Jun 03 #6) that the barony of Baskerville is being offered for sale (for £40,000) by Manorial Auctioneers: before sending them a check, you should visit the web-site of British Feudal Investments; the URL is <[nobletitles.com/manorialsocietyscam.htm](http://nobletitles.com/manorialsocietyscam.htm)>, and you can read a long discussion ("The frauds of the Manorial Society and who runs it") of what is described as "one of the most ruthless, vindictive, arrogant, and dangerous of all business enterprises related to titles in the world."

The Manorial Auctioneers catalog reports that the "Baskerville family are still connected to the area and in the 19th century were friends with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. He stayed with the family on many occasions and it is from them that he took the name for his famous HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. It is possible that the castle and its setting provided an inspiration for the gloomy aspect for the bleak house in the novel, which of course was set in Devon."

I've corresponded with Robert Smith (managing director of Manorial Auctioneers), and asked how Sir Arthur could have been a regular visitor at a castle that has been only a ruin since the 14th century; he has replied that the elderly lady who now is selling the barony title says that Conan Doyle was a regular visitor to the area, and that he "got the idea for the Baskerville name because a branch of Baskervilles had held the castle and barony in the Middle Ages." And (later) that there is a Tudor mansion, known as Pencelli Castle, and "which dates, I understand, from the 16th century and may have foundations and other parts from an earlier period. It is not uncommon in Britain for medieval castles to be abandoned and 'modern' houses, of the same name, built on or near the castle site." And that "I cannot be certain, but Sir Arthur may have stayed at this house."

Forecast for August: David Pirie's THE NIGHT CALLS (Dec 02 #5 and Jan. 03 #4), in an American edition from St. Martin's Minotaur (\$24.95); it's the novel on which the British television series "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" was based.

Jul 03 #4 Further to the item (Jun 03 #5) about the auction at Sotheby's, the photograph of Harry Houdini, inscribed to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in 1920 (estimated at £1,500-2000) sold for £4,560 (including the 20% buyer's premium). the unsmoked cigar with a band reading "Especiales Sir Winston Churchill" (£500-600) and the signed presentation copy of THE NEW REVELATION (£500-700) went unsold.

Mike Whelan ("Wiggins" of the Baker Street Irregulars) has announced that the BSI will celebrate their 70th anniversary, and Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday, on Jan. 16 in New York. John Berendt, author of MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL, and the introduction to the Modern Library's 2001 edition of THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, will be the Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Jan. 15, and planning continues for the BSI's "Valley of Fear" excursion on Oct. 22-24, 2004. The fourth volume in the BSI's manuscript series will be "The Six Napoleons" (edited by Bill Hyder).

Further to the item (Apr 01 #3) about the unveiling of the life-size statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Brian Pugh reports that a 70-minute color video-cassette of the festivities, with additional footage of Windlesham and other local scenes, is available (in PAL or NTSC formats) for £20.70 or \$34.00 postpaid from Brian W. Pugh, 20 Clare Road, Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN, England; please pay by sterling check (payable to The ACD Memorial Fund) or US currency.

"Safe. Friendly. Suspicious. Toronto" is the motto for Bouchercon 2004 in (of course) Toronto on Oct. 7-10, 2004, with Peter Robinson (Canadian guest of honor), Jeremiah Healy (American guest of honor), Lindsey Davis (British guest of honor), and Gary Warren Niebuhr (fan guest of honor); P.O. Box 7, Thornhill, ON L3T 3N1, Canada.

Noted by Peter Ashman: there's a web-site <[www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)> for The Proceedings of the Old Bailey in London from 1674 to 1834, and the Proceedings from Dec. 1714 to Dec. 1759 are now on-line, for those interested in pre-Sherlockian crime.

Our new "Nature of America" sheetlet depicts an autumn tundra scene in the northern foothills of the Brooks Range in Alaska, and some of the animals shown on the stamps are mentioned in the Canon: ravens, squirrels, grizzly

bears, caribou, and wolves. And there are swans and various lichens shown elsewhere on the sheetlet.

Jul 03 #5 Judith Freeman reports that the Baskerville Bash is accepting reservations for its Sherlockian birthday celebration on Jan. 16 at the Manhattan Club in New York; you can send checks (payable to Mari-beau Briggs Shrawder) for \$70.00 to P. J. Perry (346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10238. And that the exhibition on "Chocolate" at the American Museum of Natural History in New York closes on Aug. 7 (there are tastings at 1:00 pm each weekend in the gift shop); if you need an additional excuse to visit the exhibition, chocolate (well, cocoa) is mentioned in the Canon.

"The crown!" exclaimed Reginald Musgrave, when Sherlock Holmes explained that "It is nothing less than the ancient crown of the kings of England." Many Sherlockian scholars believe that it was the original Crown of St. Edward, which was worn by only two kings, James I and Charles I. This is its successor, commissioned for the coronation of Charles II in 1660 and now shown on one of a set of stamps issued by Australia this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Elizabeth II (thanks to Alan Olding for forwarding a copy of the stamp). According to the Australian Post Bulletin, the Crown of St. Edward is worn only once in the lifetime of each sovereign, during the coronation; at the conclusion of the coronation service at Westminster Abbey, when the monarch retires into St. Edward's Chapel and St. Edward's Edward is replaced by the Imperial State Crown.

Bob Hope died on July 27. He was an outstanding comedian, from vaudeville to his many USO tours, and he entertained hundreds of millions on stage and screen and radio and television. His many fans celebrated his 100th birthday earlier this year (May 03 #4), there's a caricature of Bob "Sherlock" Hope at his official web-site <[www.bobhope.com/JokePage.html](http://www.bobhope.com/JokePage.html)>; he appeared in Sherlockian costume in advertising for the film "My Favorite Brunette" (1947).

The latest issue of Scarlet Street (#48) focuses on "The Fly" (1958) and its sequels and remakes, and (of course) there's a Sherlockian connection. Isn't there a Sherlockian connection to everything? Charles Edward Pogue, who wrote the screenplay for "The Fly" (1986), also wrote the scripts for Ian Richardson's 1983 films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four", and the play "The Ebony Ape" (1987), and Edward Woodward's "Hands of a Murderer" (1990). And he was in the cast (as Mordecai Smith) for "The Crucifer of Blood" in Los Angeles in 1990, with Charlton Heston as Holmes and Jeremy Brett as Watson. Richard Valley's interview with Pogue covers his Sherlockian work as well as "The Fly". The magazine's address is Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <[www.scarletstreet.com](http://www.scarletstreet.com)>; subscriptions cost \$42.00 a year (six issues).

President Bush awarded the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor to Charlton Heston and Jacques Barzun, and nine others, at the White House on July 23. Heston played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" on stage in Los Angeles in Dec. 1980 and Jan. 1981, and on Turner Network Television cable in Sept. 1991; Barzun has written about the Canon in THE

CATALOGUE OF CRIME (1971) and in essays and introductions and in The Baker Street Journal, and he contributed a Sherlockian clerihew to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Jan. 14, 1980).

Jul 03 #6 Tyke Niver reports that he and Teddie visited Gillette Castle on July 25 (of course wearing their Holmes/Gillette T-shirts) and talked with a staffer who said the Castle had been looking for someone to be Gillette on his birthday (on July 24). She was delighted to accept their offer to be Mr. and Mrs. Gillette on the weekend, and they had a fine time. The restoration of Gillette Castle, budgeted at \$3 million, wound up costing \$9 million; most of the pictures and artifacts are still in storage, but will be back on the walls eventually. And, Tyke notes, the Castle is again Holmes-friendly.

Spotted by Dick Rutter: THE WIZARD OF QUARKS: A FANTASY OF PARTICLE PHYSICS, by Robert Gilmore (New York: Copernicus Books, 2000; 202 pp., \$24.00); with a chapter about "The Higgs of the Masskervilles" in which Holmes explains the mysterious properties of the Higgs boson.

Harold C. Schonberg died on July 26. He started his career in journalism as associate editor and record critic for the American Music Lover 1939 and joined the N.Y. Times in 1950; he was their chief music from 1960 to 1980, and in 1971 was the first music critic to win a Pulitzer Prize. As "Newgate Callendar" he reviewed mysteries and thrillers for the N.Y. Times Book Review from 1972 to 1995, and he was a devoted chess player and covered the Spassky-Fischer and Kasparov-Karpov championship matches in 1972 and 1984. An essay on Sherlock Holmes and chess was published in the Sherlock Holmes Journal (spring 1964), and his N.Y. Times music articles included "Tra-la-la-lira-lira-lay" (1965) and "Sherlock--and Malocchio!" (1968).

I've had two responses to my query (Jun 03 #5) about naming a society for Sherlockian scuba-divers. I've had two responses: Jack Koelle has proposed "The Lion's Maniacs", and Andy Peck has suggested "And So Under". The contest (sorry, no prizes) is still open.

Rosemary Herbert, who earlier edited THE OXFORD COMPANION TO CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING (1999) and made sure that Sherlock Holmes was not neglected, has now edited (and again paid attention to Sherlock Holmes in) WHODUNIT; A WHO'S WHO IN CRIME AND MYSTERY WRITING (London and New York: Oxford University Press, 2003; 256 pp., \$35.00 in cloth, \$18.95 in paper).

Not a politician in sight, nor a trained cormorant, but the Postal Service has honored five Southeastern Lighthouses, in the five coastal states from Virginia to Florida.

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Aug 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Les Klinger reports that he has been asked to edit THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for W. W. Norton. There will be three volumes, the first two with the short stories (fall 2004, estimated price \$79.95) and a third with the long stories (fall 2005, estimated price \$39.95). There will be more than 500 illustrations, including all the Pagets and all the Steeles, and

others in the public domain, and contemporary photographs; Les has written a long introduction and many new notes on Victorian topics, and is keeping the substance of the Sherlockian analysis. Norton has been publishing annotated editions for many years; they have done HUCKLEBERRY FINN, THE WIZARD OF OZ, ALICE, CLASSIC FAIRY TALES, and (soon) THE CHRISTMAS CAROL and WIND IN THE WILLOWS.

The Sherlock Holmes Reference Series published by Gasogene Books will continue, with the remaining four volumes likely to be published one per year. The new set from Norton is intended for the general public, and they'll be told that the reference series is recommended to those who want more detail and depth. Les hopes, of course, that Sherlockians will want both sets.

Further to the mention (Jun 03 #3) of Richard Roxburgh playing Mycroft 'M' Holmes (in the film "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"), the Internet Movie Data Base now lists Roxburgh as playing M; there's a reason for this, which I won't explain, by way of avoiding spoiling a surprise in the film. The IMDB also reports that Roxburgh is playing Dracula in a new film scheduled for release in 2004, which (according to our department of movie trivia) makes him (at least) the fourth actor to play both Sherlock Holmes and Dracula. Warning: I'll name the other three later in the newsletter.

Bruce Holmes has long pursued Sherlockian philately (and philatelic Sherlockiana), and his THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS is attractive indeed. Each of the thirteen stories is represented by at least five postage stamps and covers, and the selection is imaginative. The postpaid cost of the 23-page booklet US \$29.50 (color)/\$15.00 (black and white), and Bruce's address is 3170 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada.

Bits & Pieces (1 Puzzle Place B8016, Stevens Point, WI 54481 (800-884-2637) <[www.bitsandpieces.com](http://www.bitsandpieces.com)> has discounted their Sherlock Holmes mystery jigsaw puzzle "The Case of the Fallen Actress" to \$6.99 (from \$10.95); item number 04-E0140-008 in their catalog.

Anthony D. Howlett ("John Hector McFarlane") died on Aug. 21. He was one of the contributors (on "Sherlock Holmes on the Screen") to the catalog for the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition in London in 1951, and one of the founders of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and for many years its president. Tony had a wonderful sense of scholarship, and humor, and all who knew him will remember him fondly. He starred in the excellent television documentary "Mr. Sherlock Holmes of London" (1971), which concludes with him sitting in a chair in the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street (as reconstructed in The Sherlock Holmes); Tony explained that "whenever I am asked, 'Sherlock Holmes, was he fact or fiction?' I always answer . . . yes." He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1994.

Aug 03 #2 Forecast for September: Stephen Kendrick's NIGHT WATCH (Dec 01 #5), in a trade-paperback edition from Berkley, \$13.00; Sherlock Holmes and Father Brown investigate a gruesome murder committed in a church in London. John Lescroart's SON OF HOLMES (Mar 86 #2), in a trade paperback edition from New American Library, \$14.00; Sherlockian only for occasional references to the parentage and inherited abilities of the protagonist: Auguste Lupa (a large man who is partial to yellow shirts, beer, and gourmet meals).

Department of movie trivia: three other actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and Dracula are Jeremy Brett, Frank Langella, and Christopher Lee.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Mauch Chunk Opera House in Jim Thorpe, Pa., Oct. 3-5 and 10-12, during the annual Fall Foliage celebration. The box-office is at 14 West Broadway, Jim Thorpe, PA 19228 (610-395-7176) <[barwallprod@enter.net](mailto:barwallprod@enter.net)>. Mauch Chunk (which has been renamed Jim Thorpe) is in the Valley of Fear, and members of the Mollie Ma-

guires were tried in the Courthouse there, and housed and hanged in the Carbon County Jail; many of their descendants still reside in the region.

Niagara Falls is shown on a new stamp from Canada honors Niagara Falls. "'From a drop of water,' said the writer, 'a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic or a Niagara without having seen or heard of one or the other.'" (Stud) Thanks to Wilfrid de Freitas for sending a copy of the stamp.

Vinnie Brosnan reports that the Museum of the City of New York has an exhibit on "Harlem: Lost and Found" (through Jan. 4) that documents the history and development of Harlem, with exhibits that include a bust of Harry Houdini, who bought a large brownstone at 278 West 113th Street in 1904. In the spring of 1922 Conan Doyle and his wife visited the house; according to the information in the exhibit, Lady Doyle said that the residence was "the most home-like home she had ever seen." The museum is located at Fifth Av address is Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street.

Mike Kean reports that The Diogenes Club of the Monterey Peninsula will re-turn to the SS Jeremiah O'Brien; their first meeting on board the ship was in Sept. 1998, and the second will be on Nov. 8, 2003. It will be black-tie optional, with a sit-down dinner and a program, and the ship is moored at Pier 45 in San Francisco; additional information is available from Walter W. Jaffee (Box 633, Benicia, CA 94510) <captjaff@pacbell.net>.

Sorry about that: Shawn Neidorf's obituary for Leonard Koppett in the San Jose Mercury News said that he "was inducted into the writer's wing of the Baseball Hall of Fame in the early 1990s," and Bruce Macgowan, in the San Francisco Examiner, said that Koppett was "the only writer I know of to be enshrined in the writer's wings of both the Baseball and Basketball Halls of Fame." And so I reported Jul 03 #2). Paul Herbert notes that Koppett was not inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame (announcers and writers can't be); Koppett was a winner of the Spink Award, and he was honored by, rather than inducted into, the National Hall of Fame and Museum in Cooperstown.

Aug 03 #3 Cliff Goldfarb has reported another HOLMES (this one being the High-speed Online Library Management Extranet System); according to an item in Canadian Lawyer (August), Law Library Management Inc. in Toronto offers a customized library extranet (described as "a hosted website and database system that is accessible both from within a firm's local network and from outside via the Internet").

Further to the report (Jun 03 #1) about the Harry Ransom Humanities Center at the University of Texas, a story in the Los Angeles Times (Aug. 5), at hand from Ken Lanza, notes that a dealer's collection of Conan Doyle material, acquired by the Center 30 years ago, includes his underwear.

Julie Mckuras has reported an invasion of statues in St. Paul (as with the elephants and donkeys in Washington, or the cows, moose, and other animals in other cities in recent years). One statue is "Detective Linus"; there's a different picture at <[www.TwinCities.com](http://www.TwinCities.com)> (find the article titled "Linus Blankets St. Paul" and then click on "Seeking Philanthropy My Dear Watson"). At the end of the summer the statue will be donated to the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota (the gift, by the F. R. Bigelow Foundation, will be in memory of the late Ronald M. Hubbs).

Sorry about that: the new issue of Scarlet Street (Jul 03 #5) focuses on "The Fly" (1958), as editor Richard Valley has noted. The paragraph's other references to film titles are, fortunately, corr-

ect.

Those who enjoyed the series of pastiches written by Bert Coules and aired by BBC Radio 4 last year will welcome the news that he'd preparing to write a new series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (again starring Clive Merrison as Holmes and Andrew Sachs as Watson), based on more of the unrecorded cases. Bert has suggested that the "tantalizing throwaway references" in the Canonical stories were "composed by Doyle in great glee, secure in the knowledge that he'd never have to come up with plots to fit descriptions."

"The Sherlock Holmes Collection" is a two-CD-ROM set from Hallmark Home Entertainment (\$19.98) with the four television films that starred Matt Frewer as Holmes and Kenneth Welsh as Watson. Reviews indicate that there are no added-value features.

The summer 2002 issue of the Tonga Times offers news of the world of Sherlockian miniatures, with color photographs of Oksana Korolenko's miniature rooms, and miniatures of the portraits of General Charles Gordon and Henry Ward Beecher for those who need them for their recreations of the sitting room; membership (including the newsletter) costs \$10.50 a year (\$11.50 to Canada, \$13.50 elsewhere) from Trish & Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229 <[hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm](mailto:hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm)>).

Aug 03 #4 Lou Lewis notes that the BSI's "Silver Blaze" weekend at Saratoga Race Track was a great success. And that Antiques and the Arts Weekly reported that a drawing by Jean-Baptiste Greuze recently sold at auction in St. Louis for \$92,700. Visitors to Edinburgh might wish to include the National Gallery of Scotland on their itineraries; the Gallery own four paintings by Greuze, and one of them is "A Girl with Folded Hands" (bequeathed to the museum in 1861, it is unlikely to have been the painting in Moriarty's study at the time of "The valley of Fear"). Greuze painted many young girls in similar poses; his girl with folded hands is shown on p. 197 of the Dec. 1962 issue of The Baker Street Journal, and on p. I-478 in THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Further to the report (Apr 03 #1) about Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, there's nothing directly Sherlockian in Alona Wartofsky's interview with Haddon in the Washington Post (Aug. 14) (you can read it at <[www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com)>), but there is news for fanatic collectors: there are two British editions (one for young adults) in addition to the American edition. And Warner Bros. has plans for a film which will be produced by a team that includes actor Brad Pitt; they have hired screenwriter Steve Kloves (who adapted the Harry Potter books for the movies).

Catherine Cooke has kindly provided a copy of Great Britain's new stamp (in an "Extreme Endeavours" set), honoring Robert Falcon Scott, whose copy of THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought to the Antarctic in 1910, is preserved on Cape Evans, in the Ross Sea, in the hut from which Scott set off on his ill-fated attempt to be the first to reach the South Pole. Also in the set is a stamp honoring Sir Ernest Shackleton; he wanted to be part of the expedition but was rejected by Scott and went on to be a celebrated Antarctic explorer in his own right (Shackleton's brother was one of the prime suspects in the theft of the Irish Crown Jewels, an unsolved mystery with which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was involved in a minor way).

"Curiosities" is a continuing one-page feature in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction; in the February issue Claude Lalumiere praises Arthur Byron Cover's AN EAST WIND COMING (1979) as "a decadent smorgasbord oozing sex and nihilism" and a "dense and mind-warping novel." The novel features "the consulting detective", "the good doctor", Jack the Ripper, and others;

it was described here (Oct 79 #2) as even more impenetratable than Cover's THE PLATYPUS OF DOOM AND OTHER NIHILISTS (1976), a collection that included "The Clam of Catastrophe" (in which the consulting detective and the good doctor attempt to learn why some people can't accept sexism.

Reported by Ashgate Press: THE ALTERNATIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES: PASTICHES, PARODIES AND COPIES, edited by Peter Ridgway Watt and Joseph Green (in June, 368 pp., \$79.95); "provides a new approach to the Sherlock Holmes literature, as well as discussing many works that have for years remained forgotten." And: SHERLOCK'S SISTERS: THE BRITISH FEMALE DETECTIVE, 1864-1913, by Joseph A. Kestner (in November, 254 pp., \$79.95); "concentrating on detection by women, particularly those following the creation of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle in 1887."

Aug 03 #5 The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma's newsletter is called The Dispatch, and the August issue offers six pages of amusing Sherlockian puns and shaggy-dog stories. You can request a copy from Vic Lahti (8515 East 64th Street, Tulsa, OK 74133); send him a self-addressed stamped envelope and an extra 37c stamp to help cover photocopying costs.

Peter Ashman spotted a Sherlock Holmes mask (M.C.7) produced by the Mamelok Press in Britain in 1999 in a set of eight Millennium Collection masks (for the parties, one assumes, at which people celebrated the arrival of the new millennium); it is still available, from PartyMasks (4717 61st Avenue Terrace West, Bradenton, FL 34210) (800-201-0780) <[www.partymasks.com](http://www.partymasks.com)>. \$25.00 postpaid for the set of eight masks (sorry: the Sherlock Holmes mask isn't offered separately). The life-size mask is shown here in a smaller illustration.

Aug 03 #6 The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner, honoring the world's first forensic geologist, on Nov. 5, at 7:00 pm, at the Elephant & Castle in Seattle, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. The Elephant & Castle is at 1415 5th Avenue (in the basement of the Red Lion Hotel); our tradition discourages scholarly papers, slide shows, and quizzes (and our agenda consists entirely of toasts, some scholarly, but many not). We also will be honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited Seattle in June 1923, during his last lecture tour in the United States. If you would like to participate in the festivities, please contact David N. Haugen (3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 <[www.soundofthebaskervilles.com](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com)> or me (see below).

Further to the report (Jul 03 #6) on names proposed for a society for Sherlockian scuba-divers, I've received more suggestions, from Scott Monty: The Sopping Bundle, The Birlstone Manorists, the Von Borcks [he was a self-contained man, as were J. Neil Gibson and Sherlock Holmes], The Bruce-Partington Submariners, A Canonical Diversion [diver-scion], the Seal's Kins, the Boscombe Pool Party, the Water-tight Compartments, and Deep Waters; Warren Randall: Soul(s) into Water (sic); Roger Burrows: The Sub-Librarians; and Jerry Kegley: Sherlockian Club Underwater Breathers Association. The competition, such as it was, is now declared closed, pending a decision by one or more of the scuba-diving Sherlockians (and there are some) to volunteer to found a society.

Costa Rossakis spotted an excellent article in the fall issue of Pipes and Tobacco about Bob Hess' collection of Sherlockian pipes carved by Marc Darrah; the pipes are extremely detailed, and there are lots of illustrations. \$7.95, and they're at 808 Faringdon Place #200, Raleigh, NC 27609 (919-872-5040) <[www.pt-magazine.com](http://www.pt-magazine.com)>.

Further to Philip Attwell's report (Jan 03 #5) Sherlock Holmes broadcasts on BBC 7 digital radio, he notes that the BBC 7 newsletter (Aug. 1) has a story about the recent celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Carleton Hobbs Bursary Awards, intended to bring new acting talent to radio. Clive Merrison, the only actor to have recorded all of the Canonical stories, and a former winner of the award, was on hand for the festivities, as were Paul Copley, Bill Nighy, Mark Perry, Andrew Sachs, Stephen Tomkinson, Nina Wadia, and Timothy West. Carleton Hobbs was an O.B.E. and an honorary member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and died in 1978; his first Canonical role for the BBC was Watson (with Arthur Wontner as Holmes) in 1943, and Hobbs was the BBC's Holmes from the 1940s to the end of the 1960s.

William Woolfolk died on July 20. He wrote novels (including the 1968 best seller THE BEAUTIFUL COUPLE), television scripts (he was chief scriptwriter for "The Defenders" from 1961 to 1965), and stories for comic books (he was one of the most highly-paid writers in the 1940s). He claimed to have created Captain Marvel's exclamation "Holy Moley" (giving Captain Marvel something to say when he was particularly astonished); Captain Marvel Jr. meets Sherlock Holmes in CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. (Dec. 16, 1942), and "Captain Marvel and Mr. Tawny's Detective Case" will be found in CAPTAIN MARVEL (May 1950).

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Sep 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The one-page "Curiosities" feature in the Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction (Aug 03 #4) continues to recommend interesting books. In the September issue Paul Di Filippo suggests: "To concoct a unique fantasy novel, mix a dash of Virginia Woolf's interior monologues, a jigger of Robert Nathan's whimsy, a soupcon of Noel Coward's witty sophistication, a handful of Kuttneresque children, and a pinch of Robert Aickman's eerie atmospher-

ics." The book he is recommending is Christopher Morley's THUNDER ON THE LEFT (1925); Di Filippo obviously is a Morley fan; in the June 1999 issue he recommended Morley's WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922) (Oct 99 #1)

John J. Brousch died on Aug. 27. He was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and a member of many of the societies in and near Chicago. John's interests were much broader than Sherlock Holmes: he enjoyed art and heraldry and building ship models (and managed to work Sherlock Holmes into all those areas).

Bill Dorn's attractive Sherlock Holmes Calendar for 2004 is in full color, by way of celebrating Holmes' 150th birthday; most of the monthly illustrations are by Frederic Dorr Steele, with the daily entries noting Canonical events of interest. \$16.95 postpaid (or \$18.45 to Canada or \$19.45 elsewhere); checks can be sent to William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210, and there's a web-site at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.

Philip Bergem's 56-page pamphlet THE FAMILY AND RESIDENCES OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE offers some of the results of his continuing research on the family: birth, marriage, and death dates of the Doyles and Conan Doyles, and information about residences, military service, and gravestone inscriptions. It is available from the author (3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304; the postpaid cost is \$22.50 (\$23.00 to Canada), and it's also available (L13.00 plus shipping) from Rupert Books <www.rupert-books.co.uk>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Oct. 10-20-Nov. 2, 2003. The box office address is 615 Texas Avenue, Houston, TX 77002) (713-228-8421) <www.alleytheatre.org>.

Mary Burke reports that she will be joining an Ancient Order of Hibernians tour of Catholic and rebel sites in Northern Ireland and the Republic, Jan. 27-Feb. 4, 2004 (and notes that the Ancient Order of Freeman, and the Molly Maguires, were prominent in "The Valley of Fear"). More information about the tour is available from the travel agent Terry Flynn, and the deadline for reservations is Oct. 15 (800-678-7848) <terryflynn@aol.com>.

For the musically-minded completists: Many episodes of the "Fibber and Mollie" radio series are available on cassettes and CDs, and you might want to acquire a copy of the program that aired on May 13, 1941 (listed variously as "Salmon Dinner" and "Fibber and Mollie are expecting a huge fish to arrive"). Tyke Niver has reported that the series also featured the King's Men, who on that program sang "Mush, Mush" (the music and lyrics were published in THE SCOTTISH STUDENTS' SONG BOOK in 1891, and reprinted in W. T. Rabe's pamphlet WE \*ALWAYS\* MENTION AUNT CLARA IN 1990). Sherlockians (and others) now sing "Aunt Clara" to the music of "Mush, Mush" (rather than the original music composed by Bud and Ruth Willis in 1936).

Sep 03 #2 James P. Shannon died on Aug. 28. He was a Catholic priest and bishop in the archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis when he resigned over his dissent with church teaching about artificial birth control and other issues; he then became vice president at St. John's College in Santa Fe, and began a career in philanthropy that brought him back to Minneapolis, where he was a member of the Norwegian Explorers. He wrote about the Hench Collection in a booklet published in 1984, and contributed an essay about Silver Blaze to the anthology THE BAKER STREET DOZEN (1987).

Further to the report (Aug 03 #2) on William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" scheduled at the Mauch Chunk Opera House, in Jim Thorpe, Pa., Oct. 3-5 and 10-12, Gideon Hill is organizing a theater party for the 2:00 pm matinee on Oct. 5. If you are interested in attending, please contact Gideon (64 Bridle Road, Glenside, PA 19038) (215-280-2004) <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>.

Gideon also reports that Mycroft's League of Philadelphia has two events on its October schedule: the Diogenes Luncheon at noon on Oct. 24, in the Meredith Cafe at the Union League Club (there may be a limited Sherlockian program); and at noon on Oct. 25 a buffet luncheon at the historic College of

Pharmacy at the University of Sciences, which will be followed by a panel discussion (by forensic toxicologist Marina Stajic and two colleagues) of "The Devil's Foot", and a tour of the college's Pharmacy Museum (which has many items of Sherlockian interest). Additional information is available from Gideon (see above).

Madhustree Mukerjee's *THE LAND OF NAKED PEOPLE: ENCOUNTERS WITH STONE AGE ISLANDERS* (Houghton Mifflin, 268 pp., \$24.00) is about the Andaman Islanders. Jonathan Yardley's review in the *Washington Post* (Aug. 14) is lukewarm ("a book that is in more or less equal measures interesting and maddening").

Further to the item (Jul 03 #3) about the report from Manorial Auctioneers that Conan Doyle took the name "Baskerville" from the Baskerville family at Pencelli Castle in Brecon, Wales, Dave Galerstein notes that he disagrees, recalling that the coach driver who took Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson round Dartmoor was named Baskerville. More information about the coachman available from Dave, his address is 49 Stonewyck Place, Monroe Township, NJ 08831 <davebsi@erols.com>.

Don Pollock has discovered *EL DILEMA DE LOS PROCERES: SHERLOCK HOLMES Y EL MISTERIO DEL ARGENTINO ENMASCARADO*, by Jorge Fernandez (Buenos Aires: Editorial Sudamericana, 1997; 221 pp.). And Don Yates reports that Sherlock Holmes is treated with respect, and that the Baker Street scene is faithfully evoked in the novel, which is aimed for an Argentine audience: the cast of characters includes many real figures in Argentine history. The publisher's address is Humberto 1o 531, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Further to the report (Nov 00 #6) Britain's endangered bitterns (it was in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that Stapleton suggested that "I should not be surprised to learn that what we have heard is the cry of the last of the bitterns"), a story in *The Daily Telegraph* (Aug. 22) was headlined "Bitterns are Booming Again After Conservation Work Saves Habitat". Conservationists counted 42 booming males this year, the highest figure since 1983.

Sep 03 #3 Reported: *THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, by Ted Riccardi, from Random House (320 pp., \$24.95); nine short stories featuring Holmes during the Great Hiatus, in Sumatra, Tibet, and other exotic settings. According to a *Publishers Weekly* forecast (Aug. 11), "Like many recent Holmes pastichers, the author transforms the original thinking machine into an Indiana Jones-like character facing century-old deathtraps and charged with recovering legendary jewels."

*THE ALTERNATIVE SHERLOCK HOLMES: PASTICHES, PARODIES AND COPIES*, by Peter Ridgway Watt and Joseph Green (Aldershot/Burlington: Ashgate Press, 2003; 359 pp., \$79.95), is an interesting review of the thousands of items that were published between 1892 (C. C. Rothwell's parody "Adventures of Sherwood Hoakes") and 2001 (Donald Thomas' collection *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RUNNING NOOSE*). There are sections on the unchronicled cases; period pastiches; non-period pastiches; friends, relations, and one enemy; parodies and impostors; and copies and rivals. And the authors extend their reach from major publishers to society periodicals, summarizing each item, with careful indexes and identifications of sources; the book is a fine survey, intended for the academic community, but any Sherlockian interested in the genre will find the book fascinating, if only for the many opportunities to mutter "I haven't read that one").

Further to Tyke Niver's report (Jul 03 #6) on Gillette Castle, now open to the public again after a \$9 million restoration, he and Teddie appeared at the castle on Sept. 20 as Mr. and Mrs. Gillette during a fund-raiser to benefit restoration of Gillette's miniature railroad. The photograph appeared in the *Hartford Courant* (Sept. 22), accompanying an article kind-

ly forwarded by Bill Force.

"The Disembodied Spirit" is an exhibition organized by the Bowdoin College Museum of Art in Brunswick, Maine, where it opened on Sept. 25 (and it continues through Dec. 7); their web-site is at <[www.bowdoin.edu/artmuseum](http://www.bowdoin.edu/artmuseum)>. The theme of the exhibition is an exploration of the art and culture of the late 19th and late 20th centuries involving the depictions or suggestions of ghosts, and it will include photographs from Dame Jean Conan Doyle's estate (the photographs are on loan from the Harry Ransom Research Center at the University of Texas). The exhibition travels next to the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City (Mar. 5-May 23, 2004) and the Austin Museum of Art in Austin, Tex. (Sept. 11-Nov. 28, 2004).

Steven S. Raab Autographs is offering an interesting autograph letter written by Conan Doyle in April 1927 in which he says that "I fear that there is little chance of my doing much more literary work," that "I was glad to withdraw Holmes before the public were too weary of him," and that he has a story "The Fabricious Deep" in mind. The price is \$11,900; and the dealer is at Box 471, Ardmore, PA 19003 (800-977-8333) <[www.raabautographs.com](http://www.raabautographs.com)>.

Sep 03 #4 Communication (the newsletter of The Pleasant Places of Florida) has now reached its 234th issue: The Enquirer Star Tattler (All the News That's Fit for Ink), prepared by Wanda and Jeff Dow, with an amusing assortment of tabloid stories about the Canon. Membership includes a subscription and costs \$12.00 a year (\$13.00 overseas) from Carl Heifetz, 1220 Winding Willow Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655; if you want only the tabloid issue, that's \$2.00 postpaid.

"'It is an old maxim of mine,' said Holmes, 'that when you have excluded the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth.' Answered Watson, 'Perhaps, you may have convinced me as to the motive, but you are yet to explain how it is done.'" That's the epigraph for the first chapter ("Secare and Eros: Sex, Love, Science, and Circumstances") in Joann Ellison Rodgers' *SEX: A NATURAL HISTORY* (Henry Holt, 2001), discovered recently by Christy Richards. And if you have concluded that Watson's answer doesn't sound like Watson, well, you're right: it's not found in the Canon.

Karen Murdock (1212 Yale Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414) offers Sherlockian stickers with a silhouette on a green background; the silhouette also appeared on her bumper sticker (May 03 #6). \$2.00 postpaid for 25 stickers. If you're outside the U.S., please send currency.

An exhibition on "The Age of Watteau, Chardin, and Fragonard: Masterpieces of French Genre Painting" will open at the National Gallery of Art in Washington on Oct. 12 (through Jan. 11), and it will display more than one hundred French eighteenth-century paintings, including "emotional family dramas" by Jean-Baptiste Greuze (one of his paintings was in Professor Moriarty's study at the time of "The Valley of Fear").

There's a new paperback edition of Ed McBain's *THE HECKLER* (New York: Pocket Books, 2003; 254 pp., \$7.99), with a new afterword by the author; it's an 87th Precinct mystery novel that has both cops and crooks acknowledging use of a plot from a Sherlock Holmes story. and McBain mentions Holmes and Moriarty briefly in the afterword.

Robert Duvall was honored on Sept. 18 with a start on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. "It's a privilege for me to work as a professional actor," he said. "I am very proud of that and I still got a lot in me before they start wip-

ing away the drool." Duvall played Dr. Watson in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976).

Roger Llewellyn continues to tour in "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!": on Oct. 9 he will be in Verona, participating in a Sherlockian evening at the Live Literature Association (an organization dedicated to English-language cultural exchange). The evening will also feature a wine tasting arranged by Patricia Guy (founder of The Assorted and Stradivarious of Verona), who reports that a glass of Amarone and a Recioto will set the warming tone for "a very special evening's entertainment." Tickets can be ordered from the Association <verontalivelit@hotmail.com>; details on the event are available from Patricia (Via Fama 11, 37121 Verona, Italy) <benguy@libero.it>.

Sep 03 #5 This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London shows a watercolor by Douglas E. West of a snowy scene in Switzerland, where Holmes and Watson, with their carpet bags, are on the run from Moriarty. The cost is \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (or £5.50 to the U.K., £7.00 elsewhere); checks (payable to the Society, please), can be sent to Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington BR6 8DC, England.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002) will repeat on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV on Oct. 26, repeating on Oct. 31 (but check your local stations); it's the latest television version, produced by the BBC, starring Richard Roxburgh as Holmes, Ian Hart as Watson, and Richard E. Grant as Stapleton.

Derham Groves recommends (and so do I) a web-site at <www.crimefactory.net> that offers a special Sherlockian issue with interesting contributions from Sherlockians. Some of the material (and other material that's not available at the web-site) will be published in the catalogue for an exhibition on Sherlockian private presses at the University of Melbourne in April.

Randall Stock maintains an excellent web-site about the manuscripts of the Sherlock Holmes stories at <members.aol.com/\_ht\_a/shbest/ref/rfms.htm> with a checklist of facsimiles (partial and complete) for 25 stories, and links to images of three of them.

There's a new two-volume edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES, with the apocryphal tales and two Sherlockian articles by Conan Doyle, and introductions and notes by Kyle Freeman (New York: Barnes & Noble Classics, 2003); vol. 1 (709 pp.) and vol. 2 (705 pp.) cost \$7.95 each.

John Sherwood, who for many years impersonated Sherlock Holmes at the Victorian Villa Inn in Michigan, has moved to the east coast, and he will appear as Holmes during the "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore; the event starts with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and ends at 1:00). There's no charge for the festivities, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. More information is available at <www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet99.htm>.

And John will appear as Holmes during Mystery Weekends at the Fairville Inn in Chadds Ford, Pa., on Jan. 9-11 and 16-18. Additional details are available at <www.geocities.com/jcsherwood/BakerStreet13.htm>, and you can contact the Inn at 506 Kennett Pike, Route 52, Chadds Ford, PA 19317 (877-285-7772) <info@fairvilleinn.com>.

Bill Vande Water reports that Stu Shiffman will be Guest of Honor at Ditto 16, a national fanzine convention in Eugene, Ore., Oct. 10-12. Stu has won a Hugo Award for fan artists for his science-fiction and fantasy work, and he's an excellent Sherlockian artist as well. More information on the convention will be found at <home.att.net/~ditto16/contents/ditto.html>.

"'But the romance was there,' I remonstrated. 'I could not tamper with the facts.'" was the thoroughly appropriate quotation from the Canon on the invitation to the wedding of Ev Herzog and John Baesch, which was celebrated

in New York on Sept. 20. Congratulations to the happy couple . . .

Sep 03 #6 Further to the item (May 03 #1) on Michael Kurland's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES; UNTOLD STORIES OF THE GREATEST DETECTIVE, he reported in an interview in the North Bay Bohemian (Sept. 18) that the book has been so well-received that his publisher has asked for a sequel: SHERLOCK HOLMES: ONLY THE MISSING YEARS, an anthology of stories set during the Great Hiatus.

Don Izban has announced that the third meeting of The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society will be held in Davenport, Iowa, on July 22-25, 2004. Davenport is the birthplace of Dixieland great Bix Biederbecke; the program (with Don as chairman) will focus on his music. More information is available from Donald B. Izban, 1012 Rene Court, Park Ridge, IL 60068.

The fall 2003 issue of The Serpentine Muse offers news from, about, and by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, including an attractively illustrated "Dainty Bouquet of Canonical Blossoms" by Laurie Manifold and Susan Vizoskie, and reports on planning for SERPENTINE MUSINGS: AN ANTHOLOGY FROM THE JOURNAL OF THE ADVENTURESSES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (to be edited by Susan Diamond and Marilynne McKay for publication next year) and the 2004 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal, which will offer a history of the Adventuresses (edited by Susan Rice). The Muse, published quarterly, costs \$10.00 a year (checks payable to the Adventuresses, please) from Evelyn A. Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011).

I reported earlier (Oct 01 #2) on the deerstalkered Santa (in the "Island of Misfit Toys" series with Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer); Jim Suszynski spotted a hanging ornament showing Santa and Rudolph on a television screen discounted to \$4.99 (from \$10.00). It's made by ENESCO (item 104288); Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 <[www.enesco.com](http://www.enesco.com)>.

The autumn issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's report on the library's copy of an early Yiddish translation of "The Resident Patient" (published in Warsaw in 1906/1907), Victoria Gill's discussion of Conan Doyle's influence on Wodehouse, Karen Campbell's report on this summer's visit to Toronto by the American Library Association (and The Sub-Librarian's Scion), and news from Doug Wrigglesworth of a new biography of Conan Doyle by Georgina Doyle, the widow of Sir Arthur's nephew Brigadier John Doyle, scheduled for next year. Copies are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <[dougwrig@sympatico.ca](mailto:dougwrig@sympatico.ca)>.

Georgina Doyle will be at the Toronto Reference Library on Oct. 25 to offer a sneak preview of her new biography, titled OUT OF THE SHADOWS: THE STORY OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S FIRST FAMILY. The public is welcome at the event, and there's no charge for admission.

Andrew Gulli reports that the third holiday issue of the new Strand Magazine will be published in October, with new fiction by Ray Bradbury, John Mortimer, and Ruth Rendell, as well articles, interviews, and a Sherlockian a pastiche. Subscriptions (four issues) cost \$24.95 (U.S. and Canada) or \$35.95 (elsewhere), and the magazine's address is Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) (UK: 800-961-280) <[www.strandmag.com](http://www.strandmag.com)>.

Sep 03 #7 Further to the report (Mar 03 #4) on Thomas B. Wheeler's FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (a travel guide to more than 200 Canonical sites that are listed by closest underground station and by adventure). his book has now been published by iUniverse (94 pp., \$12.95). You can order the book at stores, or at the publisher's web-site <[www.iuniverse.com](http://www.iuniverse.com)>; you can also browse the book at the web-site.

Donald O'Connor died on Sept. 27. Best known for his acrobatic song-and-dance number "Make 'Em Laugh" in the film "Singin' in the Rain" (1952) and

for his starring role in the "Francis the Talking Mule" series of films (he abandoned the series in 1955, complaining that "when you've made six pic-tures and the mule still gets more fan mail than you do..."), he also was Dr. Watson in a "Save Sherlock Holmes" episode of "Fantasy Island" in 1982 (with Peter Lawford as Holmes and Mel Ferrer as Moriarty).

The fact that Sherlock Holmes kept his tobacco "in the toe end of a Persian slipper" is noted in the Canon (in "The Musgrave Ritual"), and the slipper is usually found in recreations of the sitting-room attached to the side of the fireplace. Holmes was not the only person who displayed Persian slippers in this fashion: Herman Melville also did: a pair of them, one on each side of the fireplace at "Arrowhead" in Pittsfield, Mass., where he lived when he wrote MOBY DICK. This photograph of the fireplace and the slippers was taken in 1897 and recently reported by Kelly H. Blau. "Arrowhead" has been preserved, and it is open to the public, and you can visit Melville's fireplace; the slippers and many other Melville artifacts are displayed in the Melville Room at the Berkshire Athen'um in Pittsfield.

photograph from the Berkshire Athen'um, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Sep 03 #8 The thirteenth annual STUD-watsonian weekend is scheduled for Apr. 16-18, 2004, in and near Chicago; there will be a dinner on Friday, a running of The Silver Blaze on Saturday, a Fortescue Honours brunch on Sunday, and other events. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, you should contact Allan Devitt and Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

"The Strange Case of the End of Civilization as We Know It" (1977) is now available on DVD (from Kultur, \$14.95); it's a British one-hour television program broadcast by ITV in Britain (and by PBS-TV in the United States), with John Cleese (Arthur Sherlock-Holmes) and Arthur Lowe (Dr. William Watson), and it offers low humor, excellent puns, and a few surprises.

John Sherwood notes that "Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" (a new documentary) will air on the Discovery channel on Oct. 5. According to the synopsis: "In 1886, Arthur Conan Doyle borrows the character, physical qualities and diagnostic genius of Dr. Joseph Bell to create the famous detective."

"Piltdown Hoax Hunt Narrows to Two Men" was the headline on a story by Mark Henderson in The Times (Sept. 6). The Natural History Museum in London is

planning to celebrate to 50th anniversary of the exposure of the hoax (in The Times on Nov. 21, 1953) by putting the fake fossils on display for the public for the first time since the exposure, and two experts will speak at the museum's Pfizer Annual Science Forum: Chris Stringer implicates Charles Dawson, and Brian Gardiner argues for Martin Hinton, and both experts agree that other suspects (including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) aren't the culprits.

Some years ago (Nov 92 #5) I noted that Michael T. R. B. Turnbull's EDINBURGH CHARACTERS included the colorful Edinburgh policeman James McLevy; many of his cases were published in 1861 in CURIOSITIES OF CRIME IN EDINBURGH and THE SLIDING SCALE OF LIFE, and although there is no record of a Arthur Conan Doyle having read those books, it intriguing to think of him encountering and enjoying the stories. Modern readers can now enjoy them too, in two recent collections published in Edinburgh by the Mercat Press: MCLEVY: THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE (2001; 185 pp.) and MCLEVY RETURNS: FURTHER DISCLOSURES OF THE EDINBURGH DETECTIVE (2002; 231 pp.); £9.99 each.

Reported: Carole Nelson Douglas' FEMME FATALE (Forge, \$25.95); the latest in Carole's series about Irene Adler and Penelope Huxleigh (and now Elizabeth Jane Cochran aka Nellie Bly), set in New York. Alan Stockwell's THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF MR. SHERLOCK HOLMES; 15 short-story pastiches, from UPSO Ltd. <[www.upso.co.uk](http://www.upso.co.uk)>, 245 pages, paper covers, £7.99 or \$12.95. Denis Burges' GRAVES GATE: A NOVEL OF POSSESSION (Carroll & Graf, \$25.00); a mystery that features Arthur Conan Doyle in London in 1922. Michael Cox's THE OXFORD BOOK OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES (Oxford Univ. Press, \$17.95); an anthology of 31 short stories (including "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Lost Special") that was published in 1992 as VICTORIAN TALES OF MYSTERY AND DETECTION (Oct 92 #5). Brent Monahan's THE SCEPTERED ISLE CLUB (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$13.95); a murder mystery set in London in 1905, with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle involved.

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

Oct 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The thirteenth volume of The Shosoin Bulletin, edited by Yuichi Hirayama and Mel Hughes, and published by The Men with the Twisted Konjo, is as usual a fine anthology of articles, essays, reviews, artwork, and other material by contributors from nine countries, with 167 pages (all in English); \$13.00 (plus shipping) from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <[www.sherlock-holmes.com](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com)>. Contributors to previous volumes can order the new volume from Mel Hughes (2664 Sam Hardwick Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL 32246; \$10.00 postpaid. Yuichi has announced that the next volume will be the last in the series; if you would like to contribute to the fourteenth volume, his address is: 2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo 181-0012, Japan <[www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm](http://www.parkcity.ne.jp/~hirayama/index.htm)>.

John Hawkesworth died on Sept. 30. First an artist (studying in Picasso's studio), he became a television scriptwriter and producer, and won a British Screenwriter's Award for his adaptations for "The Stories of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" on BBC-2 in 1967. He also produced "Upstairs, Downstairs" and developed "Danger UXB", "The Duchess of Duke Street," "The Flame Trees of Thika", and "By the Sword Divided", and in 1984 Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series, for which he also adapted eight stories. In 1988 he was considering a series about Conan Doyle, and was quoted as saying Conan Doyle "was the sort of chap who would play cricket in the morning, ski during the afternoon, and write a Sherlock Holmes story in the evening."

Further to the report (Sep 03 #5) on the new edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2003), vol. 2 includes two parodies by Conan Doyle (rather than two apocryphal tales). And completists should act quickly to buy copies of vol. 1; Jon Lellenberg reports that the first printing contained so many misprints that a second printing will be in the stores soon.

This will be the third time that the first issue of an edition of Sherlock Holmes stories has been withdrawn and replaced by a second issue. You are invited to try to identify the other two instances.

Mark Alberstat's 2004 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.

The comic-book series THE LEAGUE OF EXTRAORDINARY GENTLEMEN has ended its second volume with the November issue (\$3.50), in which the Martians lose; the story closes with an announcement that "there now follows an intermission," so one might assume that the series will resume. RUSE also continues (with Simon Archard and Emma Bishop) in issue #22 (\$2.95); there will be a Sherlockian cover on issue #25, according to Crossgen (the publisher).

If you missed "Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" on the Discovery channel on Oct. 5 (or later in the month), you can wait for a repeat: it's a one-hour documentary about Dr. Joseph Bell, produced by CineNova in Canada, with interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards and Ely Liebow, David Bronfman as Arthur Conan Doyle in the dramatizations, and atmospheric views of Edinburgh.

Oct 03 #2 Six of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian manuscripts are to be offered at auction at Christie's King Street salesroom in London on Nov. 19, from the estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle, to benefit six charities chosen by Dame Jean. The manuscripts are "A Duet: with an Occasional Chorus" (1899), "A Glimpse of the Army" (1900), "How the Brigadier Lost an Ear" (1902), "Brigadier Gerard at Waterloo" (1903), "Ypres, September 15" (1915), and "The Maracot Deep" (1927). The charities are the RAF Benevolent Fund; the Not Forgotten Association; the RAF Association; the Elizabeth Finn Trust (formerly the Distinguished Gentlefolks Aid Association); Help the Hospices; and the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond. Additional information is available from Christie's at 8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT, England) <www.christies.com>.

The British Library has announced that it will hold a study day and commemoration of "Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753) and His Library" on Nov. 24. There is no charge for attendance; for further details, please register your name and address with Teresa Harrington at the British Library (020-4712-7785) <teresa.harrington@bl.uk>. It was 250 years ago that his collections were acquired for the nation; an Act of Parliament established the British Museum in the same year, and that led to Nathan Garrideb's hopeful (or wishful) statement that "I shall be the Hans Sloane of my age."

The Royal Mail has celebrated the 250th anniversary of the British Museum with a set of six stamps, one of which shows a bust of Alexander the Great. Nathan Garrideb was referring to coins when he suggested that "Some prefer the Alexandrian school," but the bust will do. And the British Museum is mentioned in four Canonical tales.

Spotted by Scott Monty in the Holiday Preview catalog from Marshall Field's Direct (800-776.4444) <www.fields.com>: a Sherlock Holmes apothecary cabinet (based on an original in the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London), suitable for "your magnifying glasses, pipes, and deerstalker hats--or your growing media collection" of CDs cassettes, DVDs, and videos. \$199.95 plus shipping (item 206499).

The first time the first issue of an edition of Sherlock Holmes stories was withdrawn was the first American edition of THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1894), which included, contrary to Conan Doyle's wishes, "The Adventure of the Cardboard Box". The second time was the edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES published by Coles in Canada in 1980 immediately after the Con-

an Doyle copyright expired there; Coles reprinted the Doubleday edition but neglected to obtain permission from Christopher Morley's estate to use his "In Memoriam Sherlock Holmes" (which still was protected by copyright), and the Morley pages were razored out of the second issue.

House of Ascot continues to offer a wide variety of architectural bookends and models sculpted by Timothy Richards (Apr 02 #4). His 221b Baker Street (modeled after the Sherlock Holmes Museum) is 7.5 in. high and costs \$79.95 plus shipping (it's item TRSL in their new catalog, and there's a 20% discount if you order before Nov. 15) (use order code T5PS). 365 Boston Post Road #244, Sudbury, MA 01776 (800-717-3105) <www.houseofascot.com>.

Oct 03 #3 Carolyn G. Heilbrun died on Oct. 10. She was famous as a feminist scholar at Columbia University (where she retired in 1992 as the Avalon Foundation Professor of the Humanities) and (as Amanda Cross) as the author of a series of successful detective novels; she concealed the identity of Amanda Cross for six years, worried she would damage her chances for tenure at Columbia. And she was one of the speakers at "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota" conference in Minneapolis in 1984; quite appropriately, she chose "Sherlock Holmes and women" as her topic.

News about Carole Nelson Douglas' Irene Adler series: CASTLE ROUGE has been reissued as a paperback from Forge (\$6.99). THE ADVENTURESS (published in 1991 as GOOD MORNING, IRENE) is due as a paperback from Forge in December (\$6.99). And SPIDER DANCE is the title of the next Irene Adler novel, due from Forge in Nov. 2004.

Denis Quilley died on Oct. 5. He began his career as an actor in 1945 with the Birmingham Repertory Theater, and went on to an award-winning series of roles in the West End. He also appeared in films and on television, and he played Dr. Leon Sterndale in Granada's "The Devil's Foot" in 1988 and Bob Carruthers in Granada's "The Solitary Cyclist" in 1993.

Barnes & Noble <<http://www.bn.com>> still offers handsome Sherlockian prints and posters (May 01 #6): you select the design you want, and it is shipped to you printed on paper or canvas. You can also see the artwork (and Sherlock Holmes is only one of the many categories available) at Barnes & Noble stores.

Noted by Jon Lellenberg: Frederic H. Sonnenschmidt's TASTES AND TALES OF A CHEF: STORIES AND RECIPES (Upper Saddle River: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2004; 272 pp. \$16.00); Fritz presided over all of the delightful Sherlockian dinners at the Culinary Institute of America, and is shown on the cover as a Sherlockian chef, and does not neglect Sherlock Holmes in his stories.

The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers John Bergquist's tribute to the late Bryce Crawford, Julie McKuras's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Finley Peter Dunne's "Mr. Dooley", and reports from and about the collections. The newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, 222 21st Avenue South, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <[sveum001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:sveum001@tc.umn.edu)>.

Roger Llewellyn continues to tour his fine one-man play "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!", scheduled at the Jermyn Street Theatre in London on Dec. 1-6; the theater address is 16-B Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6ST, London (020-7287-2875) <[www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk](http://www.jermynstreettheatre.co.uk)>

Reported: THE LOST WORLD OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, with a 57-page introduction by John R. Lavas; a collector's edition marking the 90th anniversary of the publication of the original story, the 168-page book has many new illustrations, in color and in black-and-white. John will inscribe the book on request, and his address is P.O. Box 14-421, Panmure, Auckland 6, New Zealand <[dearborn@ihug.co.nz](mailto:dearborn@ihug.co.nz)>; L34.00 (UK/Europe), US\$55.00 (US/Canada), US\$47.00 (Australia) (checks in sterling or US dollars, please).

Oct 03 #4 Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 16, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but it would be helpful to let Ev Herzog (360 West 21st Street #5-A, New York, NY 10011) <eherzog@darbylaw.com> know if you're coming to the event.

Thursday's activities begin at 9:00 am at the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street), whence Jim Cox will lead the annual Christopher Morley walk, which ends with lunch at McSorley's. The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 6th floor of the Williams Club (24 East 39th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues); the speaker will be John Berendt, author of MIDNIGHT IN THE GARDEN OF GOOD AND EVIL and the Introduction to the Modern Library's 2001 edition of THE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$11.00); 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 guests with a continental breakfast, and others are welcome to attend each day and pay \$17.00 (details below). The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$37.00 (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 are likely to 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); \$70.00 (checks payable to Maribeau Briggs Shrawder can be sent to Paula J. Perry, 346 East 87th Street #4-A, New York, NY 10128) (please include your e-mail address and 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), 125 copies (for the Bash) to Francine Kitts (35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material should arrive by Dec. 15.

For those who want an additional event on Friday, Paul Singleton is considering a gathering that will start at midnight at the Waterfront Ale House, at 540 Second Avenue (at East 30th Street); there will be plenty to drink, but the kitchen will be closed (which should not be a problem for those who have dined well earlier in the evening). But: Paul needs a rough estimate of how many people are interested; you can let him know at 144 East 24th Street #3-B, New York, NY 10010 (212-505-3609) <doctorsyn50@hotmail.com>. And Paul will be announcing final plans (and perhaps a name) for the event earlier during the birthday festivities.

Oct 03 #5 On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be offered in the dealers' room on the second floor of the Hotel Algonquin (59 West 44th Street) from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm; Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> will be glad to supply information about dealers' tables.

And the Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will hold their Junior Bloodstain (a somewhat less than totally reverent gathering) in the lobby of the Hotel Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you're planning to attend, please let Anne Cotton know (12

Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.

The BSI annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held on Saturday afternoon from 2:30 to 5:30, at the National Arts Club at 15 Gramercy Park (on 20th Street between Park and Third Avenues); there will be hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, a \*cash bar for alcoholic beverages\* and an open bar for non-alcoholic beverages, and the usual traditional and un-traditional entertainment, and the cost of the event is \$45.00 (details below) until Dec. 15, or \$55.00 thereafter or at the door.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Baker Street restaurant at 1152 First Avenue (at 63rd Street). It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations are strongly 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 \$179.00 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 \$156.00 plus tax). Other charges (room service, telephone calls, meals, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer is available to all Sherlockians, and [note the different procedure] \*room reservations must be made through the Baker Street Irregulars\* (details below).

And here are the details: Mike Whelan's announcement will be ready in November, with prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture, the Martha Hudson breakfast, the Saturday reception, and the rooms at the Algonquin. If you're not on the BSI or Bash mailing lists, you can request a copy of his letter from Michael F. Whelan, 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278.

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 request written confirmation.

Vanderbilt YMCA (224 East 47th St.) \$65 bunk with shared bathroom (212-756-9600) ["it's a modern building in a nice neighborhood"]; Hotel 31 (120 East 31st St.) \$95 single/double (seasonal discount) (212-685-3060); Mayfair Hotel (242 West 49th St.) \$95 standard single/double (special rate) (212-586-

Oct 03 #6 0300); Super 8 Times Square (59 West 46th St.) \$98 single/double (corporate rate) (212-719-2300); Cosmopolitan Hotel (95 West Broadway) \$101 for their superior single/double (winter special) (212-566-1900); Wellington Hotel (7th Ave at 55th St.) \$109 standard or \$119 superior single/double (America's Special promotion) (212-247-3900); Comfort Inn Central Park (31 West 71st St.) \$117 single/double (their senior/AAA rate) or \$122 (corporate rate) (212-721-4770) [Mary Ellen especially likes the location in a very nice residential area and their boutique rooms]; West Park Hotel (6 Columbus Circle) \$118 single/double (via ORBITZSAVER) (212 445 0200). <www.nycvisit.com> offers specials and general information, as do <www.orbitz.com> and <travelocity.com>.

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.

Warren Randall is again the first to announce a souvenir pin for the birthday festivities; the two-inch pin honors the Great Detectives' 150th birthday (note the spelling of his name on the handle), and it's available now: the postpaid coast is \$8.75 (to the U.S.) or \$10.50 (Canada) or \$13.50 (elsewhere). Warren's address is 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.

The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual "'The Strength and Activity of Youth': The Junior Sherlockian Movement", compiled by Stephen Clarkson; the annual offers a reminiscent look at what younger Sherlockians were doing in the 1960s and 1970s. It's not part of subscriptions to the BSJ; orders can be sent to The Baker Street Journal (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331); \$11.00 postpaid (to the U.S. (by check or at the web-site), or \$12.00 to other countries (credit-card orders accepted) <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>.

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; \$55.00 per volume postpaid (item 0135).

I have a new address and telephone number (see below) and am at long last becoming a suburbanite. It's a new house in Bethesda, with plenty of room for Bev and Samantha Wolov and me, and my library, and we've been having a lot of fun designing and deciding, and figuring out what will go where.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (telephone: 301-229-5669) <Internet: [pblau@dgsys.com](mailto:pblau@dgsys.com)>

Nov 03 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

For those who came in late: I've moved to Bethesda, in the suburbs of Washington, and the move has been rather more complicated than the last time I moved, in 1979: needless to say, this time there are a lot more books to be unpacked and shelved, and a lot more files and other things, and nothing is as instantaneous as one might wish. which will explain why there are only four pages in this issue of my newsletter, rather than six or more pages as I have promised for many years, and why it's slightly late. I hope to find plenty of things to report on in extra pages next month.

"Case of Evil" (broadcast by USA cable on Oct. 25, 2002) is now available on DVD from Screen Media/Universal (\$26.98); the film starred James D'Arcy (Sherlock Holmes), Roger Morlidge (Dr. Watson), Richard E. Grant (Mycroft), Vincent D'Onofrio (Moriarty).

The New York Police Department bomb squad celebrated its 100th anniversary this month, according to a report in the Washington Post (Nov. 24). "But ever cautious, the squad is not publicizing exactly where and when the party will occur." The bomb squad got its start when the city assigned officer Giuseppi Petrosino to lead the country's first municipal bomb squad; that assignment was "due to terror over extortion letters that would appear at homes and businesses in Italian neighborhoods in the early 1900s." One of the organizations he fought was the Camorra, known to Sherlockians as "The Red Circle" (in the manuscript of the story, at any rate, but the name was changed to the Carbonari when the story was published). He was eventually murdered in Palermo, and was a national hero in Italy (where he was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia"), and he was the hero of "Il Piccolo Sherlock Holmes" (1909), a short Italian film made in Turin and released in the U.S. as "The Italian Sherlock Holmes" (1910).

Peter L. Stern's "Catalogue Thirty" has many attractive items, among them

some fine Sherlockiana, including first editions of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, both signed by the author and previously owned by the Marquis of Donegall (\$90,000), and "The Oscar Meunier Bust of Sherlock Holmes, executed by Edgar P. Smith in porcelain, and described (quite justifiably) as "one of the few attractive pieces of Sherlockian statuary" (\$750). And there's a copy of the first edition of UNCLE BERNAC (1897) with holograph corrections by the author that were incorporated in later editions (\$8,000). 55 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111 <psbook@aol.com>.

John J. McAleer died on Nov. 21. He taught English literature at Boston College for decades, and wrote book reviews and a mystery novel, and fine biographies of Henry David Thoreau and Rex Stout. His REX STOUT (1977) won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America, and of course has discussion of Stout's long involvement with Sherlockian world.

And I'm reminded of John's revelation, many years ago, of the Sherlockian reason why Nero Wolfe lives on West 35th Street: Rex Stout remembered seeing William Gillette in "Sherlock Holmes" in Kansas City in 1903, and later put Wolfe's house on West 35th Street because "Gillette's Holmes received his first acclaim" at the Garrick Theater on West 35th Street.

Nov 03 #2 Only two of the six Conan Doyle manuscripts offered at auction at Christie's King Street salesroom in London on Nov. 19 (Oct 03 #2) were sold. "A Duet: with an Occasional Chorus" brought £35,850 (including the 19.5% premium paid by the buyer), and "A Glimpse of the Army" went for £4,183; the other manuscripts failed to meet their reserves. The fortunate new owner of the manuscript of "A Duet" is Richard J. Sveum.

Forecast: THE MOON REFLECTS THE SUN, by Mitch Cullin; according to Publishers Weekly (Nov. 10), Cullin has sold his novel to Nan Talese's Doubleday imprint. The novel portrays Sherlock Holmes in retirement at 93, "struggling to come to terms with a mysterious case from his past."

In the Novgorod region of Russia the "best police officers will be presented with porcelain statuettes of Sherlock Holmes" to sum up the results of a competition named after the great detective," the BBC reported (Nov. 10) in an item spotted by Karen Murdock. One assumes that collectors of Sherlockian statuettes will now be in hot pursuit of prize-winning Novgorod police officers in hopes that one of them might possibly be persuaded to part with one of prizes.

DETECTA-CROSTICS: PUZZLES OF MYSTERY, by Jeanne M. Jacobson and Jennie G. Jacobson (Carmel: Crum Creek Press, 2003; 187 pp., \$18.00), is a collection of imaginative word puzzles keyed to mystery fiction, with lots of anagrams and word-play and annotations and detailed explanations of the answers.

Doug Greene reports that Crippen & Landru have added William L. DeAndrea's MURDER--ALL KINDS to their "Lost Classics" series. The collection of all of Bill's short stories in the mystery genre includes "The Adventure of the Christmas Tree" (reprinted from Martin H. Greenberg's HOLMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS) and "The Adventure of Cripple Parade" (reprinted from Marvin Kaye's RESURRECTED HOLMES). The publisher is at Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-665) <www.crippenlandru.com>; \$29.00 (cloth) or \$19.00 (paper).

Fans of Basil Rathbone might wish to acquire an inscribed and signed photograph offered in catalog 120 from David Schulson Autographs (225 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10122 <schulsonautographs.com>; it's not a Sherlockian photograph (it's dated Mar. 3, 1938), and the price is \$450.

Someone has been having fun setting the peeps on Sherlockians. That's the five orange peeps, which arrived in mailboxes this month, from Capt. John Calhoun in Savannah (postmarked from southern California). They're "Creepy Peeps" (made by Marshmallow Peeps as a Halloween 2003 special); the company has been making those little gooey chicks for 50 years, and of course quite

wisely no longer restricts its marketing to the Easter season. If you were not one of the fortunate recipients, you can see a picture of the five orange peeps at the company's web-site <[www.marshmallowpeeps.com](http://www.marshmallowpeeps.com)> (click on "About Peeps" and then on "Halloween").

Hugh Kenner died on Nov. 24. He was a renowned literary scholar and professor who wrote about Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, and James Joyce; his article "From Eccles Street to Baker Street: The Odyssey of a Myth" in the Hudson Review (1949), revised and reprinted in DUBLIN'S JOYCE (1955), was the first analysis of the Sherlockian echoes in Joyce's work.

Nov 03 #3 The Learning Channel has over the years aired an excellent series of one-hour programs about "Great Books", but The Learning Channel has changed its name to TLC and its programming now tends to ignore anything educational; four new shows were produced for the series in 2002, but they didn't air at the traditional times. Which is a pity, since one of the four programs was devoted to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (I believe the others were "2001: A Space Odyssey", "The Wizard of Oz", and Arabian Nights). "The Hound of the Baskervilles" show featured actors on location in England and interviews with Dan Stashower and me and others, and it did finally air: at 2:00 am on Oct. 24, without any publicity whatsoever and in fact with another series listed in the television guides. The show may repeat, but you'll need to check their web-site at <[www.tlc.com](http://www.tlc.com)> frequently; some of the shows are airing on the Discovery HD Theater channel (that's HD for high definition). And some of the earlier shows are available on videocassette (click on Discovery Channel Store), so it's possible that "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will turn up on cassette eventually.

Edmund L. Hartmann died on Nov. 28. He was a prolific screenwriter who began his career working on Broadway comedies in the early 1930s, and moved to Hollywood in 1934; he wrote screenplays for comedies and dramas, and as a television writer-producer he created "My Three Sons" for Fred MacMurray. His screenplay credits included the Rathbone/Bruce films "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "The Scarlet Claw" (1944).

Further to the item (Sep 03 #4) on the exhibition on "The Age of Watteau, Chardin, and Fragonard: Masterpieces of French Genre Painting" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington (through Jan. 11), Mary Burke has been to the exhibition and reports that it includes ten paintings by Jean-Baptiste Greuze, one on loan from Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and others on loan from England, Scotland, Russian, France, and the United States.

The Wessex Press' "From Gillette to Brett" symposium in Indianapolis this month received rave reviews from those who attended; Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen had Edward Hardwicke and Nicholas Meyer as the featured guests, and other speakers included Susan Dahlinger, David Stuart Davies, Paul Herbert, and Gordon Kelley. And (Brad Keefauver has noted) there was a film festival using actual film.

LOONEY TUNES: THE GOLDEN COLLECTION is a four-disk DVD set issued by Warner Home Video (\$64.92); there are 56 of the studio's animated shorts, remastered and restored, plus audio commentary, featurettes, documentaries, and galleries of stills. This offers Sherlockians a chance to own a high quality copy of "Deduce, You Say" (1956) with Daffy Duck as Dr. Watson and Porky Pig as Dr. Watson.

It's always intriguing to find mentions of Sherlock Holmes in unexpected places, such as Peter Schjeldahl's review (in the Nov. 10 issue of The New Yorker) of the exhibition "Rembrandt's Journey: Painter, Draftsman, Etcher" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. "Rembrandt is a detective," Schjeldahl suggests. "When I look at his pictures, I feel like Dr. Watson stumbling along behind Holmes. Once exposed by the master, mysteries become as plain as day, but I know that, on my own, I would have missed the clues ten times out of ten."

Nov 03 #4 The Long Beach Shakespeare Company is performing Martin Pope's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Dangerous Game" (an adaptation of "The Illustrious Client") at the Black Box Theatre through Dec. 20; the theater's address is 4250 Atlantic Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90807 (562-997-1494), and their web-site URL is <www.bardintheyard.com>.

Colin G. Prestige ("Captain Jack Crocker") died on Nov. 12. He was a solicitor, an ardent Gilbert & Sullivan scholar, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian; he was one of the founders of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and served as its honorary secretary, and (from 1977 to 1980) as its chairman. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1961, and the BSI's Queen Victoria Medal (awarded for "outstanding contributions to the quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes" in 1967.

Further to the report (May 03 #2) about the continuing battle over Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle once lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Nov. 22) reports that the city council is planning to give heritage protection to the Craigmillar Park area, which would lead to expanding an existing conservation area to include Nether Liberton, the site of the house. Councillor Fred Mackintosh has led the campaign to prevent McDonald's from demolishing the house to build a restaurant.

Penny Singleton died on Nov. 13. She toured in vaudeville in an act called "The Kiddie Kabaret", sang and danced with Milton Berle, acted on Broadway with Jack Benny, and began her Hollywood film career in 1930; in 1938 she starred in "Blondie" and continued in that role for 12 years 1950 in a long series of films. Watch for "Blondie in Society" (1941) on television: Dagwood Bumstead (Arthur Lake) accepts a Great Dane as payment for a loan, and Blondie says, "Dagwood, you take that Hound of the Baskervilles right back to Mr. Peters."

Reported: SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET, edited by Michael Reaves and John Pelan (Del Rey/Ballantine; \$23.95); according to the blurb, "Sherlock Holmes enters the macabre and nightmarish world of H. P. Lovecraft" in an anthology of stories by 20 authors. And some paperback reprints: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. DRACULA, by Loren Estleman (iBooks/Pocket Books, \$6.99); THE DISAPPEARANCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Millett (Penguin Books, \$6.99); THE BIG FOUR, by Agatha Christie (Berkley, \$5.95) (a Poirot novel from 1927, Sherlockian only for a few amusing echoes from the Canon); SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, by Alan Vennerman (Carroll & Graf, \$14.00).

And there's a British edition of Laurie R. King's JUSTICE HALL (HarperCollins, \$18.99). And her earlier THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, A MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN, A LETTER OF MARY, and JUSTICE HALL are available in paperback reprints (Bantam Books, \$6.99 each).

Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HAPSBURG TIARA, by Alan Vanneman, from Carroll & Graf in March (\$25.00); according to the blurb, "Winston Churchill calls in Holmes and Watson, charging that Archduke Josef of Austria is an imposter.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (telephone: 301-229-5669) <Internet: pblau@dgsys.com>

Dec 03 #1 Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Further to the item (Oct 03 #4) about Paul Singleton's plans for a midnight gathering on Friday after the various dinners: plans have changed. Anyone interested in some excellent beer is welcome to gather in the back room at St. Andrew's (120 west 44th Street, between the Avenue of the Americas and Broadway); no reservations required. St. Andrew's is Scottish-themed, and offers 20 beers on tap (mostly English or Scottish) and 110 bottled beers.

"This game's too good for the world's greatest detective to take on alone. Happily, she'll have some help from her husband..." That's the caption on

a postcard that Bantam's sending out to publicize Laurie R. King's THE GAME (the next Mary Russell mystery). THE GAME will be in the stores in March, according to Laurie; "It is now 1924, and Russell and Holmes have been sent to the wilds of India's northwest frontier to search for a missing British spy--perhaps the most famous spy of them all, whose boyhood exploits were brought to light by Rudyard Kipling: Kim." You can see the cover artwork at her web-site <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>, and that's where you'll find a GAME game starting in early January.

The steam launch Aurora was neither the first nor the last vessel to bear that name, and the current Aurora, a P&O superliner, seems to be a ship to avoid: an article in the weekly Telegraph (Nov. 1), spotted by John Baesch, noted that more than 500 passengers were suffering from a highly contagious stomach virus. The ship was denied permission to dock in Athens, and when it reached Gibraltar, Spain closed its border with the colony for the first time in almost 20 years.

Kelly Blau spotted the murder-mystery cover on the October issue of Dollhouse Miniatures; it's not quite Sherlockian, but the accompanying article will offer ideas for Sherlockian miniaturists. And there's a deerstalker on the desk in the article "I Love a Mystery" about Joann Swanson's miniature of a private investigator's office.

THE COMPLETE ADVENTURES AND MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: A FACSIMILE OF THE ORIGINAL STRAND MAGAZINE STORIES (New York: Gramercy Books, 2001; 326 pp., \$9.99); with an anonymous two page introduction, it's a reprint of the 1975 Clarkson N. Potter edition (and it's less expensive on the discount tables at the chain bookstores).

Further to the item (Nov 03 #1) about the 100th anniversary of the New York Police Department's bomb squad, created by officer Giuseppe Petrosino, who was known as "Il Sherlock Holmes d'Italia" for his pursuit of the Camorra and Mafia, Jon Lellenberg recalls that Ernest Borgnine starred as Lt. Joseph Petrosino in the movie "Pay or Die" (1960).

Gianluca Salvatori reports that Uno Studio in Holmes is planning their annual meeting for May 21-23, 2004, in Naples, as part of a month-long series of plays and films, an exhibition of Sherlockian rarities, the unveiling of a plaque commemorating Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to the isle of Gaiola (near Posillipo) (or Posilippo), and the revelation of the true identity of Augusto Barelli. You can contact Gianluca at: Casella Postale 140, 55042 Forte dei Marmi (Lucca), Italy <[mycroft@versilia.toscana.it](mailto:mycroft@versilia.toscana.it)>.

Dec 03 #2 AND TO THINK THAT I SAW IT ON MULBAKER STREET, written by Warren Randall and illustrated by Laurie Manifold (36 pp., \$10.00 postpaid from the author, at 15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720-1346); an imaginative and amusing report by Wiggins, who on his irregular routine of going, seeing, and hearing everything, has fallen under the influence of Dr. Suess.

David Hemmings died on Dec. 3. He began his film career in a bit part in 1954 and became famous as the predatory fashion photographer in "Blow-Up" (1966); he starred in "Camelot" (1967), "The Charge of the Light Brigade" (1968), and "Barbarella" (1968), and last film was "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen" (2003). He played Walter Leybourne/Benjamin Oaks in "The Best House in London" (1969) (the film included cameo appearances by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson), and Inspector Foxborough in "Murder by Decree" (1979).

Les Klinger suggests that Sherlockians who are in or near Los Angeles rather than in New York for the birthday festivities might wish to attend the UCLA Film and Television Archive screening of "The Great Limejuice Mystery, or Who Spat in Grandfather's Porridge" (1930) on Jan. 14 at 7:30 pm at the James Bridge Theater (on the university campus at 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095) <[www.cinema.ucla.edu](http://www.cinema.ucla.edu)>. The film's an eight-minute Brit-

ish marionette burlesque of Clive Brook's performance in the title role in "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929); in Britain the title was "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong". It will be screened during a "Discovering Anna May Wong" festival that will run Jan. 8-14. Anna May Wong did appear in a Sherlock Holmes film, but some years later, with Reginald Owen, in "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), but that film isn't included in the festival.

The spring 2004 issue of "The Sherlock Times" has arrived from Carolyn and Joel Senter; it's their 16-page catalog, with news and reviews, and offers of Sherlockian books, periodicals, audio, video, calendars, posters, mugs, CDs, statues, and much more. Classic Specialties, Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219 (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>.

The documentary "Gigantic (A Tale of Two Johns)" (May 03 #4) is now available on DVD (Wea Corp, \$24.95) with more than four hours of extra material; the film is about the rock band "They Might Be Giants" (the two Johns are John Flansburgh and John Linnell, founders of the group that took its name from the 1970 film that featured George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who believes he's Sherlock Holmes).

"Shanghai Knights" (in theaters, and on DVD and videocassette earlier this year, will premier on cable on the Starz channel on Jan. 24; the film stars Jim Fisher as Det. Artie Doyle (aka Arthur Conan Doyle).

Jennifer O'Dell, who played Veronica in the television series "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Lost World" (1999), is the "Babe of the Month" in Playboy (Jan. 2004), wearing almost as much as she wore in the series; she's hoping there will be a fourth season filmed in Hawaii (the first three seasons were filmed in Australia). And there's a six-disc DVD set due in January from Image Entertainment (\$59.99) with the first season's shows.

Dec 03 #3 "The only explanation that one can advance for the great success of the Holmes stories lies not in their writing, which is bad, nor in their character delineation, which is worse, but in their plot appeal. . . . Holmes was and is a world success not because of himself but simply because he happened to be present when a shudderful hound howled on the dark moor, when a poisonous and terrifying snake crawled down a bell-cord, and when a deadly Hindu dart was projected from a blow-pipe." From an essay by George Jean Nathan in the American Mercury (Jan. 1930) that's reprinted in THE WORLD OF GEORGE JEAN NATHAN: ESSAYS, REVIEWS, & COMMENTARY (New York: Applause Books, 1998); spotted and forwarded by someone to whom I apologize for not being able to recognize the handwriting on the accompanying note.

Karen Murdock spotted a story in the Toronto Star (Nov. 15) by Marc Atchison about his stay at the historic Hotel du Louvre in Paris. A plaque installed in the hotel lobby by the Sherlock Holmes Society, the Atchison reports, explains that according to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes preferred the Hotel du Louvre to all other Paris properties. Consultation with Thierry Saint-Joanis has revealed that the Sherlock Holmes Societe de France is responsible for the plaque, which states (and quite Canonically) that "Here the international spy Hugo Oberstein was arrested by the police at the request of Sherlock Holmes." The plaque says nothing about the hotel being Holmes' favorite. But Conan Doyle did have a favorite hotel in Paris, Thierry reports: the Hotel Regina, which is not far from the Hotel du Louvre.

LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY BOOK, illustrated by Brian Froud and written by Terry Jones, was published in 1991 and reprinted in 1994 and 1998 (it won Froud a Hugo Award for original artwork in 1995); these fairies definitely are not the fairies photographed at Cottingley in 1917, nor are they Doylean or Sherlockian, but they're delightful, if your taste in humor runs toward the macabre (Lady Cottington sat patiently with her journal open to a blank page, waited until one or more fairies landed on the page, and then

. . . swomppph! or occasionally thromp!). LADY COTTINGTON'S PRESSED FAIRY CALENDAR 2004 (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2003; \$12.95) has illustrations by Froud, plus some "rare fairy photographs and hitherto unpublished fairy notes," and 69 fairy stickers. There's a web-site <[www.worldoffroud.com](http://www.worldoffroud.com)> with news and views of Froud's work (he lives near Dartmoor, and there's a mention of the Hound of the Baskervilles in the "about Devon" section).

Another calendar has a more direct Doyle connection: Richard Doyle's painting "Triumphal March of the Elf-King" is the illustration for August in THE FAERYLAND CALENDAR 2004 (Barnes & Noble, \$9.95). Richard Doyle was Arthur Conan Doyle's uncle.

Canadian astronomer Simon Newcomb has been suggested before as a possible inspiration for Prof. Moriarty, and Jean-Louis Trudell's article on "Simon Newcomb's Journey" in Canada's National History Society's magazine The Beaver (Dec. 2003-Jan. 2004) offers an excellent summary of his life and career, and a discussion of Conan Doyle and Moriarty. Thanks to Doug Wrigglesworth for a copy of the article; the magazine costs \$6.00 plus postage, and the society's address is 478-167 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0T6, Canada (800-816-6777) <[www.historysociety.ca](http://www.historysociety.ca)>

Dec 03 #4 It has been some years since the Credit Lyonnaise (one of the few banks mentioned by name in the Canon) has been in the news (in this newsletter, at any rate). The Washington Post reported (Dec. 12) that the French government has agreed to pay about \$475 million to avert criminal prosecution of the French bank by the U.S. Justice Department for the alleged secret takeover of a California insurance company that failed more than a decade ago. Much of the money (a total of \$770 million) will be placed in escrow to cover damages if California regulators win an ongoing civil suit against the bank and other defendants.

Julie McKuras found an intriguing Christmas item manufactured by Department 56: their "Naughty or Nice Detective Agency" is a five-piece gift set that includes figures of Santas dressed as Holmes and Watson (item 56.56758, and it costs \$50.00). The problem is that it was limited to 2003 production, and it has been "retired" (no more will be made) and may not be available at all stores. You can see a picture of the item at the company's web-site at <[www.department56.com](http://www.department56.com)>, and they'll tell you local stores that carry the Department 56 products.

New York magazine ran a nicely illustrated article on "The Place to Be: 100 Years of New York's Hottest Scenes" (Dec. 22), and one of the photographs, taken at the Algonquin, shows Dorothy Parker, James Thurber, Robert Benchley, and other members of the Algonquin Round Table in 1938.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is putting the final touches on its new headquarters in Saint Paul, according to an article in the Star Tribune (Dec. 7), and there will be 19 stained-glass artworks, all shaped like magnifying lenses and representing each of the crime-solving departments of the BCA. Already in place are large stone sculptures with giant fingerprints and sections of DNA, and a fresco of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Paul Herbert gets credit for reporting a Sherlockian connection for Ernie Nevers, one of four old-time football heroes honored on a sheet of stamps this year (the others were Red Grange, Bronko Nagurski, and Walter Camp). Nevers also had an acting career, and he played Bob Collins (one of the good guys) in "The Lost Special" (1932), a 12-chapter serial made by Universal and based (loosely) on Conan Doyle's story. It should be noted that Francis Ford (college professor Botter Hood in the serial), directed and played Sherlock Holmes in "A Study in Scarlet" (1914).

Those who can't see the stamp in the electronic edition of this newsletter can find it at <[www.usps.gov](http://www.usps.gov)>; click on "buy stamps online" and on "stamp

issues" and on "early football".

One of the more interesting "professional" Sherlockian societies is the Sir James Saunders Society (for dermatologists); their 31st annual meeting will be held at the Mehak Restaurant in Washington (at 817 7th Street NW), from noon to 2:00 pm on Feb. 9; as usual, there will be a lunch, presentations, and toasts. You need not be a dermatologist to attend; you can send your reservation (and your check for \$30.00, payable to the SJSS) to Don Hazelrigg, 15 Victoria Drive, Newburgh, IN 47630; the deadline is Feb. 2.

Dec 03 #5 "After you left I sent down to Stamford's for the Ordnance map of this portion of the moor," Sherlock Holmes said (in almost every edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Founded by Edward Stamford in 1853 (Watson wasn't aware of the correct spelling), Stanfords celebrated its 150th anniversary this year; thanks to John Baesch for news of THE MAPMAKERS: A HISTORY OF STANFORDS, by Peter Whitfield, with a foreword by Michael Palin (London: Compendium Book, 2003; 128 pp., £14.99).

Jon Lellenberg has reported a new Children's Golden Library edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" published by the Daily Mail and available from the paper for £2.60; there will be 25 titles in the hardback collection, of children's classics.

According to Marcel Berlins (in The Times on Dec. 6), Graham Robb "ponders a romantic edge to Sherlock Holmes' feelings for Dr. Watson" in his STRANGERS: HOMOSEXUAL LOVE IN THE 19TH CENTURY (London: Picador, 2003; 400 pp., £18.99); the capsule review was accompanied by a far larger photograph of Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

Issue #57 of SHERLOCK has its usual coverage of crime fiction (Sherlockian and otherwise), including Paul M. Chapman's exploration of "Sherlock Holmes in the Underworld", Gavin Collinson's discussion of Ian Richardson's films ("The Glorious Scot"), and the first part of Robert Sanderson's commentary on Sherlockian fantasy ("Planetary, My Dear Watson"). SHERLOCK appears every two months, and a subscription costs £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (con-tinent)/\$40.00 (elsewhere); Box 100, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8HD, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Or you can order from the magazine's American agent: Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823) <www.sherlock-holmes.com>; credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

Ales Kolodrubec reports that the Czech Sherlock Holmes Society and the Museum of the Czech Police will celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 150th birthday with an exhibition at the Museum from Jan. 7 to Feb. 15 (and with a grand opening ceremony at 5:00 pm on Jan. 6). The Museum is at Ke Karlovu Street #1, Prague 2 (center), and additional information is available from Ales (Milesovska 1, 130 00 Praha 3, Czech Republic) <ales@sherlockholmes.cz>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES' PUZZLES OF DEDUCTION, by Tom Bullimore, is back in print, as one of four "match wits with" puzzle books collected in CLASSIC WHODUNITS (New York: Main Street/Sterling, 2003; 275 pp., \$6.98); it's a "special value" item marketed by Barnes & Noble.

The "five orange peeps" (Nov 03 #2) were sent to many Sherlockians, and Les Klinger has identified the perpetrator: Kevin Reed, who heads The Sinister Ballarat Gang (left-handed Sherlockians), and who generously has credited John Farrell for conceiving the dastardly plan.

If you're more comfortable in Spanish than in English, Video Search of Miami (Box 16-1917, Miami, FL 33116 (888-279-97734) <www.vsom.com> has "Dr. Bell and Mr. Doyle: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000) in English with Spanish subtitles; \$25.00 on VHS or DVD. It's the first show in the series, starring Ian Richardson (Bell) and Robin Laing (Conan Doyle).

Dec 03 #6 Wayne Wall ("Holy Peters") died in December. He was for many

years the minister at the Metropolitan Baptist Church in West Columbia, S.C., and his Sherlockian specialty was theology; his first article on Canonical religion appeared in The Baker Street Journal in 1973, and his book GOD AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN THE LIFE AND LITERATURE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE appeared in 1982. He was the founder of The Hansom Wheels and edited their newsletter The Pink 'Un, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1976.

Reported: Howard Engel's MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL (Nov 97 #3) has been reissued by the Overlook Press (\$24.95); Conan Doyle is still a medical student in Edinburgh, in 1879, involved with Joseph Bell in solving a mystery full of echoes from the decades-later Oscar Slater case.

Forecast for January: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RULE OF NINE, by Barrie Roberts, from Severn House (200 pp., \$26.99); published earlier this year in Britain (Jun 03 #5), it was described by Publishers Weekly (Dec. 15) as "an unmemorable effort."

Reported: Crippen & Landru's "Lost Classics" series includes C. Daly King's THE COMPLETE CURIOUS MR. TARRANT, which offers a collection of stories published in 1935, and additional uncollected stories, one being "The Episode of the Sinister Inventor" (a Tarrant tale written in Watsonian style, reprinted from Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, Dec. 1946). \$29.00 (cloth) or \$19.00 (paper); the publisher's address is Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505 (877-622-665) <www.crippenlandru.com>.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for drinks and dinner on Nov. 5 at the Elephant and Castle in Seattle, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We were welcomed by members of The Sound of the Baskervilles, and enjoyed the usual (as well as some unusual) toasts, the first of which, as always, being to the world's first forensic geologist, and another being to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited Seattle in 1923 with his family and stayed at the New Washington Hotel (it was built in 1903, and was advertised as being the first hotel in the west to have a bath in every bedroom). It had 222 rooms, and still does, although it is now an apartment house called The Josephinum; you can follow in the footsteps of Conan Doyle in the lobby, which has been carefully preserved. The next dinners for Sherlockians and geologists will be held in Dallas in April, and in Denver in November 2004.

Seattle provides funds for a wide variety of municipal art, and Dave Haugen reported on the installation at the corner of 4th and Spring: a wooden panel with eye-holes that appear designed to view the construction of the new downtown library. But the top of the panel states that it's the "Peephole Theatre" and there are two quotations displayed, one from "Jane Austen" and the other "Over the great Grimpen Mire there hung a dense, white fog. . . . 'It's moving towards us, Watson.'" When you look through the eye-hole near the Canonical quote, you'll see a diorama of Holmes, Watson, and fog. The artist is Edie Whitsett, who has a warning on the panel: "Art Hat Area".

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