

Jan 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

We once again enjoyed pleasant weather during the birthday festivities in New York (although some people heading east encountered a few problems when it snowed in the west). There was an ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's for dedicated enthusiasts, and the Christopher Morley walk (led by Jim Cox) for more than a dozen Morley enthusiasts on Thursday morning (followed by lunch at McSorley's). The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Gahan Wilson, who told entertaining tales from his career as artist and writer, and about Hugh Hefner and Playboy, and he happily signed Sherlockian souvenirs from as far back as 1959 (when Playboy published four pages of his artistic version of "some little-known misadventures of the great detective.")

More than 140 people were on hand for the William Gillette Luncheon on Friday at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant, where Paul Singleton and Elyse Locurto offered their version of an American (Sherlockian) in Paris. And in the afternoon Otto Penzler's open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

More than 170 Irregulars and guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Union League Club, where Peter Crupe delivered the cocktail-party toast to *the* woman: Debbie Hall (who then went on to dine at the Algonquin with other ladies who have been *the* woman). The agenda of the dinner included the usual toasts and traditions; revelations by Nicholas Meyer, David Stuart Davies, and Steven Doyle; a warm welcome to honored guest Inga Swenson (who played Irene Adler in the musical "Baker Street" and was serenaded by Henry Boote with "Finding words for Spring"); and a tribute to Old Irregular Julian Wolff on the occasion of his centenary.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours: Irregular Shillings and Investitures to John Bergquist ("The King of Scandinavia"), Barbara Roden ("Beryl Stapleton"), Neil Gaiman ("The Devil's Foot"), Gianluca Salvatori ("The Dacre Hotel"), Peter Calamai ("The *Leeds Mercury*"), and Art Renkowitz ("The Bar of Gold"). And Two-Shilling Awards ("for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty") were presented to Steve Rothman, Julie Rosenblatt, and Les Klinger.

Mike also reported on the creation of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust has in its first year received more than \$12,000 from 50 generous donors (the Trust will use the funds to support the BSI's archives at the Houghton Library at Harvard University).

There were 90 people at the Baskerville Bash at the Manhattan Club, enjoying an evening of 1930s radio broadcasting by station WBBC, a station that was struggling to achieve financial stability and hoping to achieve a significant ratings boost special guest Basil Rathbone, who was to perform in "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Unfortunately, Rathbone never made it to the station, but station staff came up with substitute programming that included a courtroom drama "Hudson vs. Holmes" (with the plaintiff attempting to evict the defendant,) a version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" from Beryl Stapleton's perspective, and the last-minute arrival of William Gillette (impersonated by Chuck Kovacic).

Jan 05 #2 On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin was (as always) crowded with sellers and buyers, and at 12:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) convened a Junior Bloodstain, which featured a reading of Anne Cotton's dramatization "Sherlock Holmes and the Unsettling Smile" (there also was a "smile" contest won by Scott Monty, whose smile was described by one observer as unsettling and "truly ghastly").

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party attracted more than 200 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 evening. Costa Rossakis was 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 on "Thaddeus Sholto: (Mis)-Diagnosed". And the Dr. John H. Watson Fund benefited from the raffle of Joseph Coppola's hand-crafted faux-Victorian tea caddy bath, 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 the auction were Joseph and Elaine Coppola and the Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse (a solid-cherry reproduction of a Victorian writing desk), Vincent Brosnan (a limited-edition print of one of Edward Bawden's lino-cut illustrations for the Folio Society's 1987 edition of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and Jerry and Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (a set of handsome Canonical medals created by Maggie Schpak).

On Sunday about 40 locals and visiting long-weekenders gathered at the Old Castle Pub & Restaurant for a brunch arranged by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and a bus-load of Sherlockians journeyed to Hadlyme for a private visit to Gillette Castle, where they were entertained by Susan Dahlinger (who talked about the castle and its owner), and made welcome by William Gillette (impersonated by Harold E. Niver). The Castle is open to the public from Memorial Day to Columbus Day, and well worth visiting; there's a web-site at <www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks/parks/gillettecastle.html>.

And the next birthday dinners in New York dinners will be held on Friday, Jan. 13, 2006.

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 \$24.95 a year (\$27.50 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 new option for 2005, offering a subscription to the BSJ and the Christmas Annual for \$34.95 (or \$38.50 foreign). You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, where there's additional interesting material, including issues of The Lamp-Post (the BSJ's occasional newsletter), some of the papers that have won Morley-Montgomery Awards for their authors, and news of various BSI publications.

Jan 05 #3 Michael Reaves and John Pelan, the editors of SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET (New York: Del Rey/Ballantine Books, 2003; 446 pp., \$23.95), have assembled an anthology in which "Sherlock Holmes enters the dark, nightmare world of H. P. Lovecraft." And so he does, pursuing the NECRONOMICON and battling the Great Old Ones and various monsters; by far the best of the stories is by Neil Gaiman, and it has some fascinating surprises, none of which will be revealed here.

Les Moskowitz has reported that Gerard Van der Leun's THE QUOTABLE SHERLOCK HOLMES, published by the Mysterious Press (Oct 00 #3) and now out of print, is available to the electronically enabled as a 217-page .pdf file at the web-site <www.americandigest.org/mt-archives/004817.php>.

MISSIVES FROM THE MIRE is a splendid demonstration of what can be done with modern technology: it's a CD-ROM with the "collected newsletters and other scribblings" over the 55-year history of Hugo's Companions of Chicago; Donald J. Terras assembled a nearly complete run of their meeting notices and newsletters, and prepared an annotated index, and the disk includes an up-to-date version of Adobe Acrobat, all for \$27.50 postpaid (checks payable to Hugo's Companions, please) from Bill Sawisch (418 Gallahad Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440).

The Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh will celebrate its 500th anniversary this year, and there will be a series of exhibitions in Surgeon's Hall, including one on "Conan Doyle and the Real Sherlock Holmes" that will explore his connections with the college and his relationship with Dr. Joseph Bell. The college was an active bidder at Christie's last year, buying three lots, one of which included a poem that Conan Doyle wrote about the college.

Ed. Lange's play "Sherlock's Secret Life" premiered at the N.Y. State Theatre Institute in 1997, and his new play "Sherlock's Legacy" is scheduled to open at the Schacht Fine Arts Center at Russell Sage College in Troy, N.Y., from Apr. 23 through May 7 (518-274-3256) <www.nysti.org>. "Sherlock's Secret Life" at the Workshop Theatre in Calgary, on Feb. 4-12 (403-253-2002) <www.workshoptheatre.org>, and at the Red Barn Theatre in Key West, Mar. 15 to Apr. 16 (866-870-9911) <www.redbarntheatre.com>. Lange's web-site is at <home.nycap.rr.com/bifurcated/sherlock.html> with information about both of the plays, and about the audiocassette of "Sherlock's Secret Life".

The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2004" (devoted to "the architectural Holmes") features Derham Groves' long article ("Welcome to the Hotel Irregular") on what his architecture students came up with when challenged to design a hotel for the Baker Street Irregulars. His students are imaginative indeed, and copies of the 62-page booklet are available from its editor, John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

Reported: Lora Roberts' THE AFFAIR OF THE INCOGNITO TENANT: A MYSTERY WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (Palo Alto: Perseverance Press/John Daniel & Co., 2004; 264 pp., \$13.95); Charlotte Dodson, housekeeper at an estate in Sussex, discovers that her tenant, a Mr. Sigerson, is of significant assistance in solving a mystery. Lora Roberts has a web-site at <www.nmomysteries.com>.

Jan 05 #4 Britain's Royal Society will celebrate its 350th anniversary in 2010, and a story in The Guardian (Jan. 1) notes that the celebration is to include an exhibition of important items from the Society's archives, "ranging from a telescope built by Isaac Newton to a letter in defence of spiritualism by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle." Conan Doyle asked astronomer James Jeans to pay attention to spiritualism, saying that "Personally, I have studied this matter since 1887. I have experimented with more mediums than, probably, any living man."

Richard Valley reports that the current issue of Scarlet Street (#52) includes interviews with Patricia Morison (who appeared with Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce in "Dressed to Kill") and with Peggy Webber (who acted with Rathbone and Bruce in the Sherlock Holmes radio series); \$7.95 (\$10.95 outside the U.S.) from Box 604, Glen Rock, NJ 07452 <www.scarletstreet.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" aired on BBC-1 on Dec. 26, and in Canada on the CBC on Dec. 29, to mixed reviews from Sherlockians who have commented on it. The closing credits noted it is a co-production of the BBC and WGBH; WGBH plans to air the program on "Masterpiece Theatre" on PBS-TV this fall. And Rupert Everett isn't the only Sherlock Holmes in the film: Guy Henry (Mr. Bilney) played Holmes in "Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House" (1982). Dayna McCausland has noted that this was a case in which the game truly was a foot.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers a report on Les Klinger's visit to the library, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the Parker Brothers "Sherlock Holmes" game, and Jon Lellenberg's warm "50 Years Ago" tribute to Bliss Austin; you can request a copy from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

"Who shot Sherlock?" (the final title of the episode of "CSI: Crime Scene

Investigation" that aired on CBS-TV on Jan. 6) was an interesting show, and worth looking for as a repeat if you haven't seen it; the CSI team tries to determine how the man who played Sherlock Holmes in a Sherlock Holmes club was killed, and you may be surprised at some of the plot twists. Of course the broadcast was nicely timed for Sherlock Holmes' birthday, and I'm sure that many Sherlockians at the birthday festivities in New York are thankful that they had VCRs set to record at home.

If you'd like to see Buster Keaton's "Sherlock, Jr." (1924) in a theater, the American Film Institute has scheduled a Keaton/Chaplin double feature at the AFI Silver in Silver Spring, Md., at 5:30 pm on Feb. 9. The Charlie Chaplin film is "The Circus" (1928), and there will be music accompanying both films (301-495-6721) <www.afi.com/silver>.

Bruce Holmes continues his pursuit of Sherlockian philately (and philatelic Sherlockiana), and his THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: ILLUSTRATED WITH POSTAGE STAMPS offers the twelve stories represented by postage stamps and covers, and the selection is as usual appropriate and imaginative. The 23-page booklet costs US \$29.50 (color)/\$15.00 (black and white) postpaid, and Bruce's address is 3170 Joseph Howe Drive, Halifax, NS B3L 4G1, Canada.

Jan 05 #5 Reported by Don Dillistone: WHODUNIT CRIME PUZZLES, by Hy Conrad and Tatjana Mai Wyss (New York: Sterling Publishing, 2002; 96 pp., \$6.95); Sherman Oliver Holmes is the great-great-grandson of Sherlock Holmes, and poses 29 mystery puzzles for readers to solve (one of them being a sequel to "The Blue Carbuncle"). Some of the Sherman Oliver Holmes puzzles (but not the sequel to "The Blue Carbuncle") have been reprinted in MENSA WHODUNITs, by Bill Wise, Hy Conrad, and Bob Peterson (New York: Sterling Publishing, 2004; 286 pp., \$4.98).

Kelly Freas died on Jan. 2. He was an artist and an illustrator, and began his career painting buxom women on bombers during World War II. His first professional work was a cover for the Nov. 1950 issue of *Weird Tales*, and he went on to win 11 prestigious Hugo Awards from the World Science Fiction Society. He also worked for *Mad* magazine from 1957 to 1962, painting many portraits of Alfred E. "What Me Worry?" Neuman. Freas also illustrated the fine Sherlockian story "The Return", by H. Beam Piper and John J. McGuire, in the Jan. 1954 issue of *Astounding Science Fiction*.

Plan ahead: the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, the Bootmakers of Toronto, the Toronto Public Library, and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society will sponsor "ACD at Thirty-Five" (celebrating the 35th anniversary of the collection) in Toronto on Oct. 20-22, 2006; if you'd like to be on the mailing list, write to ACD@35 (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <acd35@sympatico.ca>

Al Gregory <grimpen@nac.net> offers (e-mail only) his 2005 edition of "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

The BBC Radio 7 30-minute series "Cult" broadcast five new Sherlock Holmes stories on Jan. 17-21, read by Andrew Sachs and Hannah Gordon; you can listen to the programs and read the scripts (along with an interview with Bert Coules) at <www.bbc.co.uk/cult/sherlock/>. Two of the programs were written by authors who have Sherlockian credentials: Paul Cornell, whose *Doctor Who* novel HAPPY ENDINGS included Holmes and Watson as characters (Feb 98 #5); and Kim Newman, whose *ANNO DRACULA* had many echoes from the Canon (Dec 92 #3). Newman, by the way, has a web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>.

Bernard Oudin's SHERLOCK HOLMES ET LA SUFFRAGETTE AMOUREUSE (2004; 144 pp., E18.00) is a collection of seven new pastiches, and it's only one of many interesting books available in French from Thierry Saint-Joanis' Editions Mycroft's Brother (2 impasse de la Serre - Saint Julien, 63320 Montaigut-le-Blanc, France) <www.mycrofts.net>.

"Watson's Tin Box Sponsors Essay Contest for Pupils" was the headline on a story in the Baltimore Sun (Jan. 4) about the society's campaign to explain to seventh-grade students why Sherlock Holmes is so interesting. Members of the society will present programs at local libraries, and they will distribute a booklet they've prepared about "The Speckled Band" (the subject of the essay content), and then select the winners, who will be announced in April; the contest is co-sponsored by Barnes & Noble. If you'd like to see the booklet, go to <www.hclibrary.org/partners/holmescontest.cfm>.

Jan 05 #6 Les Klinger reports that Universal plans to release the first season of "Murder, She Wrote" on DVD (three discs) on Mar. 29 (\$49.98); the set includes the 1984 two-hour pilot "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes", in which Brian Keith starred in the pilot as Capt. Caleb McCallum, who attends a costume party dressed as Holmes, and may or may not have been the intended victim of a murderer. Jessica Fletcher (played by Angela Lansbury) solves the mystery, needless to say.

Al Rosenblatt has kindly forwarded Michael Peel's review in the Times Literary Supplement (Sept. 3, 2004) of Samantha Weinberg's POINTING FROM THE GRAVE, Cyril Wecht's MORTAL EVIDENCE, and N. E. Genge's THE FORENSIC CASE-BOOK; "The three books have little in common stylistically," Peel reports, "but all cite Sherlock Holmes' famous dictum that once the impossible has been ruled out, whatever remains - however improbably - must be true."

Guy Davenport died on Jan. 4. He won a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" for his essays and short fiction, and he was a distinguished teacher and artist, illustrating Hugh Kenner's THE COUNTERFEITERS (1968). The National Review obituary (Jan. 31) for Kenner noted, "Sherlock Holmes and Karl Marx in the same picture? Why not."

Trevor S. Raymond reports that "Rawhide 2" (a phonograph record released by Folkways Records in 1957) with a dramatization of "The Case of the Speckled Band" by the Canadian humorist Max Ferguson is available from the Smithsonian Institution (they have purchased Folkways) on one CD (\$17.99) or cassette (\$9.95). Catalog number 03872 (888-365-5939) <www.folkways.si.edu>. And that's only one of the interesting items in the winter issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto and available by subscription (US\$20.00) or included in membership (US\$25.00); the business manager is D. Thorpe, 5 Brownlee Avenue, Toronto, ON M9P 2R5, Canada.

Further to earlier reports (Sep 04 #4) on plans for an ITV television series starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie as Holmes and Watson, Jim Ballinger reports that Fry announced at the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London this month that he has realized that he doesn't resemble Holmes ("there's no description in the Canon of Holmes looking like 'a bin liner full of yoghurt'"), and that the project has been scrapped.

A new edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen, will be published this spring by Hakon Holm (Borgmester Nielsen Vej 24, DK-3700 Roenne, Bornholm, Denmark <www.mr-holmes.com>. There will be three versions: standard (E60.00), deluxe (E70.00), and signed and numbered in a slip-case (E78.00), and two posters will be available; there is more information (and lots of artwork) at the publisher's web-site, and you can see more of Jessen's work at <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen>.

Jan 05 #7 David Grann's article about Richard Lancelyn Green in The New

Yorker's Dec. 13 issue ("A Reporter at Large: Mysterious Circumstances") generated renewed press speculation in Britain about Richard's death, and an excellent letter of comment from Glen Miranker in the Jan. 17 issue of the magazine. That issue also has an article by Margaret Talbot ("The Auteur of Anime") about Hayao Miyazaki, the highly-acclaimed director of Japanese animation; Sherlockians have seen his work in some of the episodes in the 1983 series "Meitantei Holmes" (available here as "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound").

The film "Finding Neverland" (Nov 04 #5) received seven nominations for an Oscar: best picture, best actor in a leading role (Johnny Depp), art direction, costume design, film editing, writing (adapted screenplay), and music (score).

The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge and The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem are planning an informal "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" on Apr. 16 at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn.; additional information is available from Kent Ross (6875 Fielder Court, Rex, GA 30273) <kentross@aol.com>.

The steam launch Aurora's successor, the P&O superliner Aurora, continues to afflict its passengers: some months ago (Dec 03 #1) more than 500 passengers suffered from a highly contagious virus, and now a 103-night "Grand Voyage" to 40 ports in 23 countries has been cancelled. According to a report in the Daily Telegraph (Jan. 21), kindly forwarded by John Baesch, the passengers spent the first 11 days of their cruise in and near Southampton while the line struggled to repair the ship's propulsion system. The cost to the company will be £22 million, but David Dingle, managing director of P&O Cruises, said there is no need to rename the ship (at its naming ceremony, conducted by the Princess Royal, the champagne bottle didn't smash, traditionally a bad omen).

JAPAN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited and translated by Yuichi Hirayama, Masamichi Higurashi, and Hirotaka Ueda (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 2004; 190 pp., \$39.95), is the first volume in the BSI's International Series, which is intended to make available in English some of the fine Sherlockian scholarship published in other languages. And the Japanese have a long history of enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes: the first translation of a Sherlock Holmes story was published in 1894, a Japanese journalist interviewed Conan Doyle in 1910 (the interview is in the book), the first Sherlockian society in Japan was founded in 1948, and since then members of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club and other societies have continued to enjoy the world of Sherlock Holmes; the best of their essays, poems, and artwork will be found in JAPAN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES. \$43.90 postpaid (\$44.90 outside the U.S.) from The Baker Street Journal, 1836 Columbia Road #2, South Boston, MA 02127.

Les Klinger has been getting a lot of publicity for THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, in reviews and interviews, in print and on radio, and in various languages (thanks to the voice of America, which broadcast an interview with Les and Dan Stashower and me last month; you can listen to us at their web-site at <www.voanews.com/english/AmericanLife/2004-12-24-voa33.cfm>.

Jan 05 #8 The January 2005 issue of Geotimes is their "forensic geology" theme issue, with Raymond C. Murray's feature article on "Collecting Crime Evidence from Earth", Sarah Andrews' report on "A Visit to the FBI Lab", and articles by Megan Sever on "Murder and Mud in the Shenandoah" and David Abbott on "Investigating Mining Frauds". Published by the American Geological Institute, 4220 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302 (\$3.95); Murray's article and Megan Sever's story on "Becoming a Forensic Geologist" are available at the magazine's web-site <www.geotimes.org>. "Forensic geology," Murray notes, "began with the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

A BLUE CARBUNCLE is the latest in the "monograph series" of The Occupants of the Empty House: Janet Bensley has edited an interesting collection of

papers about the gem, and the story, and the 32-page pamphlets costs \$12.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Occupants of the Empty House, please) from Stan Tinsley (Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999).

Gasogene Press has three new titles available, one of them the seventh volume of Leslie S. Klinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES REFERENCE LIBRARY: THE VALLEY OF FEAR, with a fine introduction by Julia Carlson Rosenblatt, whose insights on the story and its setting are as helpful to the reader as they were to those who participated in last year's excursion into the Valley; the annotations and appendices are as usual based on old and new Sherlockian scholarship (2005; 143 pp., \$19.95); \$22.70 postpaid (\$23.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher.

SERPENTINE MUSE-INGS, VOLUME TWO, edited by Susan Z. Diamond and Marilynne McKay, is the second anthology of scholarship, speculation, and toasts from archives of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes and their journal The Serpentine Muse (2005; 229 pp., \$22.95); \$25.70 postpaid (\$26.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher.

A DISTINCT TOUCH, WATSON: BEING THE FINAL ANNALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by David L. Hammer, offers 13 new stories in his series of Sherlockian pastiches (the series now runs to four volumes, and his readers will grumble a bit at that "final" in the subtitle, but David reports that he had decided that it is time, in appropriately lawyerly language, to cease and desist (2003; 131 pp., \$13.95); \$16.70 postpaid (\$17.70 outside the U.S.) from the publisher: Gasogene Press, Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46268.

Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published for 22 years by The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), and the latest issue offers "essays, puzzles, commentary, artwork and more" by its members; the 40-page booklet is available from David Haugen, 3605 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332; \$10.00 postpaid.

Andy Fusco has kindly supplied copies for everyone of his seasonal souvenir for the birthday festivities: a pocket calendar for 1898, which also works for 2005. And this is a collectible, since it's the first printing, which Andy deemed unsuitable for distribution in New York, where people received copies of the second printing.

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

Feb 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

I neglected the annual commercials last month: the 16-page list of the Investitured Irregulars, the Two-Shilling Awards, the Women, and the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes costs \$1.25 postpaid. The 81-page list of 831 Sherlockian societies, with names and addresses for contacts for 427 active societies, is \$4.70 post-paid. A run of address labels for 349 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 all of the lists are available at Willis G. Frick's "Sherlocktron" home page at <<http://members.cox.net/sherlock1/Sherlocktron.html>>.

Charles J. Blinderman's THE PILTDOWN INQUEST (1986) was an excellent examination of the Piltdown hoax and the various suspects (there's a chapter on Conan Doyle), and Blinderman and David Joyce have an excellent web-site devoted to "The Piltdown Plot" at <www.clarku.edu/~piltdown>. Blinderman's book also is available (a very nice aspect of the Internet as a resource) at <www.clarku.edu/~piltdown/The_Piltdown_Inquest/chapters/chapter1.html>; if you want to go directly to the chapter on Conan Doyle, which is a pastiche (Apr 87 #2) just substitute "11" for "1".

Rosemary Clark died on Jan. 6. She was the widow of Edward F. Clark (they met at the Pentagon, Jon Lellenberg notes, where they were Ultra handlers in 1944), and she was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as *the* woman in 1976.

Sorry about that: my review omitted the price, so here's a revised repeat: The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2004" (devoted to "the architectural Holmes") features Derham Groves' long article ("welcome to the Hotel Irregular") on what his architecture students came up with when challenged to design a hotel for the Baker Street Irregulars. His students are imaginative indeed, and copies of the 62-page pamphlet are available from editor John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); \$10.00 postpaid (with checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

Details are now available for the annual STUD-watsonian weekend On Apr. 29-May 1 in and near Chicago; there will be a dinner (with Henry Zecher speaking on William Gillette), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Contact Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

"We could put up a very fair team in the field, and were runners-up for the County Cup the last season that I played," Conan Doyle wrote, remembering his playing association football in Portsmouth, adding that "I was always too slow, however, to be a really good back, though I was a long and safe kick." Kevin Smith's SHERLOCK HOLMES WAS A POMPEY KEEPER: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF THE ORIGINAL POMPEY AFC AND THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE (Tiverton: Halsgrove, 2004; 152 pp., £19.95) is a detailed history of the team on which Conan Doyle played, first listed as A. C. Smith and then by his own name, and the team's success continued after Conan Doyle departed.

Feb 05 #2 Philip Johnson died on Jan. 25. He was a renowned architect, and with his partner John Burgee designed four buildings in San Francisco, the most controversial of which was the Nieman Marcus department store on Union Square. According to John King's tribute in the San Francisco Chronicle on Jan. 27 (forwarded by Scott Monty), Piero Patri, a local architect who worked with Johnson, recalled a planning commission hearing where speaker after speaker denounced the project. "Emotions ran high--except at the end of the front row of the audience, where Johnson sat reading a paperback Sherlock Holmes novel."

It has been more than 15 years since Mysteriously Yours (a mystery dinner-theater company in Toronto) performed their first Sherlock Holmes play, and their new play "CSI: Baker Street" opened last month, and will run at least through July. The theater's address is 2026 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4S 1Z9, Canada (416-486-7469) (800-668-3323) <www.mysteriouslyyours.com>.

"Elementary School, My Dear Watson" was the headline on a Reuters dispatch from Moscow: Russia's police force has adopted Moscow school 1862 for children aged 6 to 17 and created a "detectives' section" as part of a campaign to clean up its reputation for incompetence and corruption. "Future Sherlock Holmes's will be able to learn the basics of the detective's trade," First Deputy Interior Minister Alexander Chekalin said (quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency on Jan. 28).

Filming on "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" is now underway in Glasgow; the film (Nov 04 #5) was written by David Pirie, who suggests that some aspects of Holmes were based on Conan Doyle's alcoholic father. Douglas Henshall stars as Conan Doyle, and Brian Cox as Dr. Joseph Bell.

No one reported the story in the N.Y. Times when it ran on Sept. 7, but it was reprinted in the San Diego Union-Tribune on Sept. 15, and noted in The Passengers' Log (Oct. 8), and although New York to San Diego to Sydney to Washington is quite a trek, it all started in Belize, eight miles east of

the border with Guatemala, where a party of mycologists was searching for fungi on a ridge called Doyle's Delight, named for its resemblance to the prehistoric setting of "The Lost World". And they found some, of course, including a brilliant yellow-capped mushroom that may be new to science and might wind up named *Hygrocybe doyles delightorium*.

Karen Murdock spotted a story at <www.restaurantbiz.com> about a chain of Sherlockian pubs and grills, all in Texas, in Addison, Arlington, Houston, and San Antonio, with future sites in Austin and Fort Worth; there's a web-site at <www.hospitalityusa.com/locations.htm>.

Kinky Friedman announced this month that he will run for governor of Texas in 2006, calling himself Texas' first independent candidate since Sam Houston in 1859. Friedman often has Sherlockian allusions in his mystery novels, but said he wouldn't be writing any mysteries from the governor's mansion. According to a story in the Kerrville Daily Times (Feb. 4), Friedman explained that "The Kinkster gets killed off in my newest book, TEN LITTLE NEW YORKERS, sort of like Sherlock Holmes at Reichenbach Falls." Friedman has a web-site at <www.kinkyfriedman.com>.

Feb 05 #3 U.S. Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh this month, and in his acceptance speech he paid tribute to Sherlock Holmes: "As an economic detective of sorts," Greenspan said, "I find kinship in the words written by this university's world-renowned alumnus, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, whose Sherlock Holmes--while speaking of the art of detection--unknowingly unlocked the well-kept secrets of monetary policy-making. 'We balance probabilities,' he said, 'and choose the most likely. It is the scientific use of the imagination.' He sounds like a stock portfolio manager of one of Edinburgh's premium investment houses. What is true for detectives and financial risk managers is true for monetary policy-makers, and is, I am certain, also true for the young minds taking shape here on these grounds."

Bank of England governor Mervyn King also received an honorary degree from the University of Edinburgh. And Simon Pia reported in The Scotsman (Feb. 8) that King explained that "my predecessor said there were three kinds of economists: (1) Those who can count. (2) Those who can't."

Further to my review of SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET (Jan 05 #3), Chris Roden notes that Neil Gaiman won a Hugo Award (best short story) for his contribution to the anthology ("A Study in Emerald") at the World Science Fiction Convention in Boston last year. And it was well-deserved.

Francis A. Young died on Jan. 17. He was described by more than one friend as a walking encyclopedia, and one of his earliest published works was his article "On the Identification of Cardinal Tosca" in the June 1964 issue of The Baker Street Journal BSJ (June 1964). Frank's books include ART OF THE FOOTNOTE: THE INTELLIGENT STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE ART AND SCIENCE OF ANNOTATING TEXTS (1996) and PASSING THE KEYS: MODERN CARDINALS, CONCLAVES, AND THE ELECTION OF THE NEXT POPE (1999), and we are in his debt for the CD-ROM "The Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" issued by Insight Engineering (1997).

The first issue of The Master's Trestleboard, the electronic newsletter edited by Ron Fish for The Master's Masons, is available at their web-site at <www.themastersmasons.homestead.com>.

The 24th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 11-13, at the Holiday Inn Fairborn; additional details are available from Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.

"Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: The Real Sherlock Holmes" is a 57-minute documentary issued in 2004 by Delta Entertainment Corp. on DVD (\$6.99 at Amazon), with interesting footage of Conan Doyle locations from Edinburgh to Windlesham, and (as a "special feature") the 29-minute Nigel Bruce/Tom Conway ra-

dio broadcast of "The Devil's Foot" (1947).

Gayle T. Harris reports a new and interesting archive for researchers: the [Edinburgh] Scotsman offers on-line access to its articles published from 1817 to 1920. Searches are free at <www.archives.scotsman.com>, and there are 646 hits for "conan doyle" and 204 hits for "sherlock holmes", but you need to pay for access to the articles: L7.95 for one day, L12.95 for two days, or L19.95 for one week.

Feb 05 #4 Further to the report (Dec 04 #4) on a Japanese translation of Rodger Garrick-Steele's THE HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES, Cliff Goldfarb has noted that the book is available in English, published by the print-on-demand company 1st Books; \$24.00 (paperback) or \$6.95 (electronic). The company's address is AuthorHouse, 1663 Liberty Drive #200, Bloomington, IN 47403 (888-519-5121) <www.authorhouse.com>.

Garrick-Steele received considerable publicity in 2000, when he accused Sir Arthur Conan Doyle of murdering Bertram Fletcher Robinson (with the assistance of Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys) to avoid exposure as having plagiarized THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES from a book written by Fletcher Robinson, and far less publicity in 2001 when he accused Conan Doyle of murdering Charles Dawson, who knew Conan Doyle to be the perpetrator of the Piltown hoax. According to a story in Torquay Herald Express (Nov. 2, 2001), Garrick-Steele challenged Sherlockians: "If this is true, they are covering for a serial murderer; if they don't know this then they are fools indeed."

There's nothing about Dawson in THE HOUSE OF THE BASKERVILLES, which offers details on Garrick-Steele's life and career, and lengthy (and undocumented) quotes from members of Fletcher Robinson's family, and their servants and friends, and an end-note on Garrick-Steele's plans to publish Fletcher Robinson's AN ADVENTURE ON DARTMOOR, the manuscript upon which Conan Doyle allegedly based THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES.

Rodger isn't the only Garrick-Steele around, according to Yahoo. "Katelin Ashford was a bit hotheaded, but hardly wicked enough to be exiled from her beloved London to the wilds of the Caribbean just to avoid a scandal! But her trip across the Atlantic turned out to be fraught with peril and passion when a storm buffeted her ship, and cast her onto the deck and into the arms of an infamous privateer. Yet virile Garrick Steele was no stranger; he was the very man who'd ruined her reputation back home!" From the blurb for Kathleen Drymon's PIRATE MOON (1993).

Basil Hoskins died on Jan. 17. His career as a character actor lasted for almost 50 years, in both classics and comedy, and he played Mr. Henderson in Granada's "Wisteria Lodge" (1988).

It's unlikely that there's anything Sherlockian about the new film "Inside Deep Throat" (it's a documentary about the 1972 porno film "Deep Throat"), but there's a connection: Harry Reems, who starred in the film (and is now a real-estate salesman in Utah), went on to make "Sherlock Holmes" (1975), which for many years was the only porno Sherlock Holmes film available on videocassette.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominations for Edgar awards, including Les Klinger (best critical-biographical) for THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, and Gary Lovisi (best short story) for "The Adventure of the Missing Detective" (in SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS). The winners will be announced at the MWA awards dinner on Apr. 28. THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES has also been nominated for an Agatha award (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic, and Jack French's PRIVATE EYELASHES: RADIO'S LADY DETECTIVES has been nominated in the same category; the winners will be announced at Malice's awards banquet on Apr. 30.

Feb 05 #5 Bruce Cassidy died on Jan. 12. "He was a writer with as many talents as pseudonyms," according to Jack Adrian's obituary in

The Independent (Feb. 11), and one of those talents was his wide knowledge of literature: Cassidy edited *ROOTS OF DETECTION: THE ART OF DEDUCTION BEFORE SHERLOCK HOLMES* (1983), and collaborated with Waltraud Woeller on *THE LITERATURE OF CRIME AND DETECTION: AN ILLUSTRATION HISTORY FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT* (1988).

Teddy Hayes' "The Baskerville Beast: The Musical" will have its world premiere at the Questors Theatre on Mar. 22-26 (12 Mattock Lane, Ealing W5 5BQ, England) (0208-237-1111) <www.thebaskervillebeast.co.uk>. And there's some nice artwork at the web-site.

Bob Levinson is the author of *ASK A DEAD MAN*, and has his own web-site at <www.robertslevinson.com>, and he recently contributed to a thread on the Dorothy-L electronic mailing list about typos that manage to pass undetected from ms. to printed page, noted that "My new work *A STUDY IN SCARLETT O'HARA* (in which Watson wonders why Holmes has done nothing about the holes in his socks, and Holmes reveals, 'I don't give a darn') will contain 60 intentional errors of fact. Readers will be invited to find these 55 errors of fact before Holmes does. Prizes will be awarded, although I'm not yet sure what they'll be. I'll think about it tomorrow."

Ken Lanza spotted a Sherlock Holmes in Nortonville, Ky.: an on-line newspaper <www.the-messenger.com> noted on Feb. 9 that "February is a good month for birthdays in Nortonville . . . Dwight Holmes, son of City Councilman Sherlock Holmes and Doris Holmes, has a birthday Feb. 11." The councilman, when he ran for election in 1998, was billed as Andrew "Sherlock" Holmes."

For the completists: *THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* in a Treasury of Illustrated Classics edition adapted by Kathy Wilmore and illustrated by Ned Butterfield (New York: Modern Publishing, 2000; 189 pp., \$1.99 on some discount tables, or \$2.99 at their web-site <www.modernpublishing.com>); five stories simplified for young readers.

Further to the item on the National Library of Scotland's plans to acquire the John Murray archives (Mar 04 #3), the Library won a £17.7 million grant from the national lottery and has purchased the archives for £31.2 million. The archives include the company's correspondence with its authors, one of whom was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Sea Grove Covenant" is this year's mystery, to be solved during Sherlock Holmes weekends in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 4-6 and Nov. 4-6. The weekends also feature staged readings of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" by the East Lynne Theater Company, and additional details are available from the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, Box 340, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278) <www.capemaymac.org>.

The famous/infamous "tent joke" was unveiled to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998, and seems to have appeared in print first in the Reader's Digest (Nov. 1998), and it was published here somewhat later (Dec 01 #6), and it came in second in voting for the world's funniest joke (Oct 02 #1); it's still being told, for example in John Lescroart's *THE SECOND CHAIR* (2004).

Feb 05 #6 The magician Ricky Jay is interested in all sorts of trickery, as you can see at his web-site <www.rickyjay.com>, where you'll find his weekly "Jay's Journal" as broadcast by KCRW-FM (Los Angeles). On Apr. 17, 2003, Jay talked about "the American Sherlock Holmes" (Clifton R. Wooldridge, who described himself with that title in a series of booklets published early in the 20th century).

Otto Plaschkes died on Feb. 14. He began his film career as assistant director on "Exodus" (1960), and went on to produce "Georgy Girl" (1966) and many other films, including the Ian Richardson television films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983).

Reported: Catherine Wynne's *THE COLONIAL CONAN DOYLE: BRITISH IMPERIALISM,*

IRISH NATIONALISM AND THE GOTHIC (Westport: Greenwood Press, 2003; 224 pp., \$75.00); an academic examination of the many Irish aspects, allusions, and echoes in Conan Doyle's writings.

Sherlock Holmes died on Feb. 15, Bill Barnes reports. That's the Sherlock Holmes who lived in Newcastle, Australia. Ten years ago (Aug 94 #7) he attended the national meeting of the Sherlockian societies in Australia, and Michael J. Farrell reported that Mr. Holmes was born in Holmesville, with a Dr. Watson presiding over the birth (and it was the suggestion of the nurse that the child be called Sherlock).

Ken Lanza spotted a report in the Desert-Mountain Times about the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Outpost restaurant and club in Alpine, Texas. Visitors can enjoy Mrs. Hudson's Dining Room and Dr. Watson's Pub, and will be invited to become members of Dr. Watson's Club.

Michael Ross (Baskerville Bucher, Postfach 42 06 70, 50900 Koln, Germany) <www.baskerville.de> reports that German publishers continue to offer Sherlockian books: Stefan Wings, author of DER VIERTE KONIG (2004) has a new pastiche TOD AUF DEM RHEIN (Emons Verlag, 2004) visit Egypt and Cologne and are involved with the parents of Indiana Jones, and Friedrich Gerhard Kimmek's SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DIE WAHRE GESCHICHTE VOM GESPENKELTEN BAND (vmd, 2004) tells the "true story" of "The Speckled Band"; both books (and many others) are available from Michael. And Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (performed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988) has been translated into German, and performed in Idar-Oberstein in January.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" aired on BBC-1 on Dec. 26, and in Canada on the CBC on Dec. 29 (Jan 05 #4), and it is scheduled on PBS-TV this fall. It will be released on DVD (region 2) on Mar. 21 (L10.99 at <www.bbcshop.co.uk>, according to publicity at hand from Ben Wood.

In 1959 postcards from Edgar W. Smith advertised "The Oscar Meunier Bust of Sherlock Holmes" reproduced (without the bullet hole) in matte porcelain by the noted sculptor E. Pichard (actually Edgar's son, Edgar Pichard Smith). Only 25 numbered replicas were made, according to the postal card. In the Mar. 1962 issue of The Baker Street Journal there was an offer from Edgar P. Smith of a "new casting" with 25 numbered replicas. I would appreciate hearing from those who have copies of the bust accompanied by documentation as to whether they are from 1959 or 1962.

Feb 05 #7 An exhibition on "Tutankhamen and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" is on tour, with more than twice as many artifacts from his tomb than were in the exhibition in the 1970s; it has been on display in Bonn and is now in Basel, and it will open in Los Angeles on June 16 and will then move to Fort Lauderdale and Chicago. Newspaper stories about the exhibition note that tales about mummies that come to life were popular in the 19th century, and often cite Bram Stoker's JEWEL OF SEVEN STARS (1903), but Conan Doyle was earlier, with "The Ring of Thoth" (Jan. 1890) and "Lot No. 249" (Sept. 1892).

Guillermo Cabrera Infante died on Feb. 21. He was a Cuban novelist, essayist, supporter of Fidel Castro's revolution, and for the last forty years critic of Castro's government. His HOLY SMOKE (1985) is a fascinating, expert, and humorous discussion of the history of cigars (and cigarettes and pipes) with occasional references to the Canon.

Ronald Reagan has been honored by the U.S. Postal Service. He wrote to O. Dallas Baillio (director of the public library in Mobile, Ala.) in 1977, describing his debt to public libraries and the books he read as a young boy in Dixon, Ill.: "Then came the Zane Grey phase, Horatio Alger and Sherlock Holmes, and, of course, Mark Twain with Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn." And in 1992 the Reagans dined at The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street and were greeted by Holmes and Watson (costumed ac-

tors Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett-Watson); you can read about that in the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1993).

Jack L. Chalker died on Feb. 18. He was 13 years old when he attended his first science-fiction meeting, and a year later won a Hugo Award nomination for his literary magazine *Mirage*; he went on to write more than 60 science-fiction and fantasy novels, and founded his own publishing company the *Mirage Press*. And he reported on Scrooge McDuck's Sherlockian connections in *AN INFORMAL BIOGRAPHY OF SCROOGE MCDUCK*, published by *Mirage Press* in 1974.

I noted (Jul 02 #2) that Derek Waring has played both Conan Doyle and Watson; can you name two other actors who have played both roles?

W. W. Norton has announced a second printing of Les Klinger's *THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES*, due in bookstores in late spring, with corrections of errors in the first printing; the first print run was 30,000 copies, and the second print run will be 20,000 copies. And this fall (on Sept. 1) the retail price for the two volumes will increase to \$90.00.

I've mentioned the *Friends of Freddy* before, and Walter R. Brooks' delightful series of books about Freddy the Pig, and *FREDDY THE DETECTIVE* (Sep 02 #4); Sandra Fenichel Asher adapted that novel as "Freddy, the King of Detectives" for the Open Eye Theatre in Margaretville, N.Y., last summer, and her web-site <www.usaplays4kids.drury.edu/playwrights/asher> has a photo of Freddy in the play. There's lots of information about the society at their web-site <www.freddythepig.org>, and the winter 2005 issue of the *Bean Home Newsletter* has Jack Bromiley's "Comparing Freddy the Detective with Sherlock Holmes" (illustrated by the author); \$15.00 for a two-year membership/subscription (Box 912, Greenbelt, MD 20768).

Feb 05 #8 Issue #64 of *SHERLOCK* offers Barbara Roisman Cooper's fine interview with Inga Swenson (with amusing stories about the musical "Baker Street"); Roger Johnson's discussion of the influence of Robert Louis Stevenson on Conan Doyle and other mystery writers; and as usual much more, Sherlockian and non-S'ian. *SHERLOCK* is published six times a year, and costs £23.70 (to the U.K.)/£26.00 (continent)/\$45.00 (elsewhere) from Atlas Publishing, Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Classic Specialties is their American agent <www.sherlock-holmes.com> (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) (877-233-3823); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and back issues are available.

The two other actors who have played both Conan Doyle and Watson are Edward Hardwick (Conan Doyle in the film "Photographing Fairies" and Watson in the Granada series) and Ian Hart (Conan Doyle in "Finding Neverland" and Watson in two recent BBC-1 television films).

The film "Finding Neverland" (2004), with Ian Hart as Conan Doyle (and with Johnny Depp as James M. Barrie) will be released on VHS and DVD (\$29.99) in March (\$29.99). The film received seven nominations for an Oscar, and won one: best achievement in music written for motion pictures, original score.

Natsume Soseki has been described as Japan's most revered author (from 1984 to 2004 his portrait was on Japan's 1000-yen note); he lived in London from 1900 to 1902, and *THE TOWER OF LONDON* (London: Peter Owen, 2005; 240 pp., £14.95) collects English translations of his essays about his visit, along with Yamada Futaro's "The Yellow Lodger" ["Kihiro Geshukunin"], a pastiche first published in *Hoseki* magazine (Dec. 1953) and reprinted in many anthologies. This is the first translation of "The Yellow Lodger", which is a pastiche in which Soseki meets Sherlock Holmes. Soseki did not enjoy his stay in London, and with good reason; translator Damian Flanagan also has contributed an excellent introduction to the book, and explanatory notes on the essays and the pastiche.

Google is testing a new "print" feature that allows you to read books. Go

to <www.google.com> and search for "books about donan coyle" [and yes, you need to spell the names incorrectly] and you'll find an academic discussion of interest to those who wonder about "playing the game."

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has learned that copies of the winter issue of The Sherlock Holmes Journal mailed to overseas subscribers seem to have gone missing; the Society hopes that the missing issues will turn up in up in March, and would greatly appreciate subscribers sending the wrappers to Catherine Cooke, Flat 15, Copperfield Court, 146 Worple Road, Wimbledon, London SW20 8QA, England.

Ken Lanza spotted the report in the Washington Times (Feb. 19) about "podcasting" (a term derived from Apple's iPod); you can do your own radio show over the Internet. At <www.pinkgeek.net/weblog3> you can listen to Tim Aldrich read "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes".

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

Mar 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

I mentioned MURDERLAND: A COMPANION VOLUME TO THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS' EXPEDITION TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR earlier (Oct 04 #6); it was available in the dealers' room at the Hotel Algonquin in January. Edited by Steven T. Doyle, it's much more than an excursion book, offering 168 pages of Sherlockian scholarship, with five pages of Conan Doyle's notes for the story, reproduced in facsimile and published for the first time. \$19.95 (\$23.90 postpaid to the U.S., \$24.90 elsewhere); checks (payable to the BSI) can be sent to The Baker Street Journal, Box 465 Hanover, PA 17331, or you can order with credit cards at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Reported: Sid Fleischman's THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA, OR PIRATES GALORE (New York: Greenwillow, 2005; 208 pp., \$16.89); for young readers, set in 1846, and the giant rat is a pirate-ship figurehead ("villains spring forth, and amazements abound").

Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case" is scheduled for production at the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace from July 29 to Oct. 2; 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>.

Peter Crupe spotted THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (New York: Sterling Publishing Co., 2005; 151 pp., \$4.95) in a new series of "Classic Starts" at Barnes & Noble; it has six stories "retold from the Arthur Conan Doyle original" by Chris Sasaki, and illustrations by Lucy Corvino.

Conan Doyle's tour of the United States in 1894 included a visit to Vermont to see Rudyard Kipling. "I had brought up my golf-clubs and gave him lessons in a field," Conan Doyle recalled in his autobiography, "while the New England rustics watched us from afar, wondering what on earth we were at, for golf was unknown in America at that time." Actually, golf was known in America at that time; there was a crude three-hole course in use in Yonkers in 1888. And there's a bit more about Rudyard Kipling and golf: a story by E. Michael Johnson in Golf World (Feb. 18), at hand from Andrew Blau, notes that Kipling "invented what many believe to be the first colored golf ball when he slapped a coat of red paint on a white ball in order to make it easier to find while playing golf in the snow."

Darlene Cypser, who had two articles published in The Baker Street Journal in 1985 and 1988, now has a small distribution company and offers help to authors who don't have access to Amazon and other wider markets. Bifrost Distribution, Box 753, Littleton, CO 80160 <www.bifrostdistribution.com>.

Luke Steven Fullenkamp has completed the trilogy he started with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE DRAGONS (Sep 00 #1). SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOST OF THE FLYING DUTCHMAN (2001, 244 pp., \$13.50 paperback/\$4.95

electronic) begins with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Johnathan Watson menaced by a carriage driven by a headless coachman immune to gunfire, and foiling a villainous and murderous plot; SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SEARCH FOR EXCALIBUR (2004, 280 pp., \$14.50/paperback/\$4.95 electronic) involves them with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show while the plot continues, as villainous and murderous as ever. Both books are available from Authorhouse, 1663 Liberty Drive #200, Bloomington, IN 47403 (888-519-5212) <www.authorhouse.com>.

Mar 05 #2 "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes Theatre" is new from Blackstone Audio, offering performances of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band", and Yuri Rosovsky's one-act comedy "Ghastly Murder in Famed Detective's Flat" (Martin Jarvis and Kristoffer Tabori star as Holmes and Watson, and there's a full cast, and they all do fine work). \$34.95 on 4 audiocassettes (\$10.95 rental); \$45.00 on 5 CDs (\$13.95 rental); \$29.95 on 1 mp3-CD; Box 969, Ashland, OR 97520 (800-729-2665) <www.blackstoneaudio.com>. Jarvis was Reginald Musgrave on BBC Radio 4 in 1978 and recorded "The Valley of Fear" for Listen for Pleasure in 1992, and Tabori was Sir Henry Baskerville in Granada's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988).

Further to the item (Feb 05 #8) about missing copies of The Sherlock Holmes Journal, they've now arrived, and have much of interest, including extracts from the Sherlockian papers of Sir Paul Gore-Booth. SHJ subscription costs vary depending on where you are and on whether you're adult or junior; details are available from Bob Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU England, and at the society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org>.

Jim Vogelsang spotted an attractive gift bag (suitable for baby showers, of course) with a matching tag, from Leap Year Publishing in Methuen, Mass.; the photograph is by Tom Arma, and you can see it in full color (click on "occupations") at <www.tomarma.com>.

The Sound of the Baskervilles will celebrate their 25th anniversary the afternoon of Apr. 2, with tea and other refreshments, and commemorative pins and paperweights; additional details are available from David Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332; the society web-site's at <www.soundofthebaskervilles.com>.

Further to the report (Apr 04 #6) on plans for a 176-foot bronze sculpture of a Native American on Holmes Peak in Oklahoma, Dick Warner has forwarded a story in the Tulsa World (Feb. 16) that reports that organizers had hoped to break ground last month, but still need to raise more money and do more design work; their goal for the \$30 million project is to finish the statue in time for the state's centennial in 2007.

The March issue of The Believer (\$8.00) has a six-page interview with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle by Eric Spitznagel, who was assisted by Arthur Pacheco, a psychic and trance medium from Hawaii. Conan Doyle discusses the after-life, Bram Stoker and Anne Rice, and Edgar Allan Poe (and the cover has a portrait of Conan Doyle by Charles Burns). There's also a four-panel cartoon ("Sherlock Holmes Versus Jungle Boy, Part 47") from Michael Kupperman. 826 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 <www.believermag.com>.

Dark Horse Books' THE IRREGULARS...IN THE SERVICE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a 128-page graphic novel written by Steven-Elliot Altman and Michael Reaves, and illustrated by Bong Dazo; Altman and Reaves had stories in SHADOWS OVER BAKER STREET (2003), and THE IRREGULARS also owes a great deal to the world of H. P. Lovecraft. \$12.95, and if you can't find it in a store, their address is 10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, OR 97222 <www.darkhorse.com>.

Mar 05 #3 Some of the 1968 BBC television versions of the Canon starring Peter Cushing and Nigel Stock are available on region 2 DVDs: "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Boscombe Valley Mystery", "The Sign of Four"

and "The Blue Carbuncle", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; L9.99 each at <www.bbcshop.com>. A boxed set with all three DVDs also is available at <www.amazon.co.uk> for L24.99.

The How Now! theater troupe will present "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" at the Historic General Dodge House in Council Bluffs on Apr. 8 and 9 (605 Third Street, Council Bluffs, IA 51503) (712-322-2406); the troupe will be in costume, with music and sound effects, reading Clarinda Karpov's dramatizations of "The Red-Headed League" and "The Man with the Twisted Lip".

It's not the Duke of Balmoral's Iris, but an iris was one of four stamps in a "Spring Flowers" set issued this year by the U.S. Postal Service.

Further to my earlier review (Jul 02 #1) of Bonaventure Brennan's 'IT COMMENCED WITH TWO...': THE STORY OF MARY ANN DOYLE, FIRST COMPANION OF CATHERINE MCAULEY, the book now has a second printing. It's a biography of Anna Maria Doyle, sister of Arthur Conan Doyle's grandfather John Doyle; born in Dublin in 1801, Anna met Catherine McAuley in 1827, became a nun in 1831, and helped found the Sisters of Mercy. The book includes information about the Doyle family and it can be bought (E30.00 postpaid) from Sister Bonaventure (2 St. Brigid's Court, Athboy, County Meath, Ireland); please pay by bank draft in euros.

Further to the earlier item (Jun 02 #4) about Nicholas Twit: The Schoolboy Sherlock Holmes, there now are five books in the series <www.twit.biz>. and author Cenarth Fox is presenting his talk on "Meet Sherlock Holmes" in venues in Australia, and his play "The Real Sherlock Holmes" also is on tour there <www.foxplays.com>.

When in Dubai: you can stay at the new Arabian Court Hotel, and choose from its restaurants: the traditionally-themed Bastakiya, Muglal cuisine at the Mumtaz Mahal, the Ahland Lounge, and the hotel's classic English pub: the Sherlock Holmes.

Ken Lanza spotted the web-site for Wayne M. Rooney, Consulting Detective at <www.consultingdetective.com>; there are Sherlockian images and quotations, and his e-mail address is <sholmes@pixi.com>.

Samuel French (45 West 25th Street, New York, 10010) <www.samuel french.com> offer 18 Sherlockian scripts, from William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (in the version used for the revival by the Royal Shakespeare Company) and Leslie Bricusse's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" to comedies and dramas (some only marginally S'ian) by Tim Kelly.

For readers who like detectives named "Sherlock": Catherine Coulter has a long-running series about FBI special agents Dillon Savich (first seen in THE COVE in 1996) and Lacey Sherlock (in THE MAZE in 1997); they married, and the tenth book in their series (POINTBLANK) is due in September. And of course there's a web-site at <www.catherinecoulter.com>.

Mar 05 #4 Scotland should exploit Sherlock Holmes as a national cultural icon, according to the chairman of Scotland's cultural commission, quoted in the Edinburgh Scotsman (Mar. 19). "I think we should retake Sherlock Holmes," James Boyle said. "You look at the worldwide web and you will find that all the web businesses based round Sherlock Holmes are in London, they're in Illinois, they are in Switzerland. Sherlock Holmes is a product of Scottish mind, born in Scotland, trained in Scotland. Why don't we own him? It's perfectly reasonable that you should have large businesses built round Sherlock Holmes in London, but if people want a whole range of things from academic thought to cheap souvenirs, we may as well do that. What's to stop us selling tapes of Jeremy Brett back to the Americans?"

Belgium's definitive postage stamps show birds, and two recent issues show a Mediterranean gull and a partridge. "One great

grey bird, a gull or curlew, soared aloft in the blue heaven" (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson dined on a cold partridge (in "The veiled Lodger").

John Sherwood has been impersonating Sherlock Holmes for many years, assisted by a handy-dandy (and easily concealed) portable guide to the Canon that he's now happy to share with those who might wish to benefit from his careful research: THE POCKET SHERLOCK, which was created in 1987, now is available in a 2005 edition that offers 70 pages of case summaries and data. The booklet costs \$12.00 postpaid (and will be autographed on request) from Mystery Visits (120 Quimby Road, West Grove, PA 19390) <www.mysteryvisits.com>.

Leona Rostenberg died on Mar. 17. She was a bibliophile and book dealer, and with her partner Madeleine B. Stern in 1942 identified Louisa May Alcott as the author, under a pseudonym, of a series of (at the time) racy stories, and the story of their partnership was told in their memoirs, OLD BOOKS, RARE FRIENDS: TWO LITERARY SLEUTHS AND THEIR SHARED PASSION (1997) and BOOKENDS: TWO WOMEN, ONE ENDURING FRIENDSHIP (2001). She wrote a series of articles on "Bibliately: A History of Books on Postage Stamps" for The American Philatelist in 1977, and included Sherlock Holmes, and she was in the audience when Madeleine B. Stern gave The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Lecture in 2001.

Turns out there's a tenuous Sherlockian connection for Russell Crowe: the music played at the end of Rupert Everett's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (broadcast in December in the UK and in Canada). According to the Nottingham Evening Post (Mar. 5), it was "La Musica Notturna delle Strade di Madrid" (No. 6 Op. 30) by Italian composer Luigi Boccherini (1743-1805); the music also was used in the film "Master and Commander".

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists will meet for drinks and dinner to honor the world's first forensic geologist, at 7:00 pm on June 22, at The Joyce on 4th in Calgary during the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. We traditionally discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, and our agenda consists entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). The restaurant is at 506 24th Avenue SW, and locals and visitors are welcome.

Mar 05 #5 The Constitution of The Baker Street Irregulars (drafted by Elmer Davis in 1934) states in Article IV that "The duties of the Commissionaire shall be to telephone down for ice, white Rock, and whatever else may be required and avail available." White Rock still exists, and of course there's a web-site <www.whiterockbeverages.com>, with a link to the White Rock Collectors Association <www.whiterocking.com>, which in the history of the company there's an item about white Rock's "ambassador without portfolio": "By 1895 America's favorite sparking table water and mixer went international, and in 1901 was featured at the coronation banquet of England's King Edward VII. A British newspaper later commented that the King always used white Rock to dilute his wine."

Ken Lanza has reported a Sherlockian image at the web-site <www.quackwatch.com> (proposed as "your guide to quackery, health fraud, and intelligent decisions").

Scott Tate reports a new Sherlockian society: The John Turner Society, for people who have, or know someone who has, or are interested in diabetes. More information about the society is available from Scott at 925 La Due Avenue, Alamosa, CO 81101 <boscombevalley@gmail.com>.

This year's Canonical Convocation and Caper will take place in Door County, Wis., on Sept. 23-25; there's a web-site at <www.cccdoorcounty.com>, or you can request additional information from Jane Richardson, 3427 East Exchange

Street, Crete, IL 60417. Mary Erickson notes that Don Izban, who presided over the event for many years, has found four people to do all the work he did to make the event a success, and one assumes that Don will be there to see how they do.

Sumal Surendranahth reports that there's a Sherlock Holmes Society of India on the Internet, founded in May 2001 as a meeting place for Indian fans of Sherlock Holmes <in.groups.yahoo.com/group/SherlockHolmesSocietyofIndia>.

THE PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICAN PRESENTS MYSTERY STREET: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PWA ANTHOLOGY (New York: Signet, 2001; 341 pp., \$6.50) was edited by Robert Randisi and includes Warren Murphy's "Highly Irregular on Baker Street", which stars his series P.I. Devlin Tracy, investigating a murder at the present-day 221B Baker Street.

Further to the report (Dec 04 #2) on Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS (the new Mary Russell mystery, due for release in June), the new paperback edition of THE GAME (New York: Bantam Books, 2005; 442 pp. \$6.99) offers a 12-page preview from LOCKED ROOMS. Teaser excerpts are becoming more and more common now, to the delight of completists.

Ev Herzog spotted a Barnes & Noble reprint of Heather Hacking's HISTORICAL CATS: GREAT CATS WHO HAVE SHAPED HISTORY (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2003; 80 pp., £9.99); the cats include King Tutankhamin 'n' Kahmout (who invented the catflap), Richard the Furred, and Purrlock Holmes, all with amusing illustrations by the author. The Barnes & Noble reprint was issued in 2004 (\$3.98) and may be found at their stores (if you're lucky) (the reprint was a one-shot, apparently, and the title can't be ordered or reordered).

Mar 05 #6 It's worth recalling, occasionally, that the world of Sherlock Holmes wasn't only the Victorian world portrayed so carefully in the Canon; a fine way to see a different aspect of his world is a visit to the National Gallery of Art in Washington to view the exhibition "Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre" (which will be on display through June 12, and then at the Art Institute of Chicago from July 16 to Oct. 10). There are 250 works of art in the show, offering a splendid look at a Parisian milieu that was of interest to many visitors to the city during the last two decades of the 19th century; in "The Golden Pince-Nez" there's a mention of the case of Huret in 1894, and it is difficult to imagine that Sherlock Holmes went to Paris without spending time in Montmartre. Much of the artwork in the show is by Toulouse-Lautrec, but there also are works by Van Gogh, Manet, Degas, Picasso, and many others. "The Englishman at the Moulin Rouge" (painted by Toulouse-Lautrec in 1892) might well be a portrait of Dr. Watson (according to the catalog of the show, the model for the man was in fact a young English painter named William Warrenner). The Montmartre district is specifically mentioned in the Canon (in a believably violent context) in "The Illustrious Client" (dated by most Canonical chronologists in 1902). The catalog also is of interest, with informative essays on "Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre: Depicting Decadence in Fin-de-Siecle Paris", "The Social Menagerie of Toulouse-Lautrec's Montmartre", and "Toulouse-Lautrec and the Culture of Celebrity", and a wealth of lavish illustrations.

Reported: CREATIVE HEALERS: A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS, REVIEWS, AND POEMS FROM THE PHAROS 1938-1998, edited by Edward Day Harris, Jr. (Menlo Park: Alpha Omega Alpha, 2004; 532 pp., \$50.00 leather, \$40.00 cloth); the contents include C. Frederick Kittle's "There's More to Doyle Than Holmes!" reprinted

from the winter 1997 issue of The Pharos (the journal of the honor medical society). Fred Kittle's fine collection, exhibited at the Newberry Library in Chicago in 2003, includes four generations of Doyles and Conan Doyles. The address for Alpha Omega Alpha is 525 Middlefield Road #130, Menlo Park, CA 94025 <www.alphaomegaalpha.org>.

Mycroft's League is organizing the 2nd Quadragennial Running of the Philadelphia Silver Blaze, at Delaware Park on May 7 (you'll also be able to see the Kentucky Derby via simulcast from Churchill Downs); there will lunch in the Main Clubhouse and as always a chance to conduct Sherlockian handicapping. Details available from Gideon D. Hill <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>. The previous Park running of the Silver Blaze in the Delaware Valley was at Garden State Park in 1966, in case anyone's counting.

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Apr 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Laurie R. King's A GRAVE TALENT (1993) won best-first-novel awards from the Mystery Writers of America and the British Crime Writers' Association, and there now are four books in her series about San Francisco Police Department homicide inspector Kate Martinelli; Laurie reports that she is about halfway through her next Martinelli novel, due next year, and that a good portion of it concerns a newly discovered Sherlock Holmes manuscript; Martinelli is (of course) scornful of the item as well as the interest among Sherlockians.

Laurie also has reported in her web-log that in June she will begin work on the last Mary Russell novel, in which she and her husband return to England just in time to meet a ship from Africa that is carrying a nasty contagion, sent there from the German colonies as a prelude to the upcoming conflict, that drives its victims insane with terror. Laurie notes that "Russell and Holmes die in each others arms, I'm afraid," and that the working title of the book is THE BEEKEEPER'S APPREHENSION. That was in her blog for April 1 (headed "Black Armbands"), in case you're wondering about credibility. Her web-log is at <www.laurierking.blogspot.com>.

Ken Lanza spotted a story about "Putting a Face Value on Celebrity Cheques" in the Financial Times (Mar. 28) with a mention of the British Cheque Collectors' Society (now the British Banking History Society) and an article on "Cheques and Sherlock Holmes"; the article is available at their web-site <www.banking-history.co.uk> with pictures of cheques from some of the banks mentioned in the Canon.

Reported: Peter Abraham's DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE: AN ECHO FALLS MYSTERY (New York: Laura Geringer/HarperCollins, 2005); 384 pp., \$15.99); Ingrid Levin-Hill, eighth-grade Sherlock Holmes fan and amateur actress, inadvertently becomes a witness in the murder case of Cracked-up Katie, the weird lady in the rundown house on the wrong side of town. There's also a CD recorded by Mandy Siegfried (\$27.95).

"Do you know," said Lord Minto [Governor General of Canada in 1902], "ever since I received your invitation I have been thinking of Holmes, and unconsciously I have been trying processes of deduction. For instance, I have scanned Major Maude's shoes to see if I could determine if he had been to the stables; I have even looked closely at my daughter's nails to see if she had practiced on the piano that morning. In fact, I have neglected my duties in an endeavor to learn if I have any of the talent of deduction which Sir Conan Doyle attributes to his detective. Lady Minto was convinced this morning that I was crazy when I told her the butler was learning to shave with his left hand, as his left cheek was scratched. Really, this Holmes is a fascinating man, and I am afraid that now I have seen your performance I will be a source of deep anxiety to my family and friends." Ah,

they knew how to get publicity in those long-ago days, when Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon were on tour in William Gillette's play and during a one-week run in Montreal learned that the Governor General was in town and invited him and his family and staff to see the play. They came backstage at the end of the second act, and there was an "In and Out of the Theatre" report in the N.Y. Times (Nov 30, 1902), recently spotted by Gayle Harris.

Apr 05 #2 The Haslemere Initiative will be welcoming visitors and locals to a literary weekend featuring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle on May 6-8. The weekend will include a welcome gala dinner at the Lythe Hill Hotel and Spa on May 6, and a lecture by Philip Weller at the Haslemere Museum on May 7, followed by a lunch at Undershaw, and there will be time to tour the countryside around Hindhead. Additional information is available at <www.haslemere.com> (click on "Haslemere's Literary Weekend").

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a new sheet in its "Nature of America" series, this year showing a Northeast Deciduous Forest whose inhabitants include many animals mentioned in the Canon. The weasel, shown for the first time in the history of this newsletter, is mentioned in two of the stories ("The Sign of the Four" and "The Crooked Man").

Ken Lanza has noted a fashion report at <www.iafrica.com> praising the trench coat, "born in the mud-soaked trenches of World War I which gave it its name," and reporting that it was boosted by Hollywood stars Humphrey Bogart, Robert Mitchum, Marlene Dietrich, and Greta Garbo, and by politicians that included prime minister Winston Churchill and president Ronald Reagan. "Even writers like Rudyard Kipling and Arthur Conan Doyle helped to popularize the coat." Does anyone recall Conan Doyle photographed wearing a trench coat?

At age twelve, Mitch Cullin was given access to the largest Sherlock Holmes collection in North America, according to publicity for *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND* (New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 2005; 253 pp., \$23.95); needless to say, the collection belonged to John Bennett Shaw, and three years later, in 1984, a photograph of the two enthusiasts appeared in *USA Today*. *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND* is a fascinating book, set in 1947 and showing an ageing and sometimes forgetful Holmes, who visited Japan after the war and has returned to bee-keeping in Sussex; a pastiche is part of the book, which is written with style and imagination, and I wish that John had lived to enjoy a book that was born in his library twenty years ago. There's also a recording (unabridged) by Simon Jones (who has played Holmes on stage in 1998 and 2001) on audiocassettes and CDs from HighBridge (\$29.95), and Cullin has an interesting web-site at <www.mitchcullin.com>.

Barbara C. Schaaf died on Mar. 29. She was an author and a journalist, and a life-long liberal Democrat, and a member of The South Downers and The Baker Street Pages, and helped publicize local Sherlockian activities in the Chicago-area press.

Antony Richards reports that Baker Street Studios Limited has purchased all of the murder-mystery publications of Breese Books. The company includes The Irregular Special Players and The Irregulars Special Press, and there's a web-site at <www.baker-street-studios.com> that also hosts the Inspector Morse Society; their postal address is Endeavour House, 170 Woodland Road, Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX, England. *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GIANT'S HAND AND OTHER STORIES*, by Matthew Booth (2004; 138 pp., £5.00/£7.50/\$9.50), has Holmes solving murders from three of the unrecorded cases, in Cornwall (the Addleton tragedy), Kent (Colonel Warburton's madness), and Wiltshire (the dreadful business of the Abernetty family).

Apr 05 #3 Bouchercon is a long-established world mystery convention, run by fans for fans, and named in honor of Anthony Boucher (a multi-talented author and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars); there were about 1,200 people (fans and authors) at Bouchercon 35 last year in Toronto

and the conventions always are enjoyable. Bouchercon 36 will be in Chicago on Sept. 1-4, 2005 <www.boucherconworld.org>; Bouchercon 37 will be in Madison on Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2006 <www.bouchercon.com>; Bouchercon 38 will be in Anchorage on Sept. 27-30, 2007 <www.bouchercon2007.com>; there are rumors of Orlando and Brighton competing for 2008.

Chalmers Roberts died on Apr. 8. He was a journalist, and an old-fashioned generalist, and he was the Washington Post's chief diplomatic correspondent from 1953 until he retired in 1971; the biggest story of his career was the Pentagon Papers, and his threat to resign in protest if his report did not appear in the paper strengthened its resolve to publish (and he was one of the defendants named in the government's unsuccessful lawsuit against the paper). It was at a news conference with President Eisenhower in 1954 that Roberts asked the president whether military reasons were his only reasons against preventative war, and Eisenhower said: "well, let me make it this way: if you remember, I believe it was Conan Doyle's WHITE COMPANY, there was a monk that left the church; he said there were seven reasons, and the first one was he was thrown out; they decided there was no use to recite the other six. It seems to me that when, by definition, a term is just ridiculous in itself, there is no use in going any further."

Tom Dunn, proprietor of The Pipe Smoker's Ephemeris, spotted the Sherlockian artwork (including a pipe, of course) on a computerized USPS first-class electronic delivery-confirmation label generated by Endicia Internet Postage.

George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN ON THE MARCH has been published in Britain (London: HarperCollins, 2005; 336 pp., £17.99), to the great delight of Flashman's fans, and it's due in the U.S. from Knopf in November; the novel involves Flashman in the Abyssinian war of 1868, so Canonical allusions are unlikely. FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER (Oct 99 #4) dealt with Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (including one in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).

THE GREATEST STORIES NEVER TOLD, by Rick Beyer (New York: HarperResource/HarperCollins, 2003; 214 pp., \$17.95), is subtitled "100 Tales from History to Astonish, Bewilder & Stupefy" and is based the History Channel's "Time-lab 2000" series, and offers two pages on "the curious case of the doctor who gave birth to a superstar" (the doctor being Joseph Bell, and the superstar being Sherlock Holmes); it's certain not a story never told, but it might astonish, bewilder, and stupefy someone.

"The legal status of private detectives is unclear under China's murky judicial system," according to an article in USA Today (Apr. 14); they were banned in 1993 (partly because private companies were recruiting away too many police officers), but many stayed in business, and a Chinese newspaper reported last year that an estimated 20,000 private detectives were operating in China. One company is called FMS Commercial Consultation; the FMS stands for "fu er mo si" (Chinese for Sherlock Holmes).

Apr 05 #4 It has been many years since I abandoned my Erector set, and I have no idea whether some enthusiast has ever constructed anything Sherlockian with one, but Steve Rothman reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal that Don Redmond, who has for many years created the annual indexes for the BSJ, is an avid practitioner of the art of Meccano, and you can see some of his handiwork, and a photograph of Don, at <www.kzwp.com/windmills/>. The new issue of the BSJ also offers much about Julian Wolff, including a delightful memoir by his niece Lila.

The Smithsonian Institution highlights some of its more interesting paleontological art (including inhabitants of the Lost World) at its new web-page at <www.nmnh.si.edu/paleo/paleoart>.

Ken Lanza spotted a new Internet resource at <www.nndb.com>; it's an "intelligence aggregator that tracks the activities of people we have deter-

mined to be noteworthy, both living and dead," and it currently offers profiles of more than 12,000 people, including Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, William Gillette, Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce, Jeremy Brett, and David Burke.

Warren Randall has created a new lapel pin honoring the symposium "Holmes Under the Arch II: The Site of the Four" (in St. Louis in May), and The Parallel Case of St. Louis. You don't need attend the symposium to buy the pin, which costs \$7.50 postpaid from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).

Robert H. Dinegar ("Henry Ward Beecher") died on Apr. 21. He was a chemist at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, an adjunct professor at the University of New Mexico, and an Episcopal priest, involved in the scientific investigation of the Shroud of Turin. He also was a faithful member of the Brothers Three of Moriarty and in 1972 composed the Sherlock Holmes Litany which was for many years recited at their meetings, and wrote about "Sherlock Holmes: Scientist and Chemist" in the Sherlock Holmes Journal in 1988. Bob received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.

Reported: WHAT ROUGH BEAST, by H. R. Knight (New York: Dorchester/Leisure Books, 2005; 374 pp., \$6.99); Conan Doyle and Houdini in 1903, involved in a battle against demonic possession.

Roberta Davies discovered <www.audiobooksforfree.com>, a web-site that has the Canon and other books and stories by Conan Doyle, and material by many other authors; you can listen to everything free (low fidelity) or pay for it (higher fidelity).

Paul Martin spotted the report that the Algonquin Hotel now is a member of the Historic Hotels of America. The program, created by the National Trust for Historic Preservation includes hotels that are at least 50 years old, listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or recognized locally as having historical significance. More information about the program and the hotel as available at <www.historichotels.com>, where an entry on the Algonquin mentions the famous Round Table and Dorothy Parker's Vicious Circle, but not the Baker Street Irregulars, who have made the Algonquin their unofficial headquarters in January for many years.

Apr 05 #5 I've mentioned the Invisible Library previously (Aug 01 #3) and am glad to recommend it again; it was created by Brian Quinette in 1999 and is a collection of books found only in other books ("imaginary books, pseudobiblia, artificions, fabled tomes, libris phantastica, and all manner of books unwritten, unread, unpublished, and unfound." The URL is <www.invisiblelibrary.com>, and you will find books by Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Challenger, and Jonathan Swift Somers III (the collection doesn't include short stories, so Somers' Sherlockian parodies aren't listed); the list is incomplete, and you're invited to tell the librarian about missing titles).

One of the nice things about the Internet is the opportunity to listen to radio broadcasts: National Public Radio's web-site <www.npr.org> allows you to search for "Sherlock Holmes" and hear interviews with Mark Haddon, Les Klinger, David Grann, Michael Chabon, and Mitch Cullin.

Brian Freemantle's THE HOLMES FACTOR (Sutton: Severn House, 2005; 313 pp., \$18.99/\$28.95) is the second novel in his series about Sherlock Holmes' son Sebastian, who has been sent to Russia just before the start of World War I to assess the political situation; he meets Churchill and Asquith, and Kerensky and Stalin and Rasputin, and is involved in lots of intrigue. Sherlock and Mycroft and Watson are also on hand, but in supporting roles.

Magda Jozsa's SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE WILD FRONTIER (Charleston: BookSurge, 2005; 303 pp., \$14.99); takes Holmes and Watson through the wild west and into encounters with desperados, Indians, and renegades. The publisher's

web-site is at <www.booksurge.com>.

Sir John Mills died on Apr. 23. He began his acting career as a song-and-dance man in the 1920s and went on to act for decades on stage, screen, and television. He was appointed a CBE (Companion of the Order of the British Empire) in 1960, won an Oscar (best actor in a supporting role) for "Ryan's Daughter" (1970); and was knighted in 1976. And he starred as Dr. Watson (with Peter Cushing as Holmes) in the television film "The Masks of Death" (1974).

I reported earlier on the exhibition "Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre" at the National Gallery of Art in Washington (Mar 05 #6), and there's now an excellent article about the exhibition in the May issue of Smithsonian magazine with a passing mention of the assassination in 1894 of French president Sadi Carnot. Some Sherlockian scholars who believe that the culprit was Huret, the Boulevard assassin, whose tracking and arrest won for Sherlock Holmes an autograph letter of thanks from the French President and the Order of the Legion of Honour (see "The Golden-Pince Nez").

Caleb Carr's *THE ITALIAN SECRETARY: A FURTHER ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 263 pp., \$23.95) is a new pastiche by the author of *THE ALIENIST* and *THE ANGEL OF DARKNESS*; it brings Holmes and Watson to Edinburgh to assist Mycroft in defending Her Majesty against a plot that involves Holyrood and David Rizzio (who was Queen Mary's secretary and met his death at Holyrood). There's an afterword by Jon Lellenberg, who has hopes of some day reading a pastiche in which Sherlock Holmes meets Laszlo Kreizler.

Apr 05 #6 The Portland Press Herald reported (Apr. 24) on the discovery of 425 autographs, notes, and letters collected in the 1890s by Harry E. Burbank of Augusta, Maine, who wrote to celebrities asking for autographs. The collection was found in a shirt-box hidden away in a closet in an old house and will be sold on May 5 by auctioneer James B. Julia of Fairfield; it includes signatures of six presidents, several Civil War generals, Frederick Douglass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Thomas Edison, and Arthur Conan Doyle. The auction house <www.juliaauctions.com> estimates the lot at \$5,000-10,000.

Plan well ahead: "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") has been scheduled by the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson, Mar. 4 through 25, and in Phoenix, Mar. 30 through Apr. 5, 2006; the show's a co-production with the Pasadena Playhouse, so it's likely to be seen there later in the year. According to the company's artistic director David Ira Goldstein, Dietz "cut and re-shaped and added characters from other Holmes stories."

Great Britain issued a set of six stamps last year, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the beginning of the Crimean War, showing photographs from a book of "Crimean Heroes" by photographers Joseph Cundall and Robert Hewitt, who set up a temporary studio at Aldershot in 1856. There are mentions of the Crimean War in five of the Sherlock Holmes stories, including "The Gloria Scott" (Mortimer, the gardener, was an army pensioner, "an old Crimean man of excellent character").

Forecast for July: *SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KING'S GOVERNESS*, by Barrie Rob-

erts, from Severn House <www.severnhouse.com>; the latest in his series (Jun 03 #5), now involving Russian intrigue in London in 1897.

News from the computer world: according to a report by Sam Varghese in the Melbourne Age (Apr. 1), the Open Source Development League announced that it has decided to recruit socialite Paris Hilton to gain more exposure for its campaign for free and open source software. People need to be aware of the breadth and scope of what they have to offer, League CEO Jeremy Bleats noted, and Miss Hilton "can expose things like nobody else can." He also cautioned journalists not to "confuse our League with the Red-Headed League about which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wove a tale involving Sherlock Holmes. I have to say this because our Exposure Executive is, at the moment, a red-head."

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May 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Last year the U.S. Postal Service authorized Stamps.com to sell personalized postage (Aug 04 #3), and more than 2.75 million stamps were sold in a two-month test run. Don Hobbs had a stamp that showed him with his granddaughter in his Sherlockian library (Sep 04 #4), but I've not heard about any stamps showing Sherlock Holmes. A second year-long test run began on May 30, and a sheet of twenty 37c stamps costs \$16.99 (plus shipping).

Forge/Tom Doherty Associates are continuing their reissues of Carole Nelson Douglas' series about Irene Adler in paperback, with uniform cover artwork by Glenn Harrington and minor revisions and a reader's guide; the third reissue is the first volume in the series, GOOD NIGHT, MR. HOLMES (2005).

Tony van Bridge died on Dec. 20, 2004. He had a long career as an actor in Britain and then in Canada, where he spent 18 years with the Stratford Festival and 30 years with the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake; it was at the Shaw Festival in 1998 and 1999 that played Corporal Gregory Brewster in Conan Doyle's play "Waterloo". In an obituary in Canadian Holmes, Trevor S. Raymond recalls a luncheon in 1998 when van Bridge happily signed memorabilia for Doyleans and Sherlockians; it was suggested that he had signed enough things, and he cheerily replied, "Nonsense! This is what an actor *dreams* of."

Kate Karlson reports that PBS-TV is running promos for "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (with Rupert Everett and Ian Hart), due to air on "Mystery!" this fall.

This year's World Fantasy Convention will be held in Madison, Wis., on Nov. 3-6, and April and Walden Derleth will be there to accept the convention's "special recognition" award to Arkham House, founded by their father August Derleth; Arkham House published its first book in 1939, and it was his Mycroft & Moran imprint that issued collections of Derleth's Solar Pons stories. One of Arkham recent books is ARKHAM'S MASTERS OF HORROR (2000), edited by Peter A. Ruber, with 21 featured writers that include Vincent Starrett. You can register at WFC-Madison, Box 531, Cambridge, WI 53523, or at their web-site <www.worldfantasy.org>.

Further to the item (Apr 05 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") scheduled in Tucson and Pasadena next year, the play also will be performed at the Quadrocchi Powerhouse Theater in Milwaukee from Apr. 12 through May 14, 2006.

<www.spokennetwork.com> offers 61 Sherlockian and Doylean recordings in mp3 and WMA formats that you can download over the Internet at prices ranging from \$2.98 to \$10.00 (and you can listen to free samples of each of the recordings). There are three fine full-cast recordings of Canonical stories

by the One Act Players (with Scot Crisp as Holmes and Glenn Carlson as Watson); and excellent readings by David Ian Davies of 53 Canonical tales, one pastiche written by Matthew Elliott, three by David Stuart Davies, and one non-Sherlockian story by Conan Doyle ("The Leather Funnel"). David Ian Davies does an excellent job with voices and accents.

May 05 #2 The winter 2004 issue of The Baum Bugle includes many tributes to the late Fred M. Meyer, who promoted the cause of "Oz" for almost 60 years. According to Michael Patrick Hearn reminiscences, Anthony Boucher, editor of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction, which had just published Martin Gardner's two-part article on L. Frank Baum, challenged Jack Snow (then serving as "Royal Historian of Oz") in the April 1955 issue of F&SF to create an Oz society "based on the famous Sherlock Holmes fan club, the Baker Street Irregulars. Boucher suggested the organization be called the Oz Irregulars. Snow had been discussing just such an organization with Gardner, William Baring-Gould of Life magazine, and Fred Dannay, half of the 'Ellery Queen' writing team." It is interesting to see how many Sherlockians were involved in the creation of what became the International Wizard of Oz Club.

Me! Gussow died on Apr. 29. He worked for Newsweek, and moved to the N.Y. Times in 1969 as critic and cultural reporter, writing more than 4,000 reviews and articles for the paper over 35 years; his first Sherlockian review was of the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974, and in recent years he wrote perceptive obituary tributes to some great Sherlockian actors.

The Sons of the Copper Beeches and Mycroft's League made nice arrangements for a Sherlockian weekend in Philadelphia this month, including a running of The Silver Blaze at Delaware Park, which offers an interesting look at the future of horse racing: Delaware Park has a two-story casino with 2,500 slot machines, and proceeds from the slots are used to increase the size of the purses for the races; simulcast betting also is offered for three other tracks, and Delaware Park is open year-round, regardless of whether there's racing on-site. Sherlockian handicappers were happy to find two attractively-named horses in the first and second races: Briony and Good Morning Irene (unfortunately they finished 7th and 9th). The Silver Blaze was the 5th race, with Monetary Monarch on hand and finishing 7th, well behind the winner B. Murray, who might have been favored by Sherlockians who recalled "Murray, the faithful orderly," or who observed that the horse had a silver blaze.

Further to the report (Apr 04 #4) about the continuing trials and tribulations of Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Apr. 27) reports that plans to convert the derelict house into a school and build doctors' offices in the garden have run into a funding crisis: the National Health Service may not provide the £2.8 million needed for the project.

Reported: Jonathan Coe's 9TH & 13TH (London: Penguin, 2005; 64 pp., £1.50); a collection of fiction and non-fiction, including an essay (published in The Guardian on Apr. 30) about his life-long obsession with Billy Wilder's film "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes".

There will be another Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C. on Nov. 11-13 (317 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782) (800-440-7848), and David Milner reports that The Survivors of the *Gloria Scott* plan to hold their regular monthly meeting on Nov. 14 in Greenville, S.C. (only 30 minutes by car from Tryon); David is at Box 515, Taylors, SC 29687 <dmycroft@bellsouth.net>.

May 05 #3 Malice Domestic XVII was enjoyable as always, with Carole Nelson Douglas as toastmaster (she was interviewed by Irene Adler and Midnight Louie) and H.R.F. Keating receiving a lifetime achievement award. There was a panel on Sherlock Holmes on Sunday, nicely moderated by Maureen Collins, who started off asking why so many people have written pastiches,

with Keating, Dan Stashower, Les Klinger, Roberta Rogow, and me (I got to explain that I was the only person on the panel who hadn't written a Sherlock Holmes pastiche).

Malice Domestic XVIII will be held Apr. 21-23, 2006, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va., featuring Katherine Hall Page as Guest of Honor, Craig Rice as Ghost of Honor, Kate Grilley as Toastmaster, Douglas G. Greene as Poirot Award Nominee, and a Lifetime Achievement Award for Robert Barnard; you can register with Malice Domestic at Box 31137, Bethesda, MD 20824 <www.malicedomestic.org>.

Kay Walsh died on Apr. 16. She began her acting career as a chorus girl, and appeared in her first film in 1934; she met David Lean in 1936 and they married in 1940, and she acted in more than 50 films, including "Great Expectations" (1946) and "Oliver Twist" (1948). She played Cathy Eddowes in "A Study in Terror" (1965) and Mrs. Hudson in the episode "A Motive for Murder" in the Geoffrey Whitehead television series (1981).

Reported: a new edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Hoboken: Melville House, 2004; 160 pp., \$9.00); in their "Art of the Novella" series.

Legend Films <www.legendfilms.net> specializes in colorizing old black-and-white films, and the company has added the Rathbone/Bruce "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1943) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Woman in Green" (1945) to its list of DVDs (\$9.98 each). "Terror by Night" and "Dressed to Kill" (both 1946) are scheduled for September. These same four films were colorized in the 1980s and issued on cassettes and then syndicated on television, in the days when colorization technology was in its infancy.

Our new set of postage stamps honoring American Scientists includes mathematician John von Neumann, whose article (written with Oskar Morgenstern) on "Some Elementary Games" in their THEORY OF GAMES AND ECONOMIC BEHAVIOR (1944) analyzed Holmes' flight from Moriarty (in "The Final Problem").

Last month Ted Bergman donated his collection of Swedish Sherlockiana (420 books and about 600 newspaper and magazine articles) to the Svenska Deckarbiblioteket (Swedish Library of Crime and Detective Fiction) in Eskilstuna (about 100 kilometers west of Stockholm); he wants to keep his collection intact and available for academic research.

"My esthetic appreciation of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries stems from their reflection, both in theme and in plot structure, of the idea of rationality," Minnesota high school senior Christian Tarsney wrote in his essay on "Truth or beauty" in the Kids Philosophy Slam. He won first prize in the national contest this month, and you can read his essay at their web-site at <www.philosophyslam.org/c_tarsney.html>.

May 05 #4 Sylvian Hamilton died on Feb. 28. Collectors will recall the catalogs of Sherlockiana she issued in the 1980s and the early 1990s, from England and then from Scotland, where she retired from the book business and became an author, with three books about a former Crusader who turns detective in the Middle Ages. Sylvian had a gift for interesting opening sentences: "In the crypt of the Abbey Church at Hallowdene the monks were boiling their bishop" (THE BONE PEDDLAR), "There was only one witness, and he was already dead, but that didn't matter, he could still give evidence" (THE PENDRAGON BANNER) and "Countess Judith kept her husband's head in a box" (THE GLEE-MAIDEN).

Don Hobbs has discovered another translation of Sherlock Holmes stories in another language: Interlingua. It's an artificial language that has been used for decades, and there was an Interlingua-English dictionary published in 1951. CINQUE AVENTURAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES, published in 1997 (140 pp., E10.00) has five stories ("Un scandalo in Bohemia", "La liga a capillos ru-

bie", "La banda maculate", "Le fascie jalne", and "La figuras dansante"); it's available from Servicio de Libros U.M.I. (Casa Postale 4035, NL-9701 EA, Groningen, Netherlands) <www.interlingua.com/libros/bra-god/htm>. And the non-Sherlockian story "La horror altissime" is available without charge as an e-book at <www.interlingua.nu/elibros/Horror.pdf>. The foreward to the dictionary states that there were five earlier international language systems: Esperanto, Ido, Esperanto II, Occidental, and Latino sine Flexione (there are two Esperanto translations known, but nothing reported for the other four).

I sometimes explain to e-mail correspondents that there are two rules: if someone tells you to forward something to everyone, don't; and if you can't be bothered checking for hoaxes, don't forward messages to me. The Urban Legends Reference Pages at <www.snopes.com> is an excellent place to check for hoaxes, and (thanks to Michael E. Bragg) the site discusses two stories about Conan Doyle. One is that "magician and escape artist Harry Houdini died from appendicitis brought about by his being punched in the stomach by a college student" (they conclude that the story, told by Conan Doyle and others, is false: "although some of the basic facts of this description are correct, the assumption of cause and effect is not"). And the second story is that "a medical school instructor lectures the class on the importance of taste as a diagnostic tool and demonstrates his point by conducting a diabetes test which involves dipping his finger into a flask of urine and licking it" (they report that "the origination of this story has often been attributed to Dr. Joseph Bell, the Edinburgh University instructor on whom Sir Arthur Conan Doyle modeled the character Sherlock Holmes," with credit to Harold Emery Jones, who wrote an article on "The Original of Sherlock Holmes" in the Jan. 9, 1904, issue of Collier's).

An exhibition on "The Quintessential Ellery Queen: Celebrating the Centennial of Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee" will be on view through June 30 at the Butler Library at Columbia University in New York. Dannay, Lee, and Queen were all born in 1905, and Janet Maslin reported in the N.Y. Times on May 6 on a symposium at the Library, with speakers such as Lawrence Block, Francis M. Nevins, and Otto Penzler. Frederic Dannay was a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (as "The Dying Detective"), and Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944) was a landmark Sherlockian book.

May 05 #5 Jim Suszynski has spotted Sherlock Holmes on the cover of (and inside as a minor character) the comic book THE SIMPSONS FUTURAMA CROSSOVER CRISIS II (Bongo Comics Group, 2005, \$2.99): "If you are just joining us, a vortex has opened up next to the New New York Public Library a few hours ago. Apparently bringing every literary character ever written about...to life!"

Peter Bramley died on Apr. 12. He was the first art director of National Lampoon, an editor of humor magazines, and creator of underground comics. He also was an illustrator, and his Sherlockian artwork can be seen in Michaela Muntean's THE DETECTIVE'S WORD PUZZLE BOOK (1981).

Bob Thomalen has confirmed that "Springtime in Baker Street" will be held in Tarrytown, N.Y., on Apr. 22-23, 2006. Those who attended "Autumn in Baker Street" in years past know how much fun the events have been. More information will be available anon from Bob and Terry.

Roger Johnson launched The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's newsletter The District Messenger, on Dec. 1, 1982, and this month reached the 252nd issue, reporting (as always) the latest Sherlockian news from the U.K. and elsewhere; the first 100 issues (through July 23, 1990) are now available on a CD-ROM in non-searchable PDF format for L6.00 (\$15.00) postpaid, from Roger at 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England.

Roger has reported that in view of the tsunami disaster Rod Baser has postponed his plans (Sep 04 #1) for a guided tour to India and the Andaman Islands in October; his web-site at <www.sherlockholmesinindia.com> offers an

interesting look at his research on "Sherlock Holmes in India".

Edgar B. Smith ("Dr. Moore Agar") died on May 12. Ben was a distinguished dermatologist, and for many years a member of The Sir James Saunders Society; he was co-author with Herman Beerman of an article on their Sherlockian specialty in the International Journal of Dermatology in 1977, and he served as president of the American Academy of Dermatology. He also was a founder of The Strollers on the Strand in Galveston and The Gila Lizards of the Arid and Repulsive Desert in Albuquerque, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.

Stephen Leacock's parody "Maddened by Mystery; or, The Defective Detective" was first published in his NONSENSE NOVELS (1911); it was included in Ellery Queen's THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944), and there's a new edition of NONSENSE NOVELS (New York: New York Review Books Classics, 2004; 160 pp., \$16.95) with an introduction by Daniel Handler (author of the Lemony Snicket series).

Further to the report (Jan 05 #3) on the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh celebrating its 500th anniversary in 2005, the Scottish National Portrait Gallery will include a rare picture of Joseph Bell in an exhibition on "The Healing Touch" from June 9 until Nov. 27. The exhibition will feature hundreds of portraits and photographs covering the history of medicine in Scotland, according to a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (May 17), and the portrait of "Arthur Conan Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes is likely to be among the most popular images."

May 05 #6 Jim Weiss has moved to Virginia, and he continues to offer his excellent recordings for younger audiences on CDs (\$14.95) and cassettes (\$10.95); his titles include SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR CHILDREN ("The Mazarin Stone", "The Speckled Band", "The Musgrave Ritual", and "The Blue Carbuncle") and MYSTERY! MYSTERY! (with "The Red-Headed League" and tales by Poe and Chesterton); Greathall Productions, Box 5061, Charlottesville, VA 22905 (800-477-6234) <www.greathall.com>.

Frank Gorshin died on May 17. He was a character actor and a nightclub performer as an impersonator when he was given the role of the Riddler in 1966 in the ABC-TV "Batman" series, and he went on to star in Las Vegas and on stage and screen. In the film "Record City" (1977) he played Chamelion, a criminal who concealed his activities behind various disguises, including a Sherlockian detective.

<www.pulpgen.com/pulp/downloads/index.html> is the URL for the Online Pulps site, at which Larry Estep and John Locke offer almost 300 pulp-magazine stories, including Vincent Starrett's "The Mid-watch Tragedy" from Short Stories June 10, 1925 (a Jimmie Lavender story) and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "An Intimate Study of Sherlock Holmes" from Detective Story Magazine, Jan. 15, 1918 (reprinted from The Strand Magazine, Dec. 1917).

Further to the earlier report (Feb 05 #7) on plans for a second printing of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with corrections of errors in the first printing (which would make it a second edition), it's easy to identify: the string of numerals from one to zero on the title-page verso runs from two to zero. Les has noted that with more than 2,000 footnotes and almost 1,900 pages, errors were inevitable, and he continues to welcome word of errors not yet reported. Those who would prefer not to buy the revised second printing (which is now available) can find a list of errata at Les' web-site <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com>, and you can check the web-site from time to time to see additions to the list.

It is possible, of course, that there will be a third printing with additional corrections in November, when the third volume (with the four long in the set is published. And there's more news: THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES has been nominated for an Anthony (for best non-fiction) at Boucher-

con; the winners will be announced at the convention in September.

Sherlock Holmes had occasion to search Mary Russell's hand-bag, and "turned it upside-down on the bed: money purse, handkerchief, note-book, pen-knife, pistol, and investigative tool-kit--all the usual paraphernalia and nothing out of the ordinary." That's one of the delightful sentences in Laurie R. King's *LOCKED ROOMS* (New York: Bantam Books, 2005; 400 pp., \$24.00); it is the new title in the Mary Russell series, set in San Francisco in 1924 after their visit to India in *THE GAME*. Russell intends a last look at her family home, but she and Holmes (with the assistance of Dashiell Hammett) become involved in a series of mysteries concerning her parents; good characterization, interesting plotting, and a nice sense of time and place.

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Jun 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Autograph dealer Gary Zimet of Moments in Time is offering the 34-page manuscript of "The Greek Interpreter" for sale (on behalf of owner David Karp-eles), for \$565,000. Zimet's web-site is at <www.momentsintime.com>, and his telephone number is 845-497-7373.

Phil Attwell has noted an offer from The Book People (Parc Menai, Bangor, LL57 4FB, United Kingdom <www.thebookpeople.com> of "The Sherlock Holmes Collection": ten Penguin paperback (the nine volumes of the Canon plus *THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* edited by Richard Lancelyn Green) for £9.99 (deeply discounted from the £57.90 list price of the set).

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE KING'S GOVERNESS, by Barrie Roberts (Sutton: Severn House, 2005, 186 pp., £18.99) (New York: Severn House; \$28.95), is the 8th in his series of novel-length pastiches; it's set in London during the Diamond Jubilee in 1897 and involves Diana Fordeland (who bears a striking resemblance to Anna Leonowens) and a battle against evil Tsarist agents. The publisher's web-site is at <www.severnhouse.com>.

Helen E. Heinrich died on June 19. She was an assistant professor at Adelphi University when she reported on her "Reise nach Reichenbach" in *The Baker Street Journal* in 1987; she presided over *The Long Island Cave Dwellers* and was an active member of Sherlockian societies in the New York area, and "Lady Hilda Trelawney Hope" in *The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes*.

The latest issue of *Sherlockiana* (published three times a year by the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark) has an article about *The Sherlock Holmes Pub* in Aarhus, and other Sherlockian news from Denmark; the pub's web-site is at <www.sherlock-holmes.dk>.

"They go in not because they need any certain volume but because they feel that there may be some book that needs them." That's a quote from Christopher Morley at the web-site for the Third Annual Kerrytown Bookfest, to be held on Sept. 11 at the Ann Arbor [Mich.] Farmer's Market. This year the BookFest will focus on mystery writers, and there will be a Sherlock Holmes Look Alike Contest judged by Sherlockian author Loren D. Estleman. There's a web-site at <www.kerrytownbookfast.org>. Thanks to Tom Biblewski for the report.

The Sherlock Holmes Festival scheduled in Tryon, N.C. on Nov. 11-13 (May 05 #3) now has a web-site at <www.sherlockholmesfestival.com>, or you can contact them at 317 North Trade Street, Tryon, NC 28782 (800-440-7848). David Milner reports that the festival will feature Henry Zecher and his new biography of William Gillette.

DEADHOUSE: LIFE IN A CORONER'S OFFICE, by John Temple (Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2005; 177 pp., \$28.00), offers an interesting look at forensic pathology in Pittsburgh's Allegheny County Coroner's Office in the

summer of 2000, and at the pathologists and interns who worked there, and he does not neglect Sherlock Holmes' contributions to the science; the book is not for the squeamish, but it's an excellent account of the real science on which the "CSI" television shows are based.

Jun 05 #2 what has 4 brains, 24 eyes, and stingers that can kill you in a minute flat? Not the lion's mane, but rather the box jellyfish (according to Paul Raffaele's article in the June issue of Smithsonian magazine). "On a pain scale of 1 to 10, it rated between 15 and 20," was how Australian zoologist Jamie Seymour described his encounter with one of the less venomous species; they're under careful study in northern Australia, and it's possible they can be found in others areas of the world.

Ken Lanza spotted the TVNow offer of a "Mystery DVD Set of 50 Movies" on 12 double-sided DVDs for \$28.00 plus shipping; the movies include eight Sherlockian films (1933-1946), and the address is TVNow, Box 2247, Greensboro, NC 27402 (800-577-3492) <www.tv-now.com>.

Charles McGrath commented on "a vast and ever-growing trove of serious and semiserious Holmes scholarship," in a long story about "What Makes Him the Supersleuth?" in the N.Y. Times (May 20). "Much of this last is inspired by an obsessive pursuit known as 'the game,'" he noted, "in which dedicated and slightly batty fans insist on pretending that Holmes and Watson were real people."

"That painting was by Jean Baptiste Greuze," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Valley of Fear"). Greuze's "Head of a woman, in Profile and Turned to the Right" (in red chalk, circa 1777) is included in an exhibition "From Callot to Greuze: French Drawings from the Weimar" (from the Goethe National Museum in Weimar) at the Frick Collection through Aug. 7. The Frick is at 4 East 70th Street in New York <www.frick.org>, and there are three paintings by Greuze in its permanent collection.

Thos. Kent Miller's THE GREAT DETECTIVE AT THE CRUCIBLE OF LIFE (Holicong: Wildside Press, 2005; 235 pp., \$35.00 cloth, \$15.95 paper) is an Allan Quatermain pastiche, involving a young Sherlock Holmes, Richard Burton, Danny Dravot, and Peachy Carnehan (among others); it's a prequel to his SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD (Oct 91 #3).

Herbert Warren Wind died on May 30. He was the dean of American golf writers and began writing for The New Yorker in 1941; he moved to Sports Illustrated in 1954 and returned to The New Yorker in 1962. "Silver Blaze" was included in the three volumes of GREAT STORIES FROM THE WORLD OF SPORT that he edited with Peter Schwed in 1958.

"Dan Scott--the evil epicenter of the WB's 'One Tree Hill'--tells his son, Lucas, that Professor Moriarty is his favorite 'Sherlock Holmes' character. Lucas reminds Dan that Moriarty was the villain. Dan says that depends on your interpretation." That's according to Mike Battaglini in the N.Y. Post (May 24), in a review kindly forwarded by John Baesch. If anyone knows the episode with this exchange, please let me know.

HOLMES, by Omaha Perez (from O-P-P, June 2005, \$3.50), is the first of four issues in a new comic-book mini-series; "a vicious skewering of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's classic literary creations, this Sherlock Holmes has more in common with Iggy Pop than Basil Rathbone" (according to the author). His address is Box 2013, Redondo Beach, CA 90278 <www.o-p-p.ws>.

Jun 05 #3 Tony Harries, who was Sherlock Holmes' secretary for two years at Abbey House in the 1990s, and then toured the U.S., has sent his regards to those he met. He's now a teacher in a boarding school where he "talks to students about Sherlock Holmes (even when they don't want to listen)," and still enjoys travel; his two-year-old daughter is named Callie, "after the lovely town of Calistoga" in California. Tony has written

four (non-Sherlockian) children's books, one of which (ZEEGPAW) is available for \$10.00 as an eBook at <www.ebookad.com>.

Leon Askin died on June 3. He worked as a cabaret artist in Vienna in the 1930s, fled Nazi persecution, and acted in many American films and on television; he was best known as Gen. Albert Burkhalter on "Hogan's Heroes" in the 1960s, and he played the chauffeur Charles in "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes" (1962).

Victoria Gill has retired from the Toronto Reference Library, where she has served as curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collections since 1991, offering a kind welcome to Sherlockians and Doyleans. Until her replacement is announced, Bob Coghill (who is a reference librarian as well as a member of The Bootmakers of Toronto and The Baker Street Irregulars), in addition to his other duties, will be in charge of maintaining and building the collection; his e-mail address is <bcoghill@torontopubliclibrary.ca>.

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 Victoria's article about her last scheduled tour of the collection, a nice photograph of Victoria and Bob, and Peter Calamai's discussion of American slang as found in Conan Doyle's stories and notebooks. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth, at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca> <www.acdfriends.org/>.

"Three key facts define Cru: its wine list is world-class; its chef, Shea Gallante, is among the most gifted in the city; and its location, on the ground floor of a handsome apartment building a few blocks north of Washington Square, is notorious for the speed with which fine restaurants wither and die there, like exotic plants in unsuitable soil, a phenomenon that Cru seems uncomfortably aware of." That's the opening of a (favorable) review of the restaurant in The New Yorker (May 30), and for those who have not yet guessed the address of that apartment building, it's 24 Fifth Avenue, where (in the ballroom) The Baker Street Irregulars held their annual dinners from 1987 to 1998, and Saturday cocktail parties from 1987 to 1995. The ballroom also is where Andrew Jay Peck and Karen Gurian were married, and the Baker Street Kinematograph met, in Andy's apartment upstairs. I'm not aware of any plans for a historical marker, but there may be one someday noting the building's Sherlockian connections.

From David Horspool's review of Umberto Eco's THE MYSTERIOUS FAME OF QUEEN LOANA (in The Sunday Times, June 5): "The novel's opening pages are a giddy display of the disconcerting effects of a lifetime of reading crowding in on an otherwise blank consciousness. Within a short space, Eco invokes the works of T. S. Eliot, Edgar Allan Poe, Conan Doyle, Georges Simenon, and Agatha Christie; the literary torrent continues with Hermann Hesse and Herman Melville, Oliver Sacks and Robert Louis Stevenson."

Jun 05 #4 Mike Berdan reports that his children are enjoying the "Which Way USA?" puzzle books and maps offered by Highlights for Children (Box 18201, Columbus, OH 43218) (800-962-3661) <www.highlights.com>; subscribers pay \$7.40 (postpaid) per state, and the puzzle-book characters include a hound named Baskerville who "sniffs out important clues and can help you find hidden objects."

Bob Thomalen reports that the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown is now accepting reservations for "Springtime in Baker Street" on Apr. 22-23, 2006, and he notes that you can save money by teaming up with someone and sharing a room; there's no registration fee for the conference, and you can reserve rooms with a credit card, and at least 20% of the rooms have already been booked. There will be eight vendor's tables (at no charge to the vendors), and it's first-come first-served for vendor registration. More information is available from Bob at (845-225-2445) <the3garridebs@suscom.net>.

Michael Billington died on June 6. He started working as an actor at the

windmill Theatre in London, and went on to a wide variety of parts on stage and television; he was tested often for James Bond but never was cast, and he played Lever in "Magnum, P.I.: Holmes Is Where the Heart Is" (1984). Ed Bishop died on June 8. His professional acting career began in 1961 and he worked on television, stage, screen, and radio. He played Joseph Stanger-son in the Cushing/Stock version of "A Study in Scarlet" for BBC radio in 1968, Marvin in "The Baker Street Boys" for BBC television in 1968, Enoch J. Drebber in the Merrison/Williams BBC Radio 4 broadcast of Bert Coules' adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet" (1989) and Von Bork's agent in "His Last Bow" (1994).

Ron Fish and Ben and Sue Vizoskie have launched a Sherlockian calendar at <www.sherlockiancalendar.homestead.com> where societies can list meetings and events, and where people can find out what's happening where and when. If you would like to have something listed, Ron is at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Chris Martin is "married to a movie star and is a fan of Woody Allen movies (as well as Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories), but has no plans to embark on a film career of his own." From Dan DeLuca's interview in the Philadelphia Inquirer (on June 5) with the front man for the band Coldplay; the famous movie star is Gwyneth Paltrow.

"Belly dancers and Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts will be on hand Wednesday to kick off the Tigard Public Library's Adult Reading Program," according to an item in the Portland Oregonian (May 26). The belly dancers got things moving and shaking with performances and refreshments, and then members of The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle presented speakers on a variety of topics related to Sherlock Holmes and the Victorian Era.

Nash Entertainment has hired Julie Golden to write the screenplay for a movie "inspired by the many letters sent from all over the world to Sherlock Holmes' London address, 221B Baker St., asking the great detective for help in solving real-life crimes," according to a report in Variety (June 21). The film "will center on a man living at that address who decides to take on a case from one of the letters. In becoming a detective his whole life is turned upside down."

Jun 05 #5 The Practical, But Limited, Geologists gathered for drinks and dinner at The Joyce on 4th in Calgary on June 22, at the end of the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, and were welcomed by Jeff Campbell and Charles and Kris Prepolec representing the locals (The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen). We will dine next at the Alta Club (100 East South Temple) in Salt Lake City on Oct. 19 during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. Our tradition is to discourage scholarly papers, quizzes, and slide shows, with the agenda consisting entirely of toasts (some scholarly, but many not). Fans of Sarah Andrews' mystery series will be happy to know that her geologist-detective Em Hansen will be going next to the Antarctic, since that's where Sarah will be traveling in November, funded by the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program.

Trude Marlen died on June 9. She began her film career in 1933 and acted in her last film in 2001, and she was Maria Iretzkaja in "Die Graue Dame" (1937). Ron Randell died on June 11. He began his acting career on Australian radio in the 1930s, moved to the stage in 1937, to films in 1946, and then to television, and in 1975 he was the second actor to play James Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in New York. Jonathan Adams died on June 13. He acted on stage and then in films and television beginning in 1965, and he played Jonas Oldacre in the Granada version of "The Norwood Builder" (1985).

The Iowa Summer Rep's festival of plays written by Ken Ludwig will include his "Postmortem" (a mystery featuring William Gillette and set at his home in Connecticut), through July 24 at Iowa University's Theatre Building in Iowa City (800-533-4692) <www.iowa.edu/~theatre/production/summerrep.htm>.

"The Baker Street Irregulars have a claim to fame," their web-site reports, "they are the biggest band in Preston." That's Preston in Lancashire, and there are nine people in the pop band (there were only four when the band had its first gig at The Golden Cross on Feb. 5, 2003), and their web-site is at <www.thebakerstreetirregulars.com>. Four of their songs can be heard at <www.hxcmp3.com>. Thanks to Ken Lanza for spotting news of the band.

The American Film Institute's "100 Years" series reached "100 Movie Quotes" this year, with a jury of 1,500 film artists, critics, and historians selecting from a list of 400 nominations. "Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn" (from "Gone with the Wind") was #1, and "Elementary, my dear Watson" (from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes") was #65; "Gentlemen, you can't fight in here! This is the War Room!" (from "Dr. Strangelove") was #64, and "Get your stinking paws off me, you damned dirty ape" (from "Planet of the Apes") was #66. You can read all about it at <www.afi.com>.

The March issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has a report by Julie McKuras on the recent gift of Sherlockiana from Dale L. Walker, John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" discussion of Vincent Starrett and a 1955 visit to Chicago by Raymond Chandler, and an update on the collections from curator Tim Johnson; you can request a copy of the newsletter from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Jun 05 #6 Dean Clark reported Ken Waight's "Lying in Ponds" comments on "Challenging the Pundits" at <www.lyinginponds.com>, on evaluating the accuracy (not the partisanship) of pundits; Waight suggests that bloggers could submit challenges, to which others (and the pundits) could respond. As an illustration he chose William Safire's mention in the N.Y. Times (Jan. 24, 2002) of "the failure of a dog named Silver Blaze to bark" in a Sherlock Holmes story, accompanied by Waight's (invented) defense and Safire's correction (Feb. 7, 2002) after he heard from "no fewer than 753 irate Holmes fans."

Forecast: ARTHUR & GEORGE, by Julian Barnes, due from Jonathan Cape in July (352 pp., \$17.99); it's a novel based on Conan Doyle's investigation of the George Edalji case. Barnes' web-site is at <www.julianbarnes.com>.

Further to the earlier report (Feb 05 #7) on plans for a second printing of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, with corrections of errors in the first printing (which would make it a second edition), it's easy to identify: the string of numerals from one to zero on the title-page verso runs from two to zero. Les has noted that with more than 2,000 footnotes and almost 1,900 pages, errors were inevitable, and he continues to welcome word of errors not yet reported. Those who would prefer not to buy the revised second printing (which is now available) can find a list of errata at Les' web-site <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com>, and you can check the web-site from time to time to see additions to the list.

The Sound of the Baskervilles have celebrated their 25th anniversary with a lapel pin (\$10.00 postpaid to non-members) and a paperweight (\$25.00 postpaid to non-members); from David Haugen (3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332)

Forecast: THE MAN FROM BEYOND, by Gabriel Brownstein (due from W. W. Norton in September; 320 pp., \$23.95); a novel based on the conflict between Conan Doyle and Houdini over the medium Margery. The author will be reading and signing at the Three Lives Bookstore (154 West 10th Street, New York) on Sept. 29; the Odyssey Bookshop (9 College Street, South Hadley) on Oct. 5; and at the Community Bookstore (143 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn) on Oct. 6.

The British Library publishes a monthly newsletter "What's On", which notes

that The Great Omar III ("The Most Remarkable Specimen of Binding Ever Produced") will be on display beginning July 18. There's a great (non-Sherlockian) story involved, and it begins with a magnificent jewelled binding of the Rubiyat of Omar Khayyam made by Sangorski & Sutcliffe that was lost with the Titanic in 1912. Sutcliffe's nephew, Stanley Bray, having decided to recreate the firm's masterpiece, worked in his spare time from 1932 to 1939, using the original design, and more than 1000 gems, 5000 colored inlays, and more than 50 square feet of gold leaf; this copy was destroyed by bombing in 1941. After he retired, Bray spent 4000 hours binding, tooling and reattaching the salvaged jewels; his widow died last year, bequeathing The Great Omar III to the British Library.

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

Jul 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London had a fine time on its "Making a Bee-line to Switzerland" excursion on June 15-23, and if you have access to the Internet you can see for yourself what it was like at the web-site of The Sherlock Holmes Society of France at <www.sshf.com/index.php3>: there's an English version for those who don't read French, and a link to a sequence of photographs, which in turn has a link to a report by Swiss Radio International, which provides a link to a 4-minute video "Sherlock fans fall for Switzerland". And John Bergquist has reported many more photographs posted at <www.photopress.ch/global/Search.do?what=Sherlock+Holmes&x=10&y=15>.

"People with bigger brains are smarter than their smaller brained counterparts," according to a study by Virginia Commonwealth University researcher Michael A. McDaniel, who reported that in the brain-volume literature there are two general categories of brain-volume measures. The first consists of measures of the external size of the head, such as the circumference of the head, and the second consists of measures of brain volume with an MRI scan. "Shades of the Alpha Inn," noted Wendell Cochran, who spotted the press release at <www.vcu.edu/uns/Releases/2005/june/061705.html>. McDaniel's paper, published in the magazine Intelligence (2005, v. 33, p. 339-346) does not cite "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle".

Warren Randall spotted a report on "Sherlock for Homes", and annual service event organized by the Creighton University chapter of Alpha Phi Omega; on Apr. 23, students spent part of the day collecting non-perishable food and other items from Omaha residents for donation to local charities.

The California Artists Radio Theatre, at <www.calartistsradiotheatre.org>, was founded more than 50 years ago by Peggy Webber, who adapted, produced, and directed the company's productions of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" and Conan Doyle's story "Selecting a Ghost". Webber worked on the "Sherlock Holmes" radio series in the 1940s and has had a long career on stage, screen, radio, and television; CART's shows were performed in the Cinegrill of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, and they're delightful, and available on 2 cassettes or CDs from Oasis Audio (289 South Main Place, Carol Stream, IL 60188) (800-323-2500) <www.oasisaudio.com> for \$17.99 (plus shipping). David Warner (Sherlock Holmes), William Windom (Dr. John Watson), and Samantha Eggar (Alice Faulkner) star in "Sherlock Holmes", and Ian Whitcomb (Mr. D'Odd) in "Selecting a Ghost".

Paul Brundage reminds me that people with access to the Internet might benefit from using Google Alerts: go to <www.google.com> and click on "more" and then on "alerts" to tell Google to let you know when web-sites mention specific words or phrases.

CURIOUS INCIDENTS 2 (Calgary: Mad for a Mystery, 2003; 150 pp., \$15.00) is edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec, and an excellent successor to their CURIOUS INCIDENTS (Jul 02 #2), with seven new Sherlockian stories and artwork by Philip Cornell. The publisher is at 10 Sanderling Close NW,

Calgary, AB T3K 2Z7, Canada, and postpaid prices are \$20.00 (to the U.S.)/CA\$27.00 (Canada)/\$25.00 (elsewhere); please pay by check or money order. Charles also has fine web-site at <www.bakerstreetdozen.com>.

Jul 05 #2 Evan Hunter died on July 6. THE BLACKBOARD JUNGLE (1954) was his first novel, and in 1956, writing as Ed McBain, he launched his long "87th Precinct" series, essentially inventing the American police procedural; he won the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master Award for lifetime achievement in 1986, and in 1998 became the first American to receive the Diamond Dagger Award from the Crime Writers Association of Great Britain. McBain's "87th Precinct" novel THE HECKLER (1960) has both cops and crooks acknowledging use of a plot from a Sherlock Holmes story, and he wrote an introduction for Balantine's paperback edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (1975).

Rodger Garrick-Steele (Feb 05 #4) is in the news again: an article in the [Plymouth] Western Morning News (May 11) reports that Garrick-Steele has applied to the Church of England for permission to carry out a partial "endoscopic" exhumation of Fletcher Robinson's body, which would coincide with the 100th anniversary of his death in 1907 and might provide evidence that he died of typhoid (as his death certificate states) or of poison (at the hands of Conan Doyle, according to Garrick-Steele's long-standing claims). Garrick-Steele is working with criminologist Paul Spiring, who says that he has "irrefutable" proof that Conan Doyle was a plagiarist. But (according to the Glasgow Herald on July 27) the parochial church council at St. Andrew's Church in Ipplepen has objected: the Rev. Ian Eglin, rector of Ipplepen, said that "people think this is being driven by money because a TV company wants to make a film about it and people want to write books, and they don't think that that is sufficient reason to support this."

THE GRAVEN IMAGES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is Bill Dorn's colorful calendar for 2006, with daily entries noting Canonical events of interest, and monthly illustrations in full color of Sherlockian sculptures, walking sticks, and the like. \$16.95 postpaid (or \$17.95 to Canada or \$20.95 elsewhere), and checks can be sent to William S. Dorn at 2045 South Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210; his web-site's at <www.thesherlockstore.com>.

Ken Lanza reports that "The West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) has been scheduled at the Albany Civic Theater, Sept. 9-25 ("Holmes & Watson meet Gilbert & Sullivan, Shaw, Wilde, and more," according to an announcement). Box 6172, Albany, NY 12206 (518-462-1297) <www.albanycivictheater.org>.

James Lipton's AN EXALTATION OF LARKS: THE ULTIMATE EDITION (New York: Viking, 1993; 336 pp., \$16.00) is still in print, and worth mentioning again: first published in 1968, revised in 1977 and 1991, the book explores "the venereal game" (which is not quite what you may think it is). Lipton notes in his introduction that Conan Doyle once played the game, and quotes at length from SIR NIGEL, in which young Nigel demonstrates his knowledge of collective nouns, such as a cete of badgers, a skulk of foxes, etc.

Bill Barnes (19 Malvern Avenue, Manly, NSW 2095, Australia) notes that THE HOUNDS' COLLECTION: VOLUME 10 now is available, offering 82 pages of humor, pastiche, research, scholarship, poetry, conjecture, and artwork by members of The Hounds of the Internet. \$14.00/CA\$17.00/L8.00/E12.00/AU\$13.50 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.

Jul 05 #3 Byron Press died on July 9. He was an author, and a publisher, who specialized in graphic novels and science fiction. Preiss' most Sherlockian title was the graphic novel (illustrated by Ralph Reese) SON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE WOMAN IN RED (1977); and Philip Jose Farmer's THE GRAND ADVENTURE (Berkley, 1984) and Michael Hardwick's THE REVENGE OF THE HOUND (Villard, 1987) were published under the Byron Preiss imprint.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" stars Rupert Everett as Sherlock Holmes and Ian Hart as Dr. Watson; it aired in Britain on Dec. 26 and in Canada on Dec. 27 last year, and at long last it has been scheduled by PBS-TV on "Masterpiece Theatre" on Oct. 23.

Australians saw the program on July 24, and Jane Fraser had an item in the [Sydney] Australian (July 21) on Sydney jazz musician Dick Hughes, an "old mate" of Rupert Everett. Hughes' father Richard Hughes founded a Sherlockian society in Japan in the 1950s, and in 1956 was sent by Ian Fleming to Moscow, where Hughes interviewed British spies Donald Maclean and Guy Burgess. Everett has portrayed Burgess in a documentary, Fleming in a James Bond special, and now Sherlock Holmes. And Dick Hughes' daughter Christa sang at Everett's birthday party in Paris.

Andrew Malec reports that the City of Portsmouth has established a web-site at <www.portsmouthand.co.uk/history/213.htm> that's devoted to Richard Lancelyn Green's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, which he bequeathed to Portsmouth (Aug 04 #2). The first issue of a quarterly newsletter is available at the web-site; Portsmouth hopes to host an introductory exhibition next year and a more substantial display in 2007, and will welcome funding and other support for the collection. If you don't have access to the Internet you can ask to be on their mailing list; the contact is Mark Wright, ECCS 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AD, England.

"The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" aired on BBC-2 on July 27, to mixed reviews. The 90-minute program was David Pirie's version of Conan Doyle's life and career, dramatic but often quite fictional (Pirie is the author of the "Murder Rooms" series), and the show featured Douglas Henshall (Arthur Conan Doyle) and Brian Cox (Dr. Joseph Bell). The ratings offer an interesting look at what people watch in Britain: according to Digital Spy, the early figures for the show were 2.63 million viewers (12.6% of the people watching television at the time). The most popular program that night was "Coronation Street", with 9.54 million viewers (47.1%). The Nielsen Ratings in the U.S. have "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation" as the top-rated show on July 28, with 8.9 million viewers (15%). Do the numbers: the potential viewing audience for "CSI" was about 59 million, and for "Coronation Street" about 20 million; the British are more likely to be watching television than the Americans (the United Kingdom has about 60 million people, and the U.S. about 295 million people).

Peter Ashman has noted an interesting web-site at <www.waybackmachine.org>, where a search for "sherlock holmes" leads to a song called "Changing Sherlock Holmes" recorded by Sockeye, described as "a one of legendary retarded punk band, bad sound, bad songs and bad humor." Sockeye's leader singer is Eric Stacener, who seems to have written the song, whose lyrics are pretty much unintelligible (if anyone can transcribe them, please report on it).

Jul 05 #4 The blue carbuncle was a star sapphire, but there have always been a few who suggest that it was a blue diamond, possibly the 44-carat Hope Diamond, or the 67-carat French Blue, or the 115-carat Tavernier Blue; researchers at the Smithsonian Institution have used historical models and sketches, and computers, to make zirconia replicas of all three diamonds, and have determined that the Hope fits exactly within the French Blue, and that no stone larger than the Hope could have been cut from the French Blue or the Tavernier Blue, "a clear indication" of the lineage of the Hope Diamond.

The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library have published their Occasional Paper Number 1: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN CANADA, by Doug Wrigglesworth; the 18-page pamphlet offers an interesting review of Conan Doyle's travels in Canada, with a description of the relevant material in the Collection; it's available for \$7.00 postpaid (to the U.S. or CA\$7.00 (to Canada) from Doug at 16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada (checks to Friends of the ACD Collection, please). For other destinations, contact Doug at <doug.wrig@sympatico.com>.

Gavin Lambert died on July 17. He was a novelist, biographer, and screen-writer, and the author of *THE DANGEROUS EDGE* (1975), a collection of excellent essays on writers who included Conan Doyle.

There's still time for admirers of the Algonquin Hotel to see "The Talk of the Town" in the Oak Room through Aug. 22; the show is an off-Broadway musical about the legendary Algonquin Round Table and there more information at www.algonquinhotel.com/cabaret-times-square-hotels.asp.

Discount DVDs offer an inexpensive way to watch old Sherlockian films: Jim Suszynski spotted Retromedia Entertainment's \$4.99 DVD of Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (the dubbed-into-English version of the 1962 German film "Sherlock Holmes und das Halsband des Todes").

Marcus Geisser, now on holiday in Switzerland (where he participated in the Swiss tour of the Sherlock Holmes Society London), continues to be one of the most far-flung Sherlockians, thanks to his work for the International Committee of the Red Cross: he has worked in the Congo, and in Burma, and is now on his way to Sudan, where he will be working in Darfur. On Aug. 9, following in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps, he will pay a "short but interesting visit" to Khartoum.

Trivia buffs can add Jan Leighton to the list of actors who have portrayed both Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, and the name is not familiar, it's because he has been Holmes and Watson in television commercials. He's had a long career: he acted on Broadway (with Lucille Ball) in "wildcat" in 1960, and in films, and he narrated two stories in *THE GREAT ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* for Pendulum Press in 1974. His web-site www.janleighton.com has a note that he has been in the Guinness Book of World Records for having performed professionally 3,372 historical notables, and photographs of him as some of those notables (including Holmes and Watson); you can click on many of the photographs to see video clips of him in action. The Inverness cape he used as Holmes will be offered on eBay early in August; that web-site is www.ebay.com.

Jul 05 #5 Owners of the first two volumes of Leslie S. Klinger's *THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES*, will not need to be persuaded to buy the third volume, which offers the four long stories, more than 900 pages, nearly 400 illustrations (often showing the same scene drawn by different artists), and almost 1,000 annotations; there's a slip-case, and the dust jacket spine completes the silhouette of Holmes on the first two volumes. It will be published by Norton in November (\$49.95), and you can pre-order at a significant discount at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. I said last year that Les modestly suggests that "this is not a work for the serious student of Arthur Conan Doyle," but he's seriously wrong: you may think you know it all, but you'll find that you don't, and I recommend Les' *NEW ANNOTATED* to everyone, especially Sherlockians who don't yet have it, or who want something to give to people who need to know what Sherlockians do, and how much fun there can be doing it. www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com offers a lot of information about the set, including a list of errata.

The York Regional Police in Canada held a contest to name the newest addition to the K9 unit, and there were more than 500 entries. The photograph show handler Const. Mark Russell, contest winner Jessica McKenzie (a grand 6 student at Roseland Public School), and (in the middle) Sherlock.

Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* is continuing a year-long tribute to Ellery Queen, and the September/October issues includes Donald A. Yates' "Remembering Fred Dannay" (with a amusing story about Don's visit, as a 16-year-old, with Fred

at his home) and Jon L. Breen's "The Misadventures of Ellery Queen" (a discussion of the many, and various, imitation Ellery Queen stories); there are two such imitations in the issue, by Edward D. Hoch, and Josh Pachter and Jon L. Breen. Jon makes a point to distinguish between parodies and pastiches, and suggests that

there are also parody-pastiches (a term used by Ellery Queen) when editing the magazine), and indirect pastiches (also described as tributes or homages). Sherlockians tend to use the term "pastiche" for almost everything, from Vincent Starrett's pastiches to Robert L. Fish's parodies to August Derleth's indirect pastiches, but there certainly are differences, and they can be interesting when one considers what to call novels written by Laurie R. King, Carole Nelson Douglas, and M. J. Trow.

The new edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET, with the original text from Beeton's Christmas Annual and more than 600 striking illustrations by Danish artist Nis Jessen (Jan 05 #7) has arrived, and it's spectacular. The publisher is Hakon Holm (Borgmester Nielsens Vej 24, DK-3700 Roenne, Bornholm, Denmark <www.mr-holmes.com>), and there are three versions: standard (E60.00), deluxe (E70.00), and signed and numbered in a slip-case (E78.00), and there are two posters available; there is more information (and lots of artwork) at the publisher's web-site, and you can see more of Jessen's fine work at <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen>.

Jul 05 #6 Issue #65 of SHERLOCK has Roger Forsdyke's "Under the Gaslight: The Great Turf Fraud" (a fascinating article that isn't about "Silver Blaze"), Leonard Rose's discussion of Teddy Hayes' new musical "The Baskerville Beast", David Stuart Davies' report on "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking", and as usual much more, Sherlockian and otherwise.

#65 was David Stuart Davies' last issue as editor; the publisher decided to change directions at the magazine, hoping to attract more advertising, and the new magazine, edited by the new co-publisher Teddy Hayes, will focus on crime has a cover story on Steve McQueen, and the Sherlockian content consists of a pastiche by John S. Geddes and a sometimes inaccurate article by Richard Milner on the death of Richard Lancelyn Green. And the magazine's new slogan: "subscribe and become part of Big Sherly's mob."

SHERLOCK is published six times a year and a subscriptions costs L25.00 (or \$45.00) a year anywhere in the world; Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH24 6QJ, England; the e-mail address is <www.sherlockholmes.com>. Their American agent is Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219) <www.sherlock-holmes.com> (877-233-3823); credit-card orders are welcome at both addresses, and there are back issues available.

Forecast: THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Carroll & Graf, Nov. 2005); 13 stories based on Anthony Boucher's scripts for "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes".

Margaret Walsh died on July 7. She worked in the advertising department of The New Yorker for many years, and discovered the Sherlockian world thanks to Tom Stix, whom she met in a bookstore; Maggie was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as "The woman" in 1992, and she was an enthusiastic member of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes ("The Third Cab"). She asked her friends to hold a party in her memory at Kennedy's in New York (as "an Irish wake without the body").

Laurie R. King will hold a random drawing on Aug. 10 for copies of Recorded Books version of four of her novels (including LOCKED ROOMS and THE GAME); if you would like to be entered in the drawing, send an e-mail message to webmaven@laurierking.com>.

The BBC celebrated "Sherlock Holmes week" the first week in July, reporting that readers of Crime Time Magazine voted Arthur Conan Doyle the best crime writer of all time, and reissuing CDs of the short stories from the BBC Radio 4 programs starring Clive Merrison and Michael Williams, and Clive Merrison and Andrew Sachs in four of the pastiches written by Bert Coules; the 15 sets of CDs are £17.99 each (the long stories cost £12.99 each). BBC's web-site is at <www.bbcshop.com> and their postal address is P.O. Box 308, Sittingbourne, Kent ME9 8LW, England. Their "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Box Set" with all 60 Canonical stories still is available, and a bargain at £129.99.

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Aug 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There has been a brief flurry of publicity in the British press (and on the web) about a new film called "Death Defying Acts" to be shot on location in Edinburgh. The £10 million film, from a script by Brian Ward and Tony Grisoni, will star Guy Pearce as Houdini and Rachel Weisz as his mistress, and Conan Doyle will be portrayed in the film. His mistress? According to the film company's publicity, "During Harry Houdini's tour of Britain in 1926, the magician enters into a passionate love affair with a Scottish woman."

The Sherlock Holmes Festival in Tryon, N.C., on Nov. 11-13 (Jun 05 #3) has expanded its web-site at <www.sherlockholmesfestival.com> to include a page on William Gillette and Henry Zecher's slide-show presentation (it's listed under "events"). Henry reports that Marilou Trask-Curtin will also be at the festival; she has written a book about Gillette and delivers the manuscript to her publisher in September.

Anyone who has seen Robert Sabuda's books knows how wonderful they are, and if you have never seen one you should visit a bookstore and look at one (or more). He creates incredible pop-up books, and his latest (with co-author Matthew Reinhart) is *ENCYCLOPEDIA PREHISTORICA: DINOSAURS* (Cambridge: Candlewick Press, 2005; \$26.95). Recommended for everyone who enjoys *THE LOST WORLD*, and for anyone who wants to be bemused and amazed.

The Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace, Ill., is offering a dinner theater production of Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" through Oct. 2. The theater is at 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181 (630-530-0111) <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>.

Film historian Max Alvarez lectured at the Smithsonian this month on "The Essentials: Hollywood's 10 Must-See Movies", but his lecture wasn't quite a match for the title; he spoke instead on the 10 essential Hollywood filmmakers: Buster Keaton, Ernst Lubitsch, Frank Capra, Preston Sturges, Billy Wilder, John Ford, Orson Welles, John Huston, Martin Scorsese, and Anthony Mann. And his choice for the essential film made by Keaton was "Sherlock Jr. (1924)".

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has a report by Joe Eckrich on the "Holmes Under the Arch II" conference in St. Louis, Jon Lellenberg's "100 Years Ago" tribute to E. W. Hornung's "Raffles", Gideon Hill's "50 Years Ago" discussion of Wilton M. Krogman, and an update on the collections from curator Tim Johnson; copies of the newsletter are available from Richard J. Sveum, 111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Peter McIntyre has reported that the East Lynne Theater Company is performing William Gillette's "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes" through Sept. 3, as part of an evening of four one-act plays, and they are planning to present Edith Meiser's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Copper Beeches" in the style of a 1930s radio broadcast on Nov. 4-5 and Mar. 3-4.

The office address is 121 Fourth Avenue, West Cape May, NJ 08204 (609-884-5898) <eastlynnetheater.org>.

Aug 05 #2 Peggy Perdue is the new curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library, succeeding Victoria Gill, who retired earlier this year (Jun 05 #3). Doug Wrigglesworth reports that Peggy's background includes special collections, Asian studies, and working with young people; and she says that "classic English literature has been a passion of mine for many years, including anything from late 18th century to the Edwardian age and beyond a bit for the golden age of detective fiction." Her e-mail address is <pperdue@torontopubliclibrary.ca>.

"Artful Sherlock Takes the Cake at Culinary Olympics" was the headline on an article in the Hartford Courant (Oct. 28) about Carol Murdock, whose Sherlockian cake won a gold medal at the International Culinary Olympics in Erfurt. The photograph doesn't do it justice, and you can see the cake in full color at <www.classiccakescm.com>, which is the web-site for her business Classic Cakes in Connecticut. The theme of her cake was the study at 221B Baker Street.

The cake looks spectacular as well as delicious, and there are additional photographs of other cakes at her web-site. But (alas) not the cake that she baked and decorated for William Gillette's birthday at a party at his home in Gillette Castle State Park last month; that was a tiered cake with much about Gillette as Holmes, and some decorations from the castle.

Joe Coppola found an interesting Sherlockian game at the eBaum's World "Media for the Masses" web-site at <www.ebaumsworld.com/sherlock.html>.

John Sherwood reports that Sherlock Holmes returns to the Victorian Villa Inn in Union City, Mich., for a mystery weekend on Sept. 16-18; John knows whereof he speaks, because John *is* Sherlock Holmes for the weekend; there is a web-site at <www.geocities.com/jcsherwood//BakerStreet22.htm>.

Carl Miller's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Athenaeum Ghoul" will have 11 performances at the Theatre Royal in Bury St. Edmunds, from Sept. 8 to 17; their address is Westgate Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1QR, England <www.theatreroyal.org>. The play then goes on tour to 15 cities, and there is a detailed schedule at their web-site.

And Peter Tong's new play "Mrs. H. of Baker Street" will be performed during the Manchester Comedy Festival, from Oct. 24 to 29, at the Salford Theatre in Salford; a comedy about Mrs. Hudson, who uses her detective skills to help a woman find a missing husband. The theater is in Westerham Avenue, Salford, Lancashire M5 4LT, England (0161-925-0111).

Aug 05 #3 Reported by Jay Hyde: THE PRAYER OF THE NIGHT SHEPHERD, by Phil Rickman (London: Macmillan, 2004; 356 pp., \$24.95) (London: Pan Macmillan, 2005; 628 pp., \$8.99); the sixth in a mystery series that features the Reverend Merrily Watkins (Deliverance Consultant to the Diocese of Hereford); it's fiction, but involves Rickman's belief that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was inspired in Herefordshire rather than Devon. Rickman had an article in SHERLOCK #60 (Jun 04 #5) suggesting that Conan Doyle used the legend of Black Vaughan of Kington, and his ghostly Hergest hound.

Gahan Wilson, who was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during this year's birthday festivities (Jan 05 #1) provided the cover artwork for the souvenir program for the Mystery Writers of America's annual awards dinner on Apr. 28, and the MWA is now offering 58 signed and numbered prints for \$200 each, with proceeds going to the MWA's Author Sponsorship Fund. They may still be available (but you may need to be or know a member of the MWA in order to buy one); 17 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017 (212-888-8171) <mwa@mysterywriters.org>.

Laura Klotz reports that the new DVD "The Muppet Show: Season One (Special Edition)" has a Sherlockian segment in the third episode (Joel Grey was the guest star) that didn't air in the U.S.; the segment has Rowlf as Holmes, Baskerville as Watson, and Gorgon Heap as the butler. The region 1 DVD was issued by Buena Vista Home Video (\$39.99).

Dennis Lynds died on Aug. 19. Writing as Michael Collins, he launched his series of "Dan Fortune" detective novels in 1967, and won an Edgar and many other awards. His pastiche "Cross of Gold" appeared in Michael Kurland's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS (2004).

The "Legend of the Hound Project" opened at Lord's Tearooms in Princetown on Aug. 13. According to a story in the Plymouth Western Morning News, the new visitor center features a room styled similar to Holmes' study at 221b and a life-size model of the Hound. Project organizer Sylvia Agnew has secured the first Hackney carriage licence to be issued to a horse and carriage in the West Devon; the carriage will take visitors along three routes through Dartmoor, and there will be costumes available if visitors want to dress in Victorian clothing while the carriage tours Baskerville territory.

Ev Herzog has reported that there was a stalwart contingent of Sherlockians at the 13th International Convention of the Wodehouse Society this month. "Hooray for Hollywood" at UCLA was hosted by the chapters in San Francisco ("Blandings Castle") and Los Angeles ("The Perfecto-Zizzbaum Motion Picture Corporation") and celebrated Wodehouse's stints in Tinseltown. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner held a Senior Bloodstain on Aug. 12, featuring a dramatic reading of Anne Cotton's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Unsettling Smile" (with a smiling Brian Taves as Mulliner).

Aug 05 #4 The summer issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter from The Stormy Petrels of B.C.) is a Vincent Starrett Special, including Karen Murdock's report on newly discovered information about "The Cold, Lonely Death of Margaret Denniston Starrett" (his mother, who is buried in Vancouver), and other pieces about Starrett; \$8.00 postpaid from the society (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada).

Kelly Blau reports that the schedule for this year's New York City International Dollhouse Miniature Show includes workshops by Julii Grob on Sept. 1 and 2 devoted to "Sherlock Holmes' Study"; you can see her spectacular miniature at <www.bishopshow.com/nyc05wsten.htm>.

William R. Hanson, MD, who wrote a well-illustrated article in the American Philatelist (Oct 00 #3) about many of the postage stamps that have honored Sherlock Holmes, has also designed more than 3,000 stamps for some two dozen countries, and an attractive Sherlockian first day cover for the "garden bouquet" of roses stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service in 2004; the cover (signed on the front or back) costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.), and signed copies of the magazine with his article cost \$5.95 postpaid. Checks

(payable to Mary T. Hanson) should be sent to William R. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.

He also wonders if he was the first to describe Holmes as "the greatest man who never lived" (he was art director for the Turks & Caicos Islands when they issued a set of stamps honoring Holmes and Conan Doyle) (Jul 84 #3). Vincent Starrett honored "two men of note, who never lived and so can never die" (in his sonnet "221B"), and Smithsonian magazine referred to Holmes as "the greatest detective who never lived" in the table of contents in their Dec. 1986 issue (which had Fred Strebeigh's article on Sherlockians). Can anyone cite Hanson's phrase used earlier than 1984?

Aug 05 #5 It's always nice when some of Conan Doyle's best work is back in print: Barnes & Noble now has a "Library of Essential Reading", and it includes three titles of interest: THE LOST WORLD, with an introduction by Allen Grove (New York: Barnes & Noble, 2004; 215 pp., \$5.95); THE COMPLETE BRIGADIER GERARD, with an introduction by Clifford S. Goldfarb (2005; 384 pp., \$9.95); and THE WHITE COMPANY AND SIR NIGEL, with an introduction by Doug Elliott (2005; 792 pp., \$19.95). Cliff and Doug are members of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Bootmakers of Toronto.

It's intriguing to see authors beginning to write fiction about Arthur Conan Doyle: Gabriel Brownstein's THE MAN FROM BEYOND (New York: W. W. Norton, 2005; 298 pp., \$23.95) deals with Houdini and the medium Margery and Conan Doyle, and the author warns that "This is a fantasy. Nothing in it should be taken as fact. Names, places, events, actions, dialogue, headlines, and other details out of history have been distorted here for the purposes of fiction." And so they are, from the very start, where the names of Conan Doyle's children are given as Timothy and Joanna. Doyleans will find more than a few distortions, and so will those familiar with Houdini's career, but it's well-written and exciting, with interesting additional characters and some real danger for Houdini. In some ways the book is like Frederick Forsyth's THE DAY OF THE JACKAL: just as readers knew that De Gaulle wasn't assassinated, we know that Houdini survives the dire straits he's in, but it's fun to see it all work.

It isn't all that often that one gets a chance to talk about the fatal battle of Maiwand with a descendant of someone who was there: Chris Heath, of Vancouver, is the great-grandson of Capt. Percy Charles Heath, who was shot and killed in the battle on July 27, 1880. His body was never recovered, but his family in Britain has a hoof from the horse on which he

was shot (each horse had a serial number, and collecting the hoof was the British Army's system of inventory control).

"The Boast of Heraldry--The Pomp of Power: Titled People in the Adventures" is the title of this year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies) at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 12; the festivities commence with morning coffee in the Edgar Allan Poe Room at 10:00, and ends at 1:00. There's no charge, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore.

This year's The New Yorker Festival, from Sept. 23 to 25, features a paired appearance by Michael Chabon (author of THE FINAL SOLUTION: A NOVEL OF DETECTION) and Stephen King on Sept. 23, and they'll sign books on Sept. 24. Details available at <www.newyorker.com>.

"Slick Sleuths" was a silent black-and-white seven-minute "Mutt and Jeff" animation written by Bud Fisher and drawn by Fisher and Edgar Horace, and released in 1926, with Mutt and Jeff in Sherlockian costume; in the 1930s it was colorized by hand and released again with a musical score. The colorized version is included in a "Cartoon Craze" DVD (vol. 22) from Digiview Productions (2004), spotted by Jennie Paton in the \$1.00 bin at Wal-Mart. And for Basil Rathbone's fans, Jennie also discovered a \$1.00 DVD of "The Magic Sword" (1962), in which Rathbone plays the evil sorcerer Lodac.

Aug 05 #6 Collectors of translations and foreign editions might wish to pursue LE CHIEN DE BASKERVILLE (Beyrouth: Samir Editeur, 2005); the story has been translated into Parisian French, and is the first French translation I've seen published in Lebanon (THE UNIVERSAL SHERLOCK HOLMES lists an Arabic translation published in Beirut in 1911). The book's not yet listed at their web-site <www.samirediteur.com>, but they have e-mail at <samir@samirediteur.com> and the cost is \$3.00 plus shipping.

The Hedgerow Theatre will perform "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (likely Tim Kelly's dramatization) from Sept. 23 to Oct. 30; the theater is at 64 Rose Valley Road, Media, PA 19063 (610-565-4211) <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>. Mycroft's League of Philadelphia has planned a theater party for the matinee on Oct. 2, followed by dinner; details are available from Gideon Hill (215-280-2004) <gideonhill221@earthlink.net>.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the Presidential Libraries Act of 1955. Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman were members of The Baker Street Irregulars, and the Roosevelt Library & Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y. has his Sherlockian correspondence and his illuminated membership certificate in the BSI. But the Truman Library & Museum in Independence no longer has its copy of the BSI special edition of THE BLUE CARBUNCLE, inscribed to Truman by Edgar W. Smith, thanks to a curator who decided some years ago that the fiction owned by Truman wasn't important to the library and disposed of it (it's now owned by a fortunate collector).

The Bimetallic Question of Montreal celebrated their 25th anniversary with MUSINGS FROM AN OVERTURNED BEEHIVE, a 55-page anthology of reminiscence and articles by members; there are 60 copies, cloth-bound, each copy numbered and named for one of the 60 Canonical stories, and the cost is \$39.00 post-paid (checks payable to the society, please,) from Wilfrid M. de Freitas, 369 Kitchener Avenue, Westmount, Montreal QC H3Z 2G1, Canada. You can ask him if your favorite story is still available, or provide a list of three choices (514-935-9581) <wilfrid@defreitasbooks.com>.

Julia Huggins has marked the 10th anniversary of Jeremy Brett's death with an on-line petition intended to encourage Granada to produce a documentary about the Brett series, using deleted footage and out-takes. The petition can be signed at <www.petitiononline.com/gtittv/petition.html>.

Further to the report (Nov 04 #4) that Abbey National's shareholders agreed to a takeover bid from Spain's largest bank, Banco Santander Central Hispanico (BSCH), Jay Hyde spotted a Dow Jones news-wire report (Aug. 22) that a syndicate led by Dutch financial-services company ING Groep NV has bought Abbey National's property portfolio for \$2.12 billion. The statue of Sherlock Holmes at the entrance to the Baker Street underground station is not affected: Roger Johnson notes that the statue belongs to the City of Westminster (ownership was formally handed over to the Deputy Lord Mayor during the Statue Festival in 1999).

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

Sep 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Chief Justice William Rehnquist died on Sept. 3. Nominated as an associate justice of the Supreme Court by President Nixon in 1971, he was confirmed in 1972, and nominated as Chief Justice by President Reagan and confirmed in 1986. And he mentioned Sherlock Holmes at least twice in his opinions: in 1980 (Harrison v. PPG Industries) he wrote in his dissenting opinion: "I think that what we know of the matter makes Congress' additions to 307 (b)(1) in the Clean Air Act Technical and Conforming Amendments of 1997 no less curious than was the incident in the Silver Blaze of the dog that did nothing in the nighttime." In 1984 (Bose Corp. v. Consumers Union) he said (again dissenting): "There is more than one irony in this 'Case of the Wandering Instruments,' which subject matter makes it sound more like a candidate for inclusion in the 'Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' than in a case-book on constitutional law."

John Bergquist reports that there are more photographs about the London society's Swiss tour at <www.uk.myswitzerland.com/en/news.cfm?mo=v&id=42610>. And Bob Ellis notes that The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's redesigned web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> has a detailed report on "A Beelne to Switzerland and more than 500 photographs."

Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Cardboard Box") that he had paid fifty-five shillings for his Stradivarius, and that it was worth at least five hundred guineas. Catherine Cooke reports that the "Viotti ex-Bruce" Stradivarius has been acquired by the Royal Academy of Music; the estate of the violin's last owner gave the violin, valued at £3.5 million, to the British tax authority to wipe out a £1.4 million tax bill, and the Academy has raised £1 million to purchase the violin. Made about 1710 during Stradivari's "Golden Period", it was owned by Catherine the Great of Russia, who gave it to the musical prodigy Giovanni Battista Viotti, whose concerts in Paris and London in the 1780s and 1790s are credited with establishing Stradivari's reputation.

Those who remember the old student standbys Monarch Notes (with two volumes about the Sherlock Holmes stories) and Cliff Notes may be interested in the on-line SparkNotes at <www.sparknotes.com>. THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is included, with discussion, analysis, quotations, study questions, and a message board.

The Confederates of Wisteria Lodge (Atlanta), The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem, and The Genius Loci (Birmingham) will hold their Second Annual Joint Gathering at the Sheraton Read House in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 8-9, 2006; information about the event is available from Kent Ross at 6875 Fielder Road, Rex, GA 30273) <kenthross@aol.com>.

Dick Rutter reports that his translation of Gerhardt Totschinger's SHERLOCK HOLMES UND DAS GEHEIMNIS DER SACHERTORTE (Apr 90 #2) has been published (as SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE SACHERTORTE) by George Vanderburgh's Battered Silicon Dispatch Box; the story involves the theft of the recipe for the famous Austrian pastry, and international politics just before the start of World War I. The publisher is at Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0,

Canada; 192 pp., \$37.00 postpaid.

Sep 05 #2 Alan Truscott died on Sept. 4. Born in London, he learned to play bridge in an air-raid shelter during the blitz and went on to a long career in the bridge world, serving as bridge editor of the N.Y. Times since 1964. He edited and foot-noted Reginald Johnson's *THEY CAME TO BAKER STREET* (Aug 94 #8), and often used and referred to Sherlock Holmes in his bridge column in the N.Y. Times.

There are now (at least) 25 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series that features Nate in Sherlockian costume. *NATE THE GREAT: SAN FRANCISCO DETECTIVE*, written with Mitchell Sharman and illustrated by Martha Weston in the style of Marc Simont (New York: Random House/Yearling, 2005; 30 pp., \$4.50), is a fine souvenir for visitors to the Bay Area.

The Mayfield Dinner Theatre is performing David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" through Oct. 30 (16615 109th Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5P 4K8, Canada) (800-661-9804) <www.mayfielddinnedmonton.com>.

Tim Evers' one-man play "The Demons of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Bayou Theatre at the University of Houston Clear Lake, Nov. 10-26. The box-office address is: Bayou Building (room 2604), 2700 Bay Area Boulevard, Houston, TX 77058 (281-263-2580).

The summer issue of the *Tonga Times* (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) offers news about the world of Sherlockian miniatures, including the miniatures created by Lawrence G. Myers (with lots of color photographs; \$10.50 for three issues/\$11.50 to Canada/\$13.50 elsewhere is published by Trish and Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229) <www.hometown.aol.com/mini-tongasociety/mini1.htm>.

I asked (Aug 05 #4) for a reference earlier for a description of Sherlock Holmes as "the greatest man who never lived" earlier than 1984; Bob Mangler recalled that Orson Welles said something similar, and Fred Levin found it on a recording of the Mercury Theatre broadcast of William Gillette's play (1938): "a gentleman who never lived and will never die." What's interesting is that this is earlier than Vincent Starrett's sonnet "221B" (1942).

Stephen William Theaker has written *PROFESSOR CHALLENGER IN SPACE* (Birmingham: Silver Age Books, 2000; 160 pp., £5.99) and *QUIET, THE TIN CAN BRAINS ARE HUNTING!* (2001; 160 pp., £5.99); Mrs. Challenger is featured in the second book, with a brief appearance by the professor, and you can read both on-line at <www.silveragebooks.com> reprinted in Theaker's *Quarterly Fiction* (spring, summer, and autumn 2004). The stories are more fantasy than science-fiction.

Frank Thomas, who played boyfriend Ted Nickerson in "Nancy Drew, Detective" (1938) and the title role in the 1950s in "Tom Corbett, Space Cadet", went on to write about Sherlock Holmes and bridge, and a series of Sherlockian pastiches, and he will be the guest of honor at a joint dinner meeting of The Blustering Gales from the South-West and The James Phillimore Society on Oct. 15. Additional information about the meeting can be obtained from Paula Salo (4455 Pacific Coast Highway #D-102, Torrance, CA 90505) (310-378-7947) <home.earthlink.net/~bgs>. He's also to be honored as a special guest at the 64th World Science Convention in Anaheim on Aug. 23-27, 2006.

Sep 05 #3 Tyke Niver often wears an Inverness when he appears at Gillette Castle as William Gillette, and has found a company that makes excellent Inverness cloaks (in winter and summer weights, which Tyke finds helpful when he is at the Castle in the summer); prices range from \$280 to \$460 depending on your size. Texas Body Hangings is at Box 547, Mount Enterprise, TX 75681 (800-642-8075) <www.bodyhangings.com>.

Nis Jessen reports that there now are three web-sites about his handsomely illustrated edition of *A STUDY IN SCARLET* (Jul 05 #5); you can find them at

<home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen/scarlet.htm>, <home2.inet.tele.dk/fnjessen>, and <www.mr-holmes.com>.

S. M. Stirling included a minor allusion to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle in THE PESHAWAR LANCERS (Jul 02 #4), and Christy Allen has reported a nice discovery in Stirling's new alternate-history trilogy. The first volume was DIES THE FIRE (2004), and the second is THE PROTECTOR'S WAR (New York: Roc/New American Library, 2005; 496 pp., \$24.95), in which the reader will find Sam Aylward, John Hordle, Nigel Loring, and Alleyne Loring (names familiar to anyone who has read THE WHITE COMPANY). The third volume, presumably due next year, will be A MEETING IN CORVALLIS. You can read sample chapters from the first two volumes at <www.smstirling.com>.

Pattie Tierney has designed a collection of attractive mystery game-piece necklaces with Sherlockian themes; \$20.00 each plus shipping. You can request an illustrated flier (Pattie Tierney, 229 Hereford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 603135 <ptierney@umsl.edu>.

Gayle Lange Puhl returns to the pages of Scuttlebutt after almost 20 years, with her IF WATSON WROTE FOR TV: SHERLOCK HOLMES CALENDAR 2006, a convenient (8.5x11" opened) wall calendar with her own artwork showing how Holmes and Watson might fit into recent and current television series. Available from Gayle (501 South Madison Street #12, Evansville, WI 53536) for \$12.83 postpaid.

John Berendt, The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2004, talked about his next book, and about Sherlock Holmes (you can read some of his stories in the summer 2004 issue of The Baker Street Journal), and that next book, about Venice, is THE CITY OF FALLING ANGELS (New York: Penguin, 2005; 414 pp., \$25.95).

Laura Kuhn reported an excellent article about Queen Mary's Dolls' House in Royal Insight for Sept. 2005, available at <www.royal.gov.uk>, the official web-site of the British Monarchy; the article includes a photograph of the library, which includes books commissioned from more than 170 authors, one of which was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who is represented by the bound manuscript of "How Watson Learned the Trick".

Christopher Morley is still remembered: Gideon Hill found Morley quoted in the Sept. 16 issue of the America's Health Insurance Plans electronic newsletter: "There is only one success--to be able to spend your life in your own way." It's credited to the wikipedia <www.wikipedia.org>, which has a concise entry on Morley, with various links, one to The Baker Street Irregulars. The Morley quote is from WHERE THE BLUE BEGINS (1922).

Sep 05 #4 Robert Wise died on Sept. 14. He began his long film career in the 1930s, and was film editor for Orson Welles' "Citizen Kane" (1941). Best known as director of "West Side Story" (1961) and "The Sound of Music" (1963) (and he won Oscars for both films), he also directed "The Day the Earth Stood Still" (1951), the only known film featuring a member of The Baker Street Irregulars playing himself (Elmer Davis, as a newscaster reporting on the alien spaceship). The DVD of the film (Mar 03 #1) includes commentary by Wise and by Nicholas Meyer.

Jay Hyde spotted the report that the Algonquin Hotel has been sold (again); HEI Hospitality bought the 174-room hotel for about \$74 million, and HEI's Merritt Hospitality will manage the hotel; the Algonquin has long been the unofficial headquarters for the birthday festivities in January.

"Pride & Prejudice" had its world premiere at the Toronto Film Festival on Sept. 11 and won rave reviews in Variety, the Guardian, and the Observer. Filmed in Britain last year (Sep 04 #3), its main location was Groombridge Place (the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in "The Valley of Fear"). The film opened in Britain on Sept. 16, and is scheduled to open in the U.S. on Nov. 18.

Jack French has reported that the One Act Players will present a reading of their dramatization of "A Scandal in Bohemia" in the Florence Gould Theatre at the Palace of the Legion of Honor in San Francisco on Oct. 16 at 2:00 pm (415-519-1728) <www.oneact.org/candy>; "The Cable Car Murder" (script from the 1949 Candy Matson series) and "Vengeance in Vegas" (by Hal Glatzer) are on the bill as well.

BOXING'S BEST SHORT STORIES, edited by Paul D. Staudohar (Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1999; 330 pp., \$24.00) (or paperback, 2001, \$16.95); contents include "The Croxley Master".

The John. D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation selects 25 people every year to receive \$500,000 "genius grants" payable over five years, and one of this year's winners is Terry Belanger, member of The Baker Street Irregulars (he received his investiture as "Cartwright" in 1968) and a professor at the University of Virginia and founder of the Rare Book School (a non-profit institute dedicated to the history and safekeeping of rare prints, books, and manuscripts). He founded the School at Columbia University in 1968 and moved it to Virginia in 1992; more than 4,000 students have studied preservation of what he calls "the bedrock for the humanities."

Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) have launched The Sherlockian E-Times with news, offers of new Sherlockiana, and links to their web-site, which offers much more Sherlockiana; you can request an e-mail subscription at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.

Napoleon may have owned six identical plaster busts of himself, but they're not on display through Jan. 2 in the exhibition "Napoleon: An Intimate portrait" in the National Geographic Museum's Explorer's Hall in Washington. The exhibition does have more than 250 objects and artifacts that belonged to Napoleon and his imperial court, including his signature hats and other clothing, and portraits of him by leading artists of his time.

Sep 05 #5 Prescott's Press, published by The Three Garridebs, continues to offer a nice mix of scholarship and whimsy; issue #36 (June) has Ted Friedman's discussion of the Andaman Islands and the stamp issued by India showing the prison at Fort Blair, and issue #37 (Sept.) has Robert Q. Carver's investigation of Cole Porter and Sherlock Holmes. \$14.00 for four issues (\$18 outside the U.S.), from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).

This year's Christmas card from The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has a photograph of Holmes (Philip Porter) and Watson (Charler Miller) with two St. Bernards, in the shadow of the Matterhorn, taken during the society's trip to Switzerland this year. \$13.00 postpaid for ten cards (L6.50 to the U.K. and Europe or L7.00 elsewhere); checks (payable to the Society) can be sent to Judi Ellis, 13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington BR6 8DC, England.

The Society has also published SHERLOCK HOLMES IN SWITZERLAND, with 24 articles by 19 authors, with subjects that range from Conan Doyle's visit to the country to Holmes route to Switzerland, and hitherto unpublished photographs from many of the Society's pilgrimages. \$38.00 postpaid to the U.S. (L15.00 to the U.K. or L16.00 elsewhere); payment as above.

Irene's Cabinet is an annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (38 pp.) offers Andrew Solberg's report on "Les Relations Holmesiennes Franco-Américaines", Paul Churchill's eulogy for Steve Clarkson, and much more; \$10.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (London: Jonathan Cape/Random House, 2005; 360 pp., L17.99) is short-listed for the prestigious Man Booker Prize, and deserves the high ranking (the six finalists each received L2,500, and the winner, to be announced at the Guildhall in London on Oct. 10, will get an

additional L50,000); it's a novel, offering a joint biography of Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji from their childhoods onward, and it is well-written and imaginative, firmly grounded on the facts of the case of George Edalji, but also thoroughly inventive when it comes to thoughts and conversations. And it's a handsome book, with an attractive decorated-cloth cover that one seldom sees on commercial books today. The American edition is due from Alfred A. Knopf in January (\$24.95).

Constance Moore died on Sept. 16. She began her long film career in 1937, and was best known for playing Buster Crabbe's girlfriend Wilma Deering in the "Buck Rogers" serials that began in 1939. She also was Sheila Stuart in "Charlie McCarthy, Detective" (1939); Charlie and Mortimer Snerd are in Sherlockian costume in the film, but Constance Moore isn't.

"Cut out the poetry, Watson," said Holmes severely to Watson. Sherlockians have long ignored that command: Edgar W. Smith and others wrote tales-inverse for the BSJ, Vincent Starrett composed delightful sonnets, and Isaac Asimov was renowned for his limericks. William S. Dorn's *THE LIMERICKS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Denver: Pencil Productions, 2005, 53 pp.) offers his own limericks, one each for Holmes and Watson, for the Canonical tales, and for two apocryphal stories. \$11.45 postpaid to the US (\$12.45 to Canada, and \$15.45 elsewhere) from Bill (2045 S. Monroe Street, Denver, CO 80210-3734).

Sep 05 #6 Gus Mager's "Hawkshaw the Detective" comic strip was published in American newspapers from 1913 well into the 1940s, and Hawkshaw was an amusing "homage" to Sherlock Holmes. Alan Lance Andersen has reprinted seven of the Sunday strips from 1916 in black-and-white in *HAWKSHAW THE DETECTIVE* (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 46 pp., \$10.49). Andersen has also edited an "author's expanded edition" of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's play "The Speckled Band" that's intended for dinner theaters. The revisions in are in large part based on the story, and give the script more conformity with the short story so many people have read; *THE SPECKLED BAND: A SHERLOCK HOLMES DRAMA* (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 112 pp., \$13.10). Lulu is a web-based print-on-demand publisher at <www.lulu.com>, and Andersen offers discounts to bookstores <2004@interdrama.com>.

Elmore Hammes' *THE HOLMES AND WATSON MYSTERIOUS EVENTS AND OBJECTS CONSORTIUM: THE CASE OF THE WITCH'S TALISMAN* (Morrisville: Lulu, 2004; 186 pp., \$8.95) is a pleasant young-adults novel about young friends who like to be Holmes and Watson. "Oh, damn, is the game afoot *again*?" Watson exclaims in "The Case of the Mysterious Missive", in a new version of the tent joke as a short piece collected in *MESSAGE IN A FORTUNE COOKIE: SHORT STORIES & POEMS*, by Steve Pulley (Morrisville: Lulu, 2004; 181 pp., \$9.95, or \$1.79 to download).

PROFESSOR CHALLENGER: 5 FANTASTIC TALES, is a collection with a short introduction by Ron Hanna (Morrisville: Lulu, 2004; 428 pp., \$19.99, or \$6.80 to download). *THE EXTRAORDINARY AFFAIR OF THE SECOND GREAT HIATUS*, by P. Whitney Hughes (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 106 pp., \$17.79), is a science-fiction pastiche involving Holmes, Watson, Challenger, and Malone, with a few echoes from "Star Trek".

Marcel d'Agneau's *THE CURSE OF THE NIBELUNG* was published in Britain almost 25 years ago (Oct 81 #2), and now there's an American edition (Morrisville: Lulu, 2005; 290 pp., \$12.95), written by Sam North; it's a pastiche/parody (or perhaps a parody/pastiche) set in England and on the Continent in 1939, with Holmes and Watson sent on a mission by Winston Churchill, and you can read about d'Agneau and North at <www.hackwriters.com/d-agneau.htm>.

And Will Thomas notes that Lulu has published *THE BARTITSU COMPENDIUM, VOL. 1: HISTORY AND THE CANONICAL SYLLABUS*, edited by Tony Wolf (2005, 270 pp., \$25.00); bartitsu was invented by E. W. Barton-Wright, and is believed by many Sherlockian scholars to be the baritsu that Sherlock Holmes mentions in "The Empty House" (Will reports that the new book has several mentions of Holmes).

Forecast for October: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES WITH DVD: a Chamberlain Bros. edition in the Signet Classics series (568 pp., \$14.95); the essential works" (22 stories), two Rathbone/Bruce movies on a DVD, an introduction by Anne Perry, and an analysis by Susannah Gora of the author, book, and film. THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 272 pp., \$14.95); short stories based on the radio plays written by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green in the 1940s.

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

Oct 05 #1 David Grann has written a long article in The New Yorker (Sept. 19) about "The Lost City of Z" and his attempt to find traces of British explorer P. H. Fawcett, who spent years trying to uncover a lost civilization hidden in the Matto Grosso in Brazil. On his last expedition, in 1925, Fawcett vanished, never to be heard from again, and there now is a long list of explorers who have tried but failed to find the lost city that Fawcett believed was there. Grann mentions Conan Doyle, who met Fawcett in 1910, and you can read more about them in THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD, by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin (1996): they quote from Fawcett's memoirs EXPLORATION FAWCETT (eventually published in 1953). Fawcett was in London to lecture about his exploration of the Ricardo Franco Hills, and wrote: "They stood like a lost world, forested to their tops . . . So thought Conan Doyle when later in London I spoke of these hills and showed photographs of them! He mentioned an idea for a novel on Central South America and asked for information, which I told him I should be glad to supply. The fruit of it was his 'Lost World'".

Sorry about that: <uk.myswitzerland.com/en/news.cfm?mo=v&id=42610> is the correct URL for photographs from the Swiss tour by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, reported by John Bergquist (Sep 05 #1).

Roger Brierley died on Sept. 23. He was a passionate supporter of Manchester United, and a chartered accountant before becoming an actor, in British television and films in the 1960s; he was credited as Roger Brierly when he played Mr. Holmes in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).

The New Yorker has published a long list of Sherlockiana and Doyleana: beginning with discussion of Conan Doyle in "The Talk of the Town" (Feb. 21, 1925), and including material by James Thurber, Robert Benchley, Alexander Woollcott, Frederick Dorr Steele, Kenneth Fearing, Ogden Nash, S. J. Perelman, Mollie Panter-Downes, Hendrik Hertzberg, and many others. Thanks to modern technology, you can buy "The Complete New Yorker" (all 4,109 issues through Feb. 14, 2005) on eight DVDs for \$100, in book stores or at their web-site <www.thenewyorkerstore.com>; it will be a god-send to libraries, and to people who would like to have 80 years of excellent writing.

The official web-site for London is at <www.visitlondon.com>, and you can search for "Sherlock Holmes" or "Conan Doyle" or anything else of interest if you're visiting London.

Les Klinger will be on tour in November and December promoting THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE NOVELS, with visits planned to almost a dozen cities in the U.S. and Canada; <www.annotatedsherlockholmes.com> offers a list of the dates and venues, and much more about the book and its author. And of course his appearances on the tour will offer an opportunity to get inscriptions, and to hear his stories about the Canon and his annotations.

There's a paperback edition of THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, issued by the Quality Paperback Book Club and available to its members; same size as the hard-cover edition but in decorated paper covers, and with the text in one color only; advance reading copies are similar, but their front covers state "not for sale" and the spines do not have the silhouettes (there are other differences, but they're not needed to identify the editions).

Oct 05 #2 The Practical, But Limited, Geologists met for drinks and dinner at the Alta Club in Salt Lake City on Oct. 19, at the end of the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America, and were welcomed by Mike Homer, Heidi Mason, and other locals. We will meet next in Houston on Apr. 12, and in Philadelphia on Oct. 25. Sarah Andrews' latest book about forensic geologist Em Hansen is DEAD DRY (New York: St. Martin's Minotaur, 2005; 320 pp., \$24.95), and Simon Winchester's new A CRACK IN THE EDGE OF THE WORLD: AMERICA AND THE GREAT CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE OF 1906 (New York: HarperCollins, 2005; 480 pp., \$27.95) may be of interest to those who enjoyed Laurie R. King's LOCKED ROOMS (May 05 #6).

Photographs of ghosts, spirit seances, levitation, auras, and ectoplasm can be seen in the exhibition "The Perfect Medium: Photography and the Occult" at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York <www.metmuseum.org> through Dec. 31; the exhibition includes photographs of the Cottingley Fairies that were so persuasive to Conan Doyle.

Spotted by Andrew Blau: THE TUTOR, by Peter Abrahams (New York: Ballantine Books, 2002); suspense, featuring girl-in-peril precocious 11-year-old Ruby Gardner, who is passionate about Sherlock Holmes (published as a paperback in 2003).

Forecast for February: HOLMES ON THE RANGE, by Steve Hockensmith, author of the pastiche "Gustav Amlingmeyer, Holmes on the Range" (set in Montana in 1893), from St. Martin's Minotaur (320 pp., \$22.95). EMPRESS OF INDIA: A PROFESSOR MORIARTY NOVEL, by Michael Kurland, also from St. Martin's Minotaur (320 pp., \$24.95).

John McCabe ("Those Chaldean Roots . . . of the Great Celtic Speech") died on Sept. 27, 2005. He was an actor, a Shakespeare scholar, and a professor who chaired the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts at Lake Superior State University in Sault St. Marie, and his greatest enthusiasm was for Laurel and Hardy: he met both of them in England in 1953, wrote an authorized biography of the comedians in 1961, and founded The Sons of the Desert in 1965 (in which he was the "exhausted ruler"). He was co-founder (with Bill Rabe) of the Unicorn Hunters, and received his investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1966.

"Bank Robber's No Sherlock" was the headline, and "But Police Say Disguise Resembles the Fictional Detective Holmes" was the subhead on an item in the Charlotte Observer (Oct. 20), spotted by Jay Hyde. Two banks in Charlotte were robbed by a man wearing a tweed jacket, a wig, and a glued-on mustache and beard, and police detective Jim Snider told the paper: "he looks like Sherlock Holmes," and added that "if he keeps on going, we'll catch up with him."

Jay also notes an item in the San Francisco Examiner (Oct. 18) about Rachel Weisz, the female lead in the film "The Constant Gardener", who said that when she was a girl, she dreamed of becoming a real-life Sherlock Holmes. "At school," she explained, "I wanted to be a detective or a spy." But she didn't mention any plans for the film "Death Defying Acts" (Aug 05 #1), in which she has been reported cast as Harry Houdini's mistress (the film also has Sir Arthur Conan Doyle as a character).

Oct 05 #3 An interesting example of how useful the Internet can be is the new "Google Print" web-site at <www.print.google.com>. Google has partnered with several major libraries to scan entire texts of books, and the data base can be searched for names (Conan Doyle), phrases (Elementary, my dear Watson), or words (Scuttlebutt); you can view the entire text of books in the public domain, and selected pages from books protected by copyright, and you can use links to purchase books or find libraries that hold them. Lawsuits have been filed by some publishers claiming copyright infringement, but Google hopes that most publishers will welcome an opportunity for more sales.

Robert Bisio ("Shinwell Johnson") died on Sept. 5, 2005. He was a teacher, an enthusiastic singer in barbershop quartets, one of the early members of The Knights of the Gnomon in Redwood City, and a member of The Scowrers and the Molly Maguires. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1966.

Forecast for November: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE BIOGRAPHY, by Nick Rennison (London: Atlantic Books, 2005; 240 pp., £14.99); "a meticulous recreation of the secret life and curious times of the great detective."

The next annual STUD-watsonian weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Mar. 31-Apr. 2; there will be a dinner (with Les Klinger as featured speaker), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Contact Susan Diamond, 16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106 <szdiamond@comcast.net>, for more information.

"I found myself in Florence," Sherlock Holmes told Dr. Watson (in "The Empty"), and the city is well worth a visit by Sherlockians. There's a roomful of paintings by Salvator Rosa (mentioned in "The Sign of the Four") in the Pitti Palace, and an excellent bronze bust of Holmes in the city hall in Sesto Fiorentino (Mar 02 #6), where (according to careful research by Enrico Solito) Holmes actually arrived. Doyleans also can see something of interest in Florence:

"I have seen old John Hawkwood, the same who has led half the company into Italy, stand laughing in his beard as he heard it," cried an English archer when a gleeman sang "The Song of the Bow" in THE WHITE COMPANY. There was a real Sir John Hawkwood (1320-1394), who fought in the Hundred Years War and in 1360 led a band of mercenaries to Italy, where they fought for various Italian states and factions. He died in Florence, and Paolo Uccello's memorial fresco to Sir John can be seen in the Duomo. His band of mercenaries was called the White Company, and he is credited by many as an inspiration for Conan Doyle's Sir Nigel Loring.

And there's a relatively new book about Hawkwood, by Frances Stonor Saunders: HAWKWOOD: DIABOLICAL ENGLISHMAN (London: Faber and Faber, 2004; 256 pp., £17.00) (paperback, 2005; 384 pp., £8.99). There also is an American edition: THE DEVIL'S BROKER: SEEKING GOLD, GOD AND GLORY IN FOURTEENTH CENTURY ITALY (New York: HarperCollins/Fourth Estate, 2005; 352 pp., \$25.95). And if that's not enough, next year there will be JOHN HAWKWOOD: AN ENGLISH MERCENARY IN FOURTEENTH-CENTURY ITALY, by William Caferro (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006; 512 pp., \$35.00).

Oct 05 #4 Further to the item (Apr 05 #6) on "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" (adapted by Steven Dietz from Gillette's play) the schedule has been expanded: at the Tucson Temple of Music and Art in Tucson (Mar. 4-25), at the Phoenix Herberger Center in Phoenix (Mar. 30-Apr. 5); at the Quadracci Powerhouse Theatre in Milwaukee (Apr. 14-May 14); and at the Pasadena Play-house in Pasadena (May 5-June 11).

Congratulations to a new member of The Baker Street Irregulars: Donald J. Terras ("The Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant"), who received his Investiture from Mike Whelan this month in Chicago, on the evening Don also was elevated to the post of Master of the Hounds, following in the footsteps of Vincent Starrett and Bob Mangler.

Ronald Pearsall died on Sept. 27. He was a prolific writer, beginning at the age of 14 with a thriller, and in 1969 he achieved considerable renown with THE WORM IN THE BUD: THE WORLD OF VICTORIAN SEXUALITY. He went on to write other books about the Victorian world, including CONAN DOYLE: A BIOGRAPHICAL SOLUTION (1977) and SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES THE MURDER IN EUSTON SQ. (1989), the latter about an actual crime, ending with a pastiche chapter in which Holmes wraps up the investigation.

Mark Alberstat's 2006 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.

Reported by Doug Elliott: "King of the Lost world" (now in post-production) is scheduled for home-video release on Dec. 13. Starring Bruce Boxleitner (Challenger), Rhett Giles (Roxton), Jeff Denton (Malone), and Sarah Lieving (Summerlee), the 90-minute film is about four plane-crash survivors who "encounter danger in a world that time forgot" and is billed as "the epic story that inspired 'King Kong' and 'Jurassic Park'." There's cover art at the web-site <www.theasylum.cc> showing a giant ape, which was added "just for fun," according to the director, and to acknowledge Peter Jackson's new film of "King Kong".

Further to the item about the exhibition at the National Geographic Museum (Sep 05 #4), Mary Burke reports that there are seven busts of Napoleon (but not identical) and five items by Carle Vernet (great grand-uncle of Sherlock Holmes).

Philip Gold (760 East Carlisle Road, Westlake Village, CA 91361 (818-889-2640) <philipgold_221books@yahoo.com> offers four Christmas cards with artwork by Lynne Yencho showing scenes from "The Speckled Band" and "The Blue Carbuncle" for \$2.50 postpaid; a flier showing the artwork is available on request from Philip.

Sherlock Holmes' 152nd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 13, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but it will be helpful to let Ev Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you're coming to the event.

Oct 05 #5 On Thursday, 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), and the speaker is Leroy Lad Panek, who won an Edgar in 1988 for INTRODUCTION TO THE DETECTIVE STORY (which has a chapter on Conan Doyle). He'll talk on "Sherlock Holmes and the Emergence of the American Detective Story" (\$11.00); seating will be limited, and you are advised to reserve early (details below).

On Friday, the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; \$43.00 (please request an announcement from Susan Rice, 125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014).

Otto Penzler has moved the Mysterious Bookshop to Tribeca (that's the Triangle Below Canal); the address is 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street), and that's where he'll hold his traditional open house on Friday, from 11:00 to 5:00. Otto explains that the new shop has twice the space, and that it took only nine moving vans to move 28 years of books and files and stuff from the old shop. There's a parking lot at the corner of Warren and West Broadway, for those brave enough to drive in New York, and the subway station nearest the Algonquin is Times Square (42nd Street between Seventh Avenue and Broadway); you take the 1, 2, or 3 train to the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If (or possibly when) you get lost, or are using a different train, you can call the bookshop at 212-587-1011.

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) should be sent to Maribeau (183 Stokes Road, Medford Lakes, NJ 08055); please include your e-mail address and pri-

mary Sherlockian society affiliation). There will be more information at their web-site <www.baskervillebash.com>. 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.

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 until 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 a Junior Bloodstain (a rather less than totally reverent event) on the second floor of the Algonquin at 12:30 pm; if you are planning to attend these festivities, please tell Anne Cotton (12 Hollywood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybassett@comcast.net>.

Oct 05 #6 Also on Saturday, the BSI annual reception, which is open to all Sherlockians and friends, will be held from 2:00 to 5:00, at 24 Fifth Avenue (between 9th and 10th Streets) [note the different location and time]; there will be passed hors d'oeuvres and an open bar, and traditional and untraditional entertainment. The cost is \$68.00 (details below), or \$78.00 after Dec. 1 or at the door.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub at 160 West 54th Street (between 7th and 6th Avenues) (and yes, 6th Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas). It's open to all, but space is limited and reservations will be important; the contact is Judith Freeman (280 Ninth Avenue #1-C, New York, NY 10001 <judith-freeman@worldnet.att.net>.

The Baker Street Irregulars are a tax-exempt organization, and Mike Whelan has arranged with the Hotel Algonquin for single or double rooms at \$165.00 a night (Tuesday through Saturday); this is the total cost, since there is no tax due on reservations arranged by the BSI. Breakfast is not included in the price this year. Other charges (telephone calls, meals, room service, drinks, etc.) are not covered. The offer's available to all Sherlockians, and room reservations must be made directly to the Algonquin (mention The Baker Street Irregulars) at 212-840-6800 on or before Dec. 5.

And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement with the prices and a reservation form for the Thursday lecture and the Saturday reception, you can request a copy 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 that include 14% in state and city taxes. Ask for the lowest available rate, don't be shy about asking for discounts (AAA, senior, corporate, weekend specials); if you plan to arrive on Thursday you should confirm that weekend rates apply, and request written confirmation.

Madison Hotel (62 Madison Ave. at 27th St.) from \$90 (800-923-4766); Chelsea Savoy (204 West 23rd St.) from \$99 (866-929-9353); Radio City Apartments (142 West 49th Street) from \$109 (877-921-9321); Comfort Inn Central Park (31 West 71st St.) from \$110 (800-424-6423). Don't neglect web-sites such as <www.nycvisit.com>, <www.nychotels.com>, and <www.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 should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

The Spermaceti Press: Peter E. Blau, 7103 Endicott Court, Bethesda, MD 20817-4401 (telephone: 301-229-6559) <blau7103@comcast.net>

Nov 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

An important warning: Dec. 5 is the deadline for reservations at the Algonquin Hotel for the birthday festivities; the Baker Street Irregulars rate is \$165.00 (standard room) and \$265.00 (suite), and their telephone number is (212-840-6800).

There's another event scheduled during the birthday festivities, on Saturday, Jan. 14, when The Curious Collectors of Baker Street/Baker Street West will hold a "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner (open to everyone) at 6:00 pm at Kennedy's Restaurant (327 West 57th Street); \$35.00 per person (including tax and tip, and with a cash bar). You can send your checks to Jerry Kegley (9338 Sophia Avenue, North Hills, CA 91343); please include an e-mail address and your primary Sherlockian society affiliation. More information is available at 818-894-1501 <colwinky@aol.com>.

And a revision to the item (Oct 05 #4) about The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street): everyone is welcome, attendees will pay their own checks, and it is necessary to tell Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014 (212-989-1768) <srice@virtuoso.com> if you're coming to the event; the change is due to Ev Herzog and her husband John being away at a wedding that day.

Cyril A. Keller ("The Colossal Schemes of Baron Maupertuis") died on Sept. 9, 2005. He was a teacher, a banker, an excellent magician, and an early member (and Gasogene) of The Six Napoleons of Baltimore. He wrote his thesis at Loyola on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Detection", and it was Cy who suggested to Edgar W. Smith that a British shilling should be adopted as "the insignia and talisman" of Irregulars; he received his own Irregular Shilling in 1951.

Carolyn and Joel Senter (Classic Specialties) continue to publish their Sherlockian E-Times with news, and offers of new Sherlockiana, and links to their web-site, which has much more Sherlockiana; you can request an e-mail subscription at <sherlock@sherlock-holmes.com>.

Further to the report (May 05 #2) about the plan to preserve Liberton Bank House (where Arthur Conan Doyle lived as a child), a story in the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 24) reports that developers are on the brink of securing all the cash they need to start work on transforming the house into classrooms and a school, with a "literary garden" in keeping with the property's literary connections.

Julian Barnes' ARTHUR & GEORGE (Sep 05 #5) was a hot favorite, but the Man Booker Prize (worth £50,000) was won by John Banville's THE SEA, which has soared, as expected, in the sales ranking at www.amazon.co.uk.

Reported: "Count Duckula: The Complete First Season" on DVD (three discs, from Capital Entertainment, \$39.98); a British 30-minute animated series, with David Jason as the voice of Count Duckula, that aired in Britain on Thames Television in 1987, and the U.S. on Nickelodeon in 1988. The series included "All in a Fog" (in which Count Duckula, in an attempt to be a detective, travels to London and encounters Hawkeye Soames and Dr. Potson).

Nov 05 #2 The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has a report by Tim Johnson on the Collection's acquisition of 12 letters written by Conan Doyle to Grant Richards (commenting on Theodore Dreiser) and others, Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Arthur Upston, Julie McKuras' "50 Years Ago" report on Gladys Mitchell's WATSON'S CHOICE, and more; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Richard J. Sveum, (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>.

Hamilton Camp died on Oct. 2. He was a musician and an actor, and was the voice of Prof. Moriarty in the dubbed-into-English version of the 1984 Japanese animated series "Meitantei Holmes" [aka "Sherlock Hound"].

The New Playhouse will perform a reading of Lee Shackelford's play "Holmes & Watson" (1989) at The Temple: A Paul Mitchell Partner School (22-24 West Church Street) in Frederick, Md., at 3:00 pm on Dec. 4; there's no charge for admission, their telephone number is 301-668-8019, and their web-site is at <www.newplayhouse.org>.

Bronner's Christmas Wonderland (25 Christmas Lane, Box 176, Frankenmuth, MI 48734) (800-361-6736) offered a 6" Sherlock Holmes ornament some years ago, and now EV Herzog has spotted a new "International Snowmen" series of 4" ornaments with one of them, representing England, in Sherlockian costume (item #1105291 (\$14.99)). Their web-site is at <www.bronners.com>.

Reported: The BEST AMERICAN CRIME WRITING series, edited by Otto Penzler and Thomas H. Cook, was begun in 2002; the 2005 volume (New York: HarperCollins/Ecco, 2005; 384 pp., \$14.95), guest-edited by James Ellroy, includes David Grann's "A Reporter at Large: Mysterious Circumstances" (about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green reprinted from The New Yorker).

Jane Austen's Mr. Darcy has again been voted the greatest hero in literature, as he was two years ago (Jun 03 #3). The Scotsman has reported (Oct. 13) that 4,000 readers voted in a new poll at <www.books.co.uk>, and Harry Potter ranked second; Frodo was in 10th place, and Sherlock Holmes in 16th place. In a different poll, Helen Fielding's Bridget Jones was voted the greatest literary heroine.

Reported: THE SHORT LIFE AND LONG TIMES OF MRS. BEETON, by Kathryn Hughes (London: Fourth Estate, 2005; 525 pp., £20.00); Isabella Beeton created the famous "Book of Household Management" (which gave Maude Crosse considerable concern in A DUET: WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS), and according to a review in The Times Literary Supplement (Nov. 4), anyone doubting the continuing resonance of her name should reflect on the fact that in 1995, the food company Ginster's paid Beeton's modern publishers, Ward, Lock, £1 million to use the "Mrs. Beeton" name in perpetuity on its pasties and other meat products. She died in 1865, well before her husband began publishing Beeton's Christmas Annual, in which "A Study in Scarlet" appeared in 1887.

Nov 05 #3 The first program (combining of "A Study in Scarlet" with "The Speckled Band") from the Russian "Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson" series (1979-1985) aired recently on a cable channel in the Washington area with subtitled in English; the series stars Vasily Livanov and Vitaly Solomin, and it's worth viewing (especially with subtitles). Charles Preppolec reports that all five programs are available subtitled in English in a set of DVDs (recorded in PAL format) for \$69.99, from ALLDVD.CA (Box 57521, 1498 Royal York Road, Etobicoke, ON M9P 3B0, Canada (416-614-7857); their web-site is at <www.alldvd.ca/productDisplay.do?itemId=4282>.

Reported by Lenny Picker: HORROR: ANOTHER 100 BEST BOOKS, edited by Stephen

Jones and Kim Newman (New York: Carroll & Graf, 272 pp., \$16.95); includes an essay by Tony Richards on "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

Ursula Howells died on Oct. 15. She began her acting career in repertory theater in 1940, and made her first film in 1946, and she also appeared in many roles on radio and television. She played Joan in "The Case of the Cunningham Heritage" in the Sheldon Reynolds "Sherlock Holmes" series in (1954).

Warren Randall reports that he will be offering a new society pin during the birthday festivities in January, for The Baker Street Arabs, organized by Paul C. Smedegaard while stationed in Iraq. The pin was designed by Paul Churchill, and it costs \$9.00 postpaid (\$11.00 outside North America) from Warren (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will dine at the House of Commons on Jan. 7 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' birthday, and there will be a "morning after" gathering at Imperial College on Jan. 8. For those who wish to plan farther ahead, their London weekend Festival ("Another Capital Idea, Watson") will be held on Apr. 6-9; arrangements are not yet final, and details will be available before too long. R. J. Ellis (13 Crofton Avenue, Orpington, Kent BR6 8DU, England) is their membership secretary; their web-site is as <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

Douglas G. Green offers a new book that will interest Sherlockians: THE ADVENTURE OF THE MURDERED MOTHS AND OTHER RADIO MYSTERIES, by Ellery Queen; it's a collection of 14 scripts from the old "Ellery Queen" radio series, and one of them is "Mr. Short and Mr. Long" (it was broadcast in 1943 and is described as "the case that Sherlock Holmes failed to solve"). It was revised by Frederic Dannay and published in THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944) as "The Disappearance of Mr. James Phillimore". Available from Crippen & Landru (Box 9315, Norfolk, VA 23505) <www.crippenlandru.com> for \$45.00 (in cloth, with an additional mini-play in a separate chapbook) or \$20.00 (softcover); shipping extra.

Spotted by Andy Fusco: all 39 episodes of the 1954 Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" series on 5 DVDs (\$19.99), from DVDMegaPacks.com (2445 Nevada Avenue North, Golden Valley, MN 55427 (888-577-0666) <www.dvdmegapacks.com>. Scott Bond reports that the set is marketed by Mill Creek Entertainment and includes the older introduction by Christopher Lee filmed in the sitting-room at the Sherlock Holmes Pub.

Nov 05 #4 Pascal Calabrese died on Oct. 13. He made news in the 1960s, when after being convicted of armed robbery in Buffalo, he testified against major Mafia figures and became the first Mafia informant to be given a new identity by the federal government. He lived for a time in Spokane, Wash., where he owned and ran the Sherlock Holmes Case & Precinct House, which closed in 1981 after the revelation that the chief of the intelligence unit of the Spokane Police Department had invested \$50,000 as a secret partner (according to his obituary in the Buffalo News, Oct. 21).

The latest news from New Orleans is that the local Sherlockians (Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes) met on Nov. 8 at the Polo Bar in the Windsor Court Hotel, only a couple of blocks from the French Quarter. Jens Byskov Jensen notes that "its ownership by the Orient-Express company suits our love for classic mystery perfectly."

The Library of Congress continues to record interesting talking books for its National Library Service, the latest being Jack French's PRIVATE EYELASHES: RADIO'S LADY DETECTIVES (Jan 04 #3).

Reported: THE SILLY SIDE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Philip Ardagh (London: Faber and Faber, 2005; 64 pp., £7.99), subtitled "A Brand New Adventure Using a Bunch of Old Pictures"; the old pictures are Sidney Paget's illustrations

from the Strand Magazine, and the publisher's warning is: "Be prepared for some very silly sleuthing indeed").

Robert Duvall, who starred as Dr. Watson in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), was one of those selected for this year's award of the National Medal of Arts. President Bush presented the awards at a ceremony in the Oval Office on Nov. 10, followed by a formal dinner that evening in the White House's State Dining Room.

"Figures resting in an extensive landscape" is the title of an oil painting (32x53") by Sidney Paget that was auctioned at Christie's in London on Nov. 9; it sold for £3,000 including the buyer's premium. The original artwork for Paget's illustration of Holmes and Moriarty grappling at the Reichenbach was sold at Sotheby's on Nov. 16, 2004, for \$220,000 (including the buyer's premium).

John Fowles died on Nov. 5. He was a highly-regarded novelist, best known for his novels THE COLLECTOR (1963), THE MAGUS (1966), and THE FRENCH LIEUTENANT'S WOMAN (1969); he also wrote a perceptive and appreciative foreword and afterword for "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in the 1974 Jonathan Cape edition.

The Hollister Free Lance reported (Sept. 24) that Hollister (Calif.) is not far from the John Steinbeck House in Salinas and Eugene O'Neill's Tao House in Danville. O'Neill owned 8,000 books, and one day his wife Carlotta complained to O'Neill that she felt as if they lived in a library; most of the books soon went into storage, but a representative few are exhibited in the house: "One shelf near his bed exhibits complete sets of detective stories, including Sherlock Holmes and Dashiell Hammett's novels."

Nov 05 #5 The autumn dinner of The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes (for members and female guests) was held on Nov. 4 at La Prima Donna in New York, where EV Herzog announced six new members: Gloria Wachs ("A Bijou Villa"), Susan Cohen ("The Women of Many Nations and Three Separate Continents"), Anita Janda ("Modesty Among the Virtues"), Margaret J. Fleesak ("Lomax the Sublibrarian"), Sabina H. Hollis ("The Science of Deduction and Analysis"), and Rebecca Robare ("Sophy Kratides").

Alfred Shaughnessy died on Nov. 2. He began his film career in Britain as a director in 1952, and also worked as a screenwriter, producer, and script editor; he adapted "The Crooked Man" for the Granada series in 1984.

William R. Hanson, MD, has created another Sherlockian first day cover, for the 3c silver coffee pot coil stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service in September; the cachet shows Holmes using a well-polished coffee pot to observe Watson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles". The cover (signed on the front or back) costs \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.); checks (payable to Mary T. Hanson) can be sent to William R. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.

For completist comic-strip fans: the "Paige of the Baskervilles" strip from Bill Amend's "Foxytrot" that ran in various newspapers on Nov. 13, 1993, was reprinted in his TAKE US TO YOUR MALL (Andrews and McMeil, 1995).

The American edition of George MacDonald Fraser's FLASHMAN ON THE MARCH has been published (New York: Knopf, 2005; 335 pp., \$24.00); as noted earlier (Apr 05 #3), the novel is about Flashman's exploits during the Abyssinian war of 1868, so Canonical allusions are unlikely. FLASHMAN AND THE TIGER (Oct 99 #4) involved Colonel Sebastian Moran, with whom Flashman had three encounters (including one in an empty house in Baker Street in 1894).

Nov 05 #6 "Kate Martinelli has seen her share of weird things as a San Francisco cop, but never anything quite like this: an ornate Victorian sitting room straight out of Sherlock Holmes story--complete with violin, tobacco-filled Persian slipper, and gun shots in the wallpaper that spell out the name of the late queen. Philip Gilbert was a true Holmes fanatic, from his antiquated decor to his vintage wardrobe. And no mere fan of fiction's greatest detective, but a leading expert with a collection of priceless memorabilia--a collection some would die for. And perhaps someone did: in his collection is a century-old manuscript purportedly written by Holmes himself--that eerily echoes details of Gilbert's own murder."

That's the publisher's blurb for Laurie R. King's THE ART OF DETECTION, due from Bantam in June, reported in the November issue of Laurie's newsletter. Her blog at <www.laurierking.blogspot.com> includes a link to the newsletter, and a report on her recent joint appearance with Michael Chabon. For those unfamiliar with Laurie's work other than her Mary Russell series, the new book is in her series about Kate Martinelli, a modern-day San Francisco homicide inspector; the first novel in the Martinelli series, A GRAVE TALENT (1994), won Laurie an Edgar for best first novel.

It is interesting to compare Nick Rennison's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE UNAUTHORIZED BIOGRAPHY (London: Atlantic Books, 2005; 280 pp., £14.99) with William S. Baring-Gould's long-out-of-print biography SHERLOCK HOLMES (1962); they share very little, except the same cover photograph of William Gillette and the same approach to their subject. Rennison does not attempt to create a detailed chronology for all of Holmes' cases, and he dismisses some of the more fantastic Sherlockian scholarship as nonsensical; he also places Conan Doyle firmly in Holmes' world, which may be useful at a time when the general reader might be expected to know more about Conan Doyle than was true more than 40 years ago. Baring-Gould's biography was credible (many of us have encountered people who read it and confessed that they had not known that Sherlock Holmes was a real person), and it is quite likely that Rennison will have the same success. The "unauthorized" in the title is a fine touch, not because there's anything scandalous in the book but rather because it will tend to enforce its credibility with readers who may expect an authorized biography to be boring. Sherlock Holmes, of course, is never boring.

George Ault reports (and doesn't recommend) a shop called Mystery Pizza in Hobart, Ind., with menu items named in honor of various characters in mysteries. The Sherlock Holmes pizza has sausage, pepperoni, ham, mushrooms, green peppers, onion, and black olives; the Dr. Watson has classic Italian beef on a toasted homemade bun served with its own juice and pepperoncini on the side.

Further to the item (Oct 05 #2) on the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York on "The Perfect Medium: Photography and the Occult" (through Dec. 31), Susan Dahlinger reports that in addition to photographs of the Cottingley Fairies, there also is a photograph of Denis Conan Doyle taken about two weeks after his father's death by William Hope; the spirit of Sir Arthur appears above Denis' head and over his left shoulder. And in another photograph showing a stream of ectoplasm issuing from the nose of a medium, a benevolently smiling Conan Doyle appears in the ectoplasm.

Nov 05 #7 The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) offers Dayna McCausland's article about Lady Jean Conan Doyle's journal from her trip to North America in 1914, a report on Chris Redmond's Fifth Annual Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, and greetings from the new curator Peggy Purdue. Copies of the newsletter are available from Doug Wrigglesworth (16 Sunset Street, Holland Landing, ON L9N 1H4, Canada) <doug.wrig@sympatico.ca>.

The new mail-order catalog from the BBC America Shop (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043 (800-898-4921) <www.bbcamericashop.com> has DVD sets from the Granada series, "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" on DVD, and two exclusive offers: an attractive Sherlock Holmes ornament with the Paget illustration showing Holmes and Watson in the railway carriage (\$29.98), and a set of four 20-ounce Sherlock Holmes Pub Glasses (\$29.98). The web-site also has a Sherlock Holmes Mini Bar set (\$19.98).

Another Sherlockian cover, honoring this month's William Gillette Festival in Tryon, N.C., is available from Bob Reynolds (Box 311, Lynn, NC 28750); Morris, Tryon's mascot, is a horse sculpture, 12 feet high, and (during the Festival) wearing a deerstalker and smoking a Sherlockian pipe; the cover costs \$5.00 plus a SASE (or IRCs for foreign orders).

Don Hobbs has located what appears to be the only Sherlockian book translated into Maltese: SHERLOCK HOLMES U L-QAMPIENA TA' NOFS IL-LEJL [SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MIDNIGHT BELL]; it's a pastiche by David James that was published in English in 2000. The translation has 168 pp. and costs 3.75 Maltese lira (about \$11.03) plus shipping (\$10.00 to the U.S.); it's available from the Malta Online Bookshop (20 Triq ix-Xahda, M' Scala, ZBR10, Malta) <www.maltaonlinebookshop.com/cgi-bin/maltabooks/00273.html>.

Nov 05 #8 THE DOGS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by William S. Dorn, with illustra-

tions by Ian Malcolm Earls (Denver: Pencil Productions, 2005; 100 pp. \$16.95 postpaid to the U.S./\$17.95 to Canada/\$20.95 elsewhere), is an amusing collection of essays written (well, dictated) by 20 of the dogs who appear in the Canon, with their own (and quite often rather different) versions of what happened in the stories.

Reported: THE CHINA MYSTIQUE: PEARL S. BUCK, ANNA MAY WONG, MAYLING SOONG, AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF AMERICAN ORIENTALISM, by Karen J. Leong (Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 2005; 304 pp., \$55.00 cloth, \$21.95 paper); an academic to three famous Chinese women (Anna May Wong's film career included her appearance in "A Study in Scarlet" (1933). If you've forgotten who Mayling Soong was, she was better known as Madame Chiang Kai-shek.

Spotted by Andrew Blau: a Dressed Beagle by American Kennel Club and Steiff (item 843824, \$60.00) from FAO Schwarz at <www.fao.com>; "this beagle celebrates his proper English background in a tartan plaid overcoat and hat (14" long).

BBC-4 is planning an "Arthur Conan Doyle Season" at Christmas (Dec. 24-28), with documentaries that include "Arthur Conan Doyle for the Defence" (about the Edalji and Slater cases), "The Man who Loved Sherlock Holmes" ("about the strange but oddly compelling world of Holmes aficionados") "Time Shift: A Study in Sherlock" ("a trawl through various screen and television incarnations"), a repeat of "The Mysterious Affair of Sherlock Holmes and the Visionary Doctor" (1999), and older films and television shows, including Peter Cushing's "The Sign of Four" (1968).

Andrew Gulli continues to edit and publish his new Strand Magazine, and he offers his Sherlock Holmes 2006 Calendar, in full color with illustrations from the original and new Strands and other sources; Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012 (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.

"Pride & Prejudice" (Sep 05 #4) opened in the U.S. this month, and reviews have been enthusiastic, but only one of them seen so far has mentioned the location shooting at Groombridge Place (the inspiration for Birlstone Manor in "The Valley of Fear").

A diamond necklace/tiara owned by Dame Jean Conan Doyle will be at auction at Bonhams in London on Dec. 8, estimated at £10,000 to 15,000; late 19th century (circa 1890), set throughout with old brilliant and single-cut diamonds. Their web-site is at <www.bonhams.com>.

I reported earlier (Apr 04 #4) about Stanford University's Community Reading Project, which made Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities" available by mail and on the web in serial facsimile; they've done two other novels, and they are now getting ready to publish a collection of Sherlock Holmes stories as they appeared in The Strand Magazine. There is no charge for the mailings (although you are asked to donate to the project, and you can subscribe at <www.sherlockholmes.stanford.edu>.

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

Dec 05 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Add another event to the birthday festivities: The Beacon Society will hold its annual meeting on Friday at 3:00 pm on the second floor of the Algonquin Hotel, Scott Monty reports, "to bestow the third Beacon Award on a deserving nominee, review our progress in 2005, and discuss opportunities and plans for 2006."

Further to my review (Dec 04 #5) of Tom Mann's HORROR AND MYSTERY PHOTOPLAY EDITIONS AND MAGAZINE FICTIONIZATIONS: THE CATALOG OF A COLLECTION (Jefferson: McFarland, 2004; 184 pp., \$35.00), Tom repeats an anecdote told by radio historian Jim Harmon about Richard Gordon, who played Sherlock Holmes

on the radio in the 1930s: "Fellow radio actor and coincidentally writer of some Holmes pastiche novels Frank Thomas recalls Gordon as something of a John Barrymore type. Once walking down a street at an hour far too early in the day for an actor, Gordon urgently asked Thomas, 'what is that woman's name coming this way? Thomas looked. 'I don't believe I know her. why?' Gordon shuddered. 'I believe she was my third wife and I need to know how to address her if she speaks.'"

LE RAT GEANT DE SUMATRA is a French translation of Richard L. Boyer's 1976 pastiche (Paris: Editions Mycroft's Brother, 2003; 179 pp., E20.00); John Bennett Shaw enjoyed the pastiche (in English). The publisher is Thierry Saint-Joanis, at 2, impasse de la Serre, Saint-Julien, 632320 Montaigut-le-Blanc, France <www.mycrofts.net>, and he has a wide variety of Sherlockiana available in French.

The flier for "ACD at Thirty-Five" (celebrating the 35th anniversary of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) is now available, and there's an interesting schedule and a fine list of speakers; the event will be held on Oct. 19-22 next year. If you're not already on their mailing list, you can write to ACD@35 (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <acd35@sympatico.ca>.

According to the [London] Express, Rupert Everett (who starred in "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking") has rejected repeated overtures from the BBC to play Holmes again in a series of specials, because he would rather star in more up-to-date dramas. "I constantly suggest new things to the BBC," he said, "and they go, 'No, but do you want to do Holmes again?'"

The Oxford Bookworms Library offers a long list of stories adapted for language students, including SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE DUKE'S SON ["The Priory School"] and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SPORT OF KINGS (Silver Blaze); Oxford University Press, 64 pp., \$5.67 or L3.20.

One way to see which authors are important to collectors is to compare the prices: a copy of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine (July 1890) containing the first appearance of Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray" was offered at auction (in a lot with a copy of Conan Doyle's THE PARASITE) at Christie's in London on Nov. 30, estimated at L400-600, and it didn't sell; copies of that issue of the magazine are available at www.bookfinder.com with prices ranging from \$1,800 to \$2,600. Prices for copies of the Feb. 1890 issue (with "The Sign of the Four", range from \$8,500 to \$12,500.

Dec 05 #2 Christy Allen discovered <www.art.com>, where they offer reproductions of two illustrations of fairies by Richard Doyle, artwork by N. C. Wyeth from THE WHITE COMPANY, posters from Rathbone/Bruce movies, and an Andre Renoux print that shows The Sherlock Holmes in London. Barnes & Noble also offer a fine assortment of reproductions of attractive Sherlockian artwork; go to <www.bn.com> and search prints & posters.

Bob Thomalen reports that "Springtime in Baker Street" (Jun 05 #4), planned for Apr. 22-23 in 2006, has been moved to the Doubletree Hotel in Norwalk, Conn. More information is available from Bob (82 Highview Drive, Carmel, NY 10512 (845-225-2445) <the3garridebs@suscom.net>.

L. M. Goode, who supplied the information about the Paget oil painting (Nov 05 #4), has a web-site at <www.sidneypaget.com> with details on a new chapbook edition of "A Scandal in Bohemia" with the Paget illustrations in full color, and with a "trifling monograph" on Paget, and a portrait of Paget by Phil Cornell. \$18.98 postpaid; for those who lack Internet and PayPal access, checks payable to the Goode Press can be sent to Box 442, Greendale, WI 53129.

The Off-Broadway Theatre in Salt Lake City ("Utah's Longest Running Improv Comedy Troupe") will perform Cody K. Carlson's new play "The Adventures of Sheer-Luck Homes & Snotson" from Feb. 10 to Mar. 18. Their web-site is at

<www.theobt.com>. "It plays much more like Edmund Blackadder and Baldrick than Holmes and Watson," the playwright notes. "Nevertheless it is a parody of the Victorian sleuth, albeit with monsters, robots, and evil Frenchmen."

Howard B. Gottlieb died on Dec. 1. He spent more than forty years as an archivist at Boston University, gathering personal papers of more than 2,000 Americans and Europeans, including Isaac Asimov, Alistair Cooke, Robert L. Fish, Michael Harrison, Angela Lansbury, and Basil Rathbone. Many stories are told about his efforts to build the archives: a fine example is about CBS anchorman Dan Rather, who donated his papers in 1960 and had his secretary clear off his desk every Friday afternoon and send what she had gathered to Gottlieb.

Reported: Caleb Carr's pastiche THE ITALIAN SECRETARY (Apr 05 #5), read unabridged by Simon Prebble on 5 CDs (Simon and Schuster, \$43.50).

There's more news about Liberton Bank House, where Conan Doyle lived as a child (Nov 05 #1): the Cockburn Conservation Trust and the Dunedin School have secured a £100,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund; the Edinburgh Evening News reported (Dec. 6) that the rest of the funding to preserve the house is largely in place.

Noted by EV Herzog: Sherlock (The Game Where Memory and Deduction Are "Elementary"), with a hound in S'ian costume on the box (item 8002), in a catalog from Chinaberry, 2780 Via Orange Way, Spring Valley, CA 91978 (800-776-2242) <www.chinaberry.com>; \$9.95. And a Peterson Pipe and Zippo Lighter Gift Set, with a Janus-faced silhouette of Sherlock Holmes on the lighter (item 5736-030) in a catalog from Professional Cutlery Direct, 242 Branford Road, North Branford, CT 06471) (800-859-6994) <www.cutlery.com>; \$99.95.

Dec 05 #3 Stan Berenstain died on Nov. 26. With his wife Jan he created the Berenstain Bears in 1962, launching a series of children's books that became one of the most successful in children's literature; the series, with about 250 books, has sold more than 260 million copies and the Berenstain Bears have appeared in stage musicals, television series, video-cassettes, and toys. THE BEAR DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE MISSING PUMPKIN was published in 1975, with Detective Brother and Detective Sister appearing in Sherlockian costume; they've been seen in many later books, and in a set of figurines issued in 1985.

It seems quite worthwhile to check the \$1.00 bin at Wal-Mart: Jennie Paton discovered a "Cartoon Craze" DVD with Mutt and Jeff in "Slick Sleuths" from Digiview Productions (Aug 05 #5), and now she has found "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" (also from Digiview) with the 1985 animation starring Peter O'Toole as Sherlock Holmes.

Stephen Kempski has reported that the set of 5 DVDs with all 39 episodes of the 1954 Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" television series (Nov 05 #3) is available for \$14.99 from Heartland America (8085 Century Boulevard, Chanhassen, MN 55317 (800-229-2901) <www.heartlandamerica.com>. Also "The Best of Sherlock Holmes", a set of 25 CDs with 50 Rathbone/Bruce radio programs (\$19.99).

Clive James has written about Sherlock Holmes before; the Dec. 16 issue of the Times Literary Supplement has his report on his "literary education in sludge fiction" (kindly forwarded by Ken Lanza), in which James comments on Holmes' "appeal to generations of adolescent boys who couldn't keep their rooms tidy and whose laundry was done by their mothers - a point reinforced by the large number of adult males who even today make a cult of the Baker Street bohemian. Invariably the Sherlockologists are permanent adolescents retaining all the trainspotting tendencies of youth."

"Sherlock Holmes: The Missing Years" is a 14-minute video travelogue about where Holmes went during the Great Hiatus, created by Jane Hindsley (18559

Carpenter Street, Homewood, IL 60430 <jane@hindlseytranscriptions.com>; it is available on DVD for \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S., plus shipping elsewhere), and payment by credit card is welcome. It's a nice demonstration of what can be done with modern technology.

Don Dillistone spotted a story in the Los Angeles Times (Dec. 14) about a murder investigation, quoting police sgt. Rick Longshore: "You threw away the impossible, you dust off the implausible, and what you've got left is what you've got."

Jerry Neal Williamson ("The Illustrious Client") died on Dec. 8. He was a teen-ager when he founded The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis in 1947, and he went on to edit three Case-Books for the Clients, and, still a teen-ager, he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1950. He was an insurance company special agent, and a writer, with more than 30 horror and science-fiction novels to his credit; in one of his horror novels, THE TULPA (1981), his characters names echoed the names of Sherlockians, and one of his murder victims was Mike Whelan. Jerry was the senior surviving Investitured member of the BSI.

Dec 05 #4 The first issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the newsletter of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust) reports on The Baker Street Irregulars Archives, with Glen Miranker's excellent article on the Edgar W. Smith material he has donated to the Archives (and he quotes from Smith's correspondence with Vincent Starrett and Edith Meiser). You can request a copy of the newsletter from Julie McKuras (13512 Granada Avenue, Apple Valley, MN 55124) <mike9750@aol.com>.

The 25th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium will be held in Dayton on Mar. 10-12; Cathy Gill (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net> maintains the mailing list.

THE FORGOTTEN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by H. Paul Jeffers (New York: Carroll & Graf, 2005; 236 pp., \$14.95), is his third Sherlockian book (the others being THE ADVENTURE OF THE STALWART COMPANIONS and MURDER MOST IRREGULAR); this book offers 13 short stories adapted from radio scripts that were written by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green for the Rathbone/Bruce radio series in 1945 and 1946.

Robert Sheckley died on Dec. 9. He sold his first story in 1951 and played a major role in the development of modern science fiction; he edited an anthology AFTER THE FALL (1980) that included William F. Nolan's Sherlockian story "Sungrab".

Reported: Nancy Springer's THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS, from Penguin/Philomel in February (224 pp., \$10.99); "an Enola Holmes mystery" (Enola is the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock) for children aged 4-8. The author has won Edgars from the Mystery Writers of America in 1995 (best young adult) and in 1996 (best juvenile).

Pasquale Accardo's POETRY COULD BE VERSH: A CATENA OF CANONICAL LIMERICKS was published for the birthday celebrations in 2004; it will please those who enjoy limericks (and perhaps annoy those who don't), and the 71-page booklet costs \$10.00 (plus shipping) from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 204, Shelburne, ON L0N 1S0, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.

The Feb. 2006 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, offers editor Janet Hutchings' annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: there's nice cover art by Frederick Dorr Steele, Jon L. Breen's round-up of Sherlockian book reviews, and an amusing pastiche by Steve Hockensmith ("Wolves in Winter").

"Mary also said she likes Sherlock Holmes, Jeopardy, has a 'lovely family' and reads the newspaper to keep up with current events." That's Mary Johnson in Lapper, Mich., interviewed by the Lapeer County Press when she cele-

brated her 101st birthday.

John Sherwood spotted a news story about an exhibition of vaudeville material that includes a letterhead proclaiming the talents of Sherlock Holmes, "Premiere of Dogs", who "Thinks--Talks--and Acts." "Vaudeville Nation" opened at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in New York on Nov. 15, and will run through Apr. 1. There's much more information about the exhibition at <www.nypl.org/press/vaudeville.cfm>.

Dec 05 #5 The British press has reported the collapse of the world-famous gun-maker Webley & Scott, noting that their pistols were used to kill President Lincoln and Grigori Rasputin, that General Custer had a pair of them at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, and that they were used by Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The company has made only airguns since 1979. According to the FBI's report on their examination of Booth's pistol, it was a Deringer. And in case you're wondering about Holmes and Watson, there is no mention of a Webley in the Canon.

Jess Nevins' THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FANTASTIC VICTORIANA, with an introduction by Michael Moorcock (Austin: MonkeyBrain Books, 2005; 1200 pp., \$50.00), is an interesting exploration of the fantastic literature of the 19th century, and Conan Doyle is of course included, with entries for Irene Adler, Edward Bellingham, Jack Brocket, Micah Clarke, Brigadier Gerard, Sherlock Holmes, Sir Nigel Loring, Professor Moriarty, and Duncan Warner. And planned for 2006: Kim Newman's THE MAN FROM THE DIOGENES CLUB, set in the 1970s, much later than his Sherlockian pastiche ANNO DRACULA (Dec 92 #3).

Francine Kitts spotted a "Green Quote Tote Bag" at Barnes & Noble (\$14.95), with "25 quotations from timeless novels" printed on it. And of course one of the quotations is from the Canon: "Exactly, my dear Watson." The stores also have a (free) plastic bag with the same quotes.

Anna Quindlen's IMAGINED LONDON: A TOUR OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST FICTIONAL CITY (Washington: National Geographic Society, 2004; 192 pp., \$20.00) is a delightful book; "I have been to London too many times to count in the pages of books," she explains, "to Dickensian London rich with narrow alleyways and jocular street scoundrels, to the London of Conan Doyle and Margery Allingham with its salt-of-the-earth police officers and troubled aristocrats." Baker Street is only one of many places she visits, and anyone who has enjoyed London will enjoy this book.

And did you expect Barnes & Noble to quote Holmes as saying, "Elementary, my dear Watson"? He doesn't, of course, in any of the 60 Canonical tales. He does say "Exactly, my dear Watson" in three tales (one of them a novel): "The Missing Three-Quarter", "Wisteria Lodge", and "The Valley of Fear".

Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES has its first translation (so far only the first volume of a five-volume set): AS AVENTURAS DE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Rio de Janeiro: Jorge Zahar Editor, 2006; 494 pp., R\$89.50). Published in Brazil, it has been translated into Portuguese; the publisher has a web-site at <www.zahar.com.br>, and there's been no word on how long it will take to get the remaining four volumes out. Les reports that the Spanish rights have been sold, but that translation's still in the works.

The "Arthur Conan Doyle Season" broadcast on BBC-4 over Christmas (Nov 05 #8), and two new documentaries, "Conan Doyle for the Defence" (dealing with the George Edalji and Oscar Slater cases) and "The Man Who Loved Sherlock Holmes" (about Richard Lancelyn Green) were by far the most interesting of the programs; the second show included footage from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's recent excursion to Switzerland, and many interviews with Richard's family and friends. There has been no word of plans for broadcast in other countries, or release on cassettes and DVDs.

Dec 05 #6 The fall issue of the Tonga Times (published by the Mini-Tonga Scion Society) has news about the world of Sherlockian minia-

tures, including grand color photographs of Alice Baudet's version of 221 Baker Street, and a miniature version of the Agra treasure map. The newsletter (\$10.50 for three issues/\$11.50 to Canada/\$13.50 elsewhere) is published by Trish and Jay Pearlman (1656 East 19th Street #2-E, Brooklyn, NY 11229) <www.hometown.aol.com/minitongasociety/mini1.htm>.

The East Lynne Theater Company performed a radio-theater adaptation of "The Copper Beeches" (adapted by Gayle Stahlhuth) in Cape May, N.J. on Nov. 4-5, and there will be another production on Mar. 3-4. There's more information at their web-site <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

The weekly Standard likes to have a literary cover every once in a while, usually showing an author, and their "holiday reading" issue has Sherlockian artwork (Dec. 12), which you can see in full color at their web-site <www.weeklystandard.com> (click on "recent issues"); there's nothing Sherlockian inside the magazine. The artist is Mark Summers, whose earlier Sherlockian work can be seen in the N.Y. Times Book Review (Jan. 4, 1987) and the Atlantic Monthly (Mar. 1987); you've also seen his work displayed prominently at Barnes & Noble. And his originals are available for purchase (the original for the cover is in the \$3,000-5,000 range); Richard Solomon is his agent, and has a web-site at <www.richardsolomon.com>.

The animations of the four long stories, with Peter O'Toole's providing the voice of Sherlock Holmes, were released (and broadcast) in the 1980s, and they are now available as "The Animated Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on a DVD (for \$7.95 plus shipping) from Wild Time Comics (703 Washington Street, South Attleboro, MA 02703) <wildtimecomics@aol.com>.

Phil Attwell notes that the winter 2005 catalog from Razamataz offers many Sherlock Holmes DVDs, and a 2-DVD set of "6 Classic 30s Thrillers" (L9.99) that includes Arthur Wontner's "Silver Blaze" (1937) and Raymond Massey's "The Speckled Band" (1931); it may be the first DVD of Massey's film. The company's address is Parkside, Avenue 2, Station Lane, Witney, Oxon. OX28 4YF, England <www.erazamataz.co.uk>.

Further to the report (Nov 05 #6) on Laurie R. King's THE ART OF DETECTION (her next Kate Martinelli novel), there's more information about the novel (and its Sherlockian content) at Laurie's web-site <www.laurierking.com>, and (to whet readers' appetites) the first chapter of the novel. The web-site has a link to her blog.

In an interview in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 18), Deborah Solomon asked Julian Barnes (author of ARTHUR & GEORGE): "Is Conan Doyle a sentimental favorite of yours?" Barnes replied: "Not at all. He just happened to come attached to the story. I would have been happier if the story had come attached to Rudyard Kipling, who is a much greater writer."

Dec 05 #7 Further to the item (Jul 05 #2) about Paul Spiring's proposal to exhume Fletcher Robinson's body in order to conduct an autopsy, a story in the Plymouth Western Morning News (Dec. 20) reports that Spiring believes that Fletcher Robinson died of entirely natural causes, and that "we're on the verge of drawing some conclusions which categorically refute the allegations that Conan Doyle stole the plot of 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' from Fletcher Robinson." And he said that it appears that Conan Doyle never met Fletcher Robinson's wife Gladys; so "if we accept that there was no adulterous relationship or conflict about authorship then there is no motive and the theory of murder must be dismissed."

The Mount Horeb Mustard Museum is located in Mount Horeb, Wis., and (yes) it's devoted to Barry Levinson's collection of mustards (people do collect

strange things). And they are sponsoring a Mustard Mystery Contest; they have posted the first chapter at their web-site <www.mustardweb.com>, and contestants are asked to write a second chapter, and there seems to be no requirement that the murderer be "Colonel Mustard, in the lavatory with a plunger." Nor that the mystery be Sherlockian. Thanks to Gayle Harris for reporting the existence of the museum and the contest.

Those who read the electronic text-only version of my newsletter had some trouble doing that in recent weeks, because Comcast's e-mail system seems to have been altered in a way that prevents me from inserting text into a message or into an attachment. I'm testing various work-arounds, and may be successful in getting the November issue to Sherlocktron and the mailing lists late, and the December issue on time.

Those who receive the ink-on-paper version (with occasional illustrations) likely are aware that our domestic postage rate will increase to 39c (from 37c) on Jan. 8; the circulation department will impose a modest increase on subscriptions and renewals at the end of January. International rates will increase also, but the postal service has not announced how much or when.

It has been a few months more than ten years, since I've published an explanation of just what the Spermaceti Press is, and since a reader of the ink-on-paper version has asked, here (again) is the reasoning that led to my choosing the name: Many years ago, when I wanted a whimsical name for the imaginary press from which my seasonal souvenirs were published (following in long Sherlockian tradition of devising interesting names for this sort of thing), it occurred to me that someone whose Investiture in the BSI was "Black Peter" and who lived (at that time) just down the road from Arrowhead, where Herman Melville wrote MOBY DICK, ought to be able to find a name that had something to do with whaling. Of course one wouldn't expect to find printing presses on whaling ships, but some research revealed that there used to be a spermaceti press, which was used for the final processing of whale oil into spermaceti, from which the finest candles were made. And there is just one surviving spermaceti press, preserved at the Nantucket Whaling Museum in Massachusetts, in the original building where in the 19th century millions of candles were made and exported all over the world. Now you know . . .

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