

Jan 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlock Holmes' 156th birthday was celebrated heartily in New York on Jan. 15, and others date during a never-boring long weekend that began with the traditional ASH Wednesday supper at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning (with the usual lunch at McSorley's).

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Williams Club on Thursday evening was Joan Winterkorn (archivist and appraiser for the British bookseller Bernard Quaritch), who spoke about evaluating the papers of seven generations of Conan Doyle's publisher John Murray.

The Beacon Society held its annual meeting at the Algonquin on Friday morning (the group's mission is to encourage and recognize programs that introduce young people to Holmes), and the William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's featured The Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in a reprise of their imaginative "Holmes in the Nursery". The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the Jan WHIMSEY award (in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) for the most whimsical piece published in The Serpentine Muse last year; the winner was Philip Shreffler, who received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop offered the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI's annual dinner at the Yale Club, with Jerry Margolin offering the first toast to Karen Gurian as \*The Woman\*. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, and Nils Nordberg's proposal that Sherlock Holmes was Norwegian, a report by Hartley Nathan on an authentic Penang lawyer that security concerns prevented him from bringing onto the plane in Canada, Sue Vizoskie's discussion of what might have happened in Sherlock Holmes had been a woman, and a toast to Old Irregular Bill Rabe, singing of "Aunt Clara" by Henry Boote to the original music that was composed by Bud Willis in 1936, followed by a performance by Ray Jessel (who was one of the authors of the musical "Baker Street").

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Tom Cynkin ("Lord Bellinger"), Pj Doyle ("Ettie Shafter"), Sir Christopher Frayling ("Vernet"), Patricia Guy ("Imperial Tokay"), Laurie King ("The Red Circle"), Sarah Montague ("Violet Smith"), Daniel Polvere ("Holloway and Steele"), Sally Sugarman ("The Three Gables"), and Maria Carmen Veiga-Hayzen ("Isadora Klein").

Mike also presented the BSI's Two-Shilling Award (for extraordinary devotion to the cause beyond the call of duty) to John Bergquist, Bob Coghill, and Steve Doyle; and Editor's Medals were awarded to John Bergquist, Susan Dahlinger, Glen Miranker, Gianluca Salvatore, and the late Paul Jeffers in recognition of their services in editing books and Christmas Annuals published by the BSI. Mike also presented an engraved crystal vase to Freda Howlett, recognizing her as co-founder, honorary member, and past president of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

The Gaslight Gala, held as usual at the Manhattan Club, celebrated "Poisons

Jan 01 #2 in the Canon" with toasts and songs (including a performance by Cynthia and Richard Wein's of Warren Randall's "You've Got to Pick a Poison or Two"), plus a skit (Warren Randall's "Watson's Agency, or a Case of Double Indemnity" acted by Elyse Locurto and Don Hobbs), a quiz game (Donny Zaldin's "Who Wants to Be a Sherlockian Millionaire"), and other entertainment.

On Saturday morning the dealers room at the Algonquin welcomed (as usual) sellers and buyers, and at 10:30 The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (devotees of the works of both Wodehouse and Watson) gathered for their Junior Bloodstain, which featured a dramatic reading of Anne Cotton's script for "Sher-

lock Holmes and the Sure Thing".

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon cocktail party was again at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, with wining, dining, and conversation in the Great Hall, and entertainment in the Meeting Room: Mary Ann Bradley introduced ladies present who had been honored by the BSI as \*The Woman\*, and Al and Betsy Rosenblatt reported poetically on the events of the previous year and of the previous evening.

Mike Berdan was announced as the 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 "Holmes Alone: Glimpses of Post-Watson Baker Street in 'The Mazarin Stone'". And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets by June Kinnee, Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi for a bottle of vintage (and well traveled Madeira donated by Patricia Guy <[www.patriciaguy.com](http://www.patriciaguy.com)>).

The Dr. John H. 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 be unable to participate in the birthday festivities. The generous donors to this year's auction were The Denizens of the Bar of Gold (a pillow hand-crafted and decorated by Alice Zalik that commemorated "The Abbey Grange", Joseph Coppola (a diploma issued by the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and signed by the father of Joseph Bell), The Curious Collectors of Baker Street and Jerry and Chrys Kegley (a set of five medals crafted by Maggie Schpak), Chuck Kovacic of Baker Street Los Angeles (posters and fake lottery tickets for Guy Ritchie's new film), and Scott Monty (the annual-dinner packet he left behind at the Yale Club and kindly bought back from the Fund).

There was an informal "The One Fixed Point Dinner" at Kennedy's on Saturday evening, with the traditional reading from Ogden Nash's work and the traditional toasts ("the Guinness flowed like wine," one of the participants has reported); and on Sunday a brunch arranged by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 7, 2011. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner will be on Jan. 15, 2011.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; if you want more details than I've provided here, you can visit Scott Monty's well-illustrated blog

Jan 10 #3 at <[www.bakerstreetblog.com](http://www.bakerstreetblog.com)>, or wait for the reports that will be published in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal.

The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$37.50 (to the U.S.) or \$47.50 (international); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331), and credit-card payments are accepted from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>, which also has interesting features such as some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, articles from recent issues of the BSJ, and information on the BSI's other publications.

Al Gregory <[gaslightandfog@earthlink.net](mailto:gaslightandfog@earthlink.net)> offers (by e-mail only) his 2010 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).

Highly recommended: "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" is a set of four DVDs issued by Acorn Media last year (\$59.99) with the 13 programs in the first series broadcast by ITV in 1971. The series was based on the anthology edited by Hugh Greene, and featured excellent performances by fine actors in good stories, including John Neville as Dr. John Thorndyke, Robert Stephens as Max Carrados, Roy Dotrice as Simon Carne, Peter Vaughan as Horace Dorr-

ington, and Donald Pleasance as Carnacki. It will be nice indeed if Acorn Media follows up with the second season.

Donald J. Terras (whose Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars is "The Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant") presides over the Grosse Point Light Station near Chicago, and lives in the keeper's quarters (the station is still in operation as a private aid to navigation on Lake Michigan). And he happily reports that the federal government has awarded \$165,000 to help preserve the lighthouse.

David Levine died on Dec. 29. His artistic caricatures were a trademark for the New York Review of Books, which published more than 3,800 of his drawings over 40 years. His work appeared on the cover of Time, and in many other magazines and newspapers, and his art is in the permanent collections of the Library of Congress and the National Portrait Gallery in London. His subjects included both Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes; this portrait of Conan Doyle appeared in the New York Review of Books on Aug. 17, 1978, accompanying Julian Symons' long review of Michael Dibdin's THE LAST SHERLOCK HOLMES STORY.

William Safire's death (Oct 01 #1) has not ended his interesting N.Y. Times column "On Language": Erin McKean wrote (Dec. 17, 2009) about wordnik.com, a new on-line dictionary (she's its founder and chief executive) that "uses text-mining techniques and the unlimited space of the Internet to show as many real examples of word use as we can, as fast as we can." The URL is <[www.wordnik.com](http://www.wordnik.com)>, and there are (as I write this) 300 million example sentences, 4.7 million unique words, and 29,177 wordniks who contribute. You are welcome to join their ranks, if only to add to the examples for Sherlock, Sherlock, and Sherlock's (or for Moriarty, Moriarty, and Moriarty's).

Jan 10 #4 Phillip Bergem has compiled two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean television programs, with more than 800 entries, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles. It's available by e-mail from Phil <[pbergem@att.net](mailto:pbergem@att.net)> as a PDF or Excel file.

This year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library will be given by Peter Calamai on May 29, and the Friends have announced that a "revitalization" of the Library will involve creation of a new Special Collections Centre on the 5th floor that will allow access to the Arthur Conan Doyle Room whenever the Library is open.

Further to the item (Jul 09 #4) on the statue of Sherlock Holmes in Edinburgh, the Scotsman has reported (Dec. 21) that planning calls for development of Picardy Place as a public square that will include a new hotel, part of a £850 million commercial development. There's no word on where the statue now in storage will wind up.

The "Sherlock Holmes weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 19-21, 2010 will offer a new Sherlockian mystery ("The Case of the Demons in a Padded Room") written by John K. Alvarez. The weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years, and there's more information at the festival web-site at <[www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html](http://www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html)>, and from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278).

"The membership of Holmes societies around the world is of high intellectual caliber," Theodore Dalrymple suggests in a long piece on "The Eternal Detective" in the National Review (Dec. 31, 2009). "Their publications are learned and ingenious. Never is pedantry more joyously or innocently employed, for example, than in the ferreting out of the details of the biography of Sherlock Holmes (and Dr. Watson, of course)."

Donal Donnelly died on Jan. 4. He described himself as "an itinerant Irish actor," and had a long career on stage, screen, and television. He played a fine Watson to Frank Langella's Holmes in "Sherlock's Last Case" in Washington and New York in 1987.

The series of Sherlockian mystery jigsaw puzzles was launched quite a few years ago (Mar 96 #3), and two of the 1000-piece puzzles ("The Kent Chapel Murder" and "Watson's Inheritance") are back, with a twist: they're now bilingual, with English and French booklets in each puzzle box (\$29.99); you "assemble the puzzle, read the mystery booklet, search for clues, and solve the crime!"

Will Thomas reports that the Bartitsu Forum is receiving increased attention, thanks to Guy Ritchie's new "Sherlock Holmes"; the Bartitsu Society's web-site at <[www.bartitsu.org](http://www.bartitsu.org)> offers an interesting interview with Richard Ryan, who choreographed the fight scenes in the film. There's also a link to a 4-minute preview of an up-coming documentary ("Bartitsu: The Lost Martial Art of Sherlock Holmes") about E. W. Barton-Wright's "new art of self-defense" that Watson may well have misheard or misspelled when he told his readers what Holmes said about baritsu in "The Empty House".

Jan 10 #5 The January-February issue of Dollhouse Miniatures (successor to Nutshell News) has an interesting and well-illustrated article by Deb Weissler about her Sherlockian room box. And the magazine is honoring the 30th anniversary of the founding of The Mini-Tonga Scion Society with a new room-box contest, open to all miniaturists and collectors; you should submit one or more photographs of your Sherlockian room box with a brief description (up to 250 words) to the magazine (68132 250th Avenue, Kasson, MN 59994) <[kim@dhminiatures.com](mailto:kim@dhminiatures.com)>, and the contest deadline is Mar. 10). The magazine costs \$6.95 (866-606-6587) <[www.dhminiatures.com](http://www.dhminiatures.com)>.

The 2009 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 48 pages of scholarship and occasional whimsy; the scholarship includes Terri Haugen's report on the research by the late Samuel C. Fry for his paper "The Influence of Mr. Sherlock Holmes on Twentieth Century Arctic Exploration". \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), with checks payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles, from Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. Their 2007 annual also is available, with 290 pages celebrating the society's 25th anniversary with a compilation of the best material published in earlier issues; the cost is \$24.95 postpaid to the U.S. (\$27.95 to Canada, \$35.95 elsewhere).

L'HOMME QUI ETAIT SHERLOCK HOLMES: UNE BIOGRAPHIE DU DOCTEUR JOE BELL (Paris: Editions Baker Street, 2009; 355 pp., E21.00) is the French translation of Ely Liebow's DR. JOE BELL: MODEL FOR SHERLOCK HOLMES (1982), and it is nicely done indeed, with a new preface by Thierry Saint-Joanis; it's interesting to see that it has been "traduit de l'americain" (the French obviously are aware that Yanks and Brits don't use the same language). You can buy the book easily at <[www.amazon.fr](http://www.amazon.fr)>.

Patrick Stewart was knighted by the Queen in her New Year's Honours List, for services to drama. As Captain Jean-Luc Picard he commanded the Enterprise in the series "Star Trek: The Next Generation", and in "Lonely Among Us" (1987) he mentioned "the immortal Sherlock Holmes" (this was the first episode of the series to pay tribute to Holmes).

Watson's Tin Box will host their third "Scintillation of Scions" at Claret House in Clarksville, Md., on Aug. 28, with the intent of bringing together members of mid-Atlantic (and east-coast) Sherlockian societies for "an afternoon of fun, scholarship, and social time." It's an entertaining gathering, and additional information is available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <[www.watsonstinbox.org](http://www.watsonstinbox.org)>.

Alastair B. Martin ("Colonel Sebastian Moran") died on Jan. 12. He was an art collector, and chairman of the Brooklyn Museum from 1984 to 1989, and a

devotee of tennis, many times an amateur champion in court tennis (the game dating back to the Middle Ages and played on walled courts) and in the more modern United States Open; as president of the U.S. Lawn Tennis Association he supported opening its amateurs-only tournaments to professionals. And he was a Sherlockian: he was a member of the Five Orange Pips of Westchester County, and he owned the four surviving pages of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" and first contributed to The Baker Street Journal in 1970 with a paper suggesting that Moriarty was a woman. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1972.

Jan 10 #6 "During one of the Church of England's more gruesome civil wars recently, I happened to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury at a literary festival," A. N. Wilson wrote in the December issue of the British edition of the Reader's Digest. "I asked how he managed to stay sane. 'I just keep reading the Sherlock Holmes stories,' he said." The article was titled "Sherlock Holmes: What \*Is\* the Secret of His Success?"

"Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a new DVD released on Jan. 26 by The Asylum Home Entertainment (\$24.95), nicely timed to benefit from the attention given to Guy Ritchie's film. This one's billed as "an explosive, creature-filled mystery adventure in the vein of Harry Potter and Hellboy," and it's a low-budget film produced last year in Wales. Sherlock Holmes is played by Ben Snyder and Watson by David Gareth-Lloyd, and they're supported by a cast that includes a sea monster, dinosaurs, fantastic steam-punk machinery and a robot; the film's not to be taken seriously (the box for the DVD carries a warning that it "contains scene of creature and sci-fi action"), and there is more about the film (and the company) at <www.theasylum.cc>. "Attack of the Clones" is a long and interesting article by Brian Raftery about The Asylum that appeared in the January issue of Wired; according to Raftery, the company's planning to make "a meteor film, an airplane-disaster movie, a western, and something called 'MILF'."

Tim O'Connor reports that "The Sherlock Holmes Collection" (a two-sided DVD from Echo Bridge Entertainment in 2009) has three of the Matt Frewer television films ("The Hound of the Baskervilles"/"The Case of the Whitechapel Vam Vampire"/"The Royal Scandal") in a box with artwork echoing the colors of the posters for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" (sold on discount racks at Target for \$5.00). And there's a variant with more sedate generic artwork in black and white (sold on discount racks at Walmart for \$5.00).

"Majoring in the Memoirs" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 17-18; their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@aol.com>.

The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2009" includes Timothy Reich's amusing "A Theft Forgiven: A Newspaper Vendor's Letter to Watson", Robert Brusic's "A Baker Street Visit from St. Nicholas", and other entertainment and scholarship; the 50-page booklet is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122) for \$8.00 postpaid (please make checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers).

Reported: Michael Chabon's MANHOOD FOR AMATEURS: THE PLEASURES AND REGRETS OF A HUSBAND, FATHER, AND SON (New York: Harper, 2009; 320 pp., \$25.99) includes an essay titled "The Ghost of Irene Adler" (not really Sherlockian).

There's a new date for the conference planned by The Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis (May 09 #1): "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" will be held on Aug. 6-8 at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota. You can enroll on the mailing list by contacting Gary Thaden (2301 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404) <norwegianexplorers@gmail.com>. The conferences have been held every three years, with interesting events and good attendance.

Jan 10 #7 "Sherlock Holmes. Duration: 2 hours and 6 minutes. Can you hold

it that long?" Kelly Blau discovered <[www.runpee.com](http://www.runpee.com)>, a web-site devoted to "helping your bladder enjoy going to the movies as much as you do." "Sherlock Holmes" is one of the films, with synopses provided for four points recommended by the site for bathroom breaks.

Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" obviously is a commercial success: according to the Box Office Mojo web-site, as of Jan. 27 (32 days after the film opened, the film had grossed \$389.1 million worldwide (\$192.1 million domestic and \$197.0 million foreign), and ranked #121 in the list of biggest grossing films ("Avatar" is #1 with \$1.878 billion, and "Titanic" is 2 with \$1.848 billion). And the attention devoted to the film has had some interesting side-effects: reviews and side-bar stories included interviews with local Sherlockians and publicity for local Sherlockian societies, and (according to the Hollywood Reporter) sales of the MPI Media set of "Sherlock Holmes" DVDs increased by nearly one-third in the first week after the film's release.

Dennis Palumbo, blogging about the film to the Huffington Post on Jan. 5, recalled and told once again the famous (perhaps infamous) "tent joke" that was posted to The Hounds of the Internet in July 1998 and apparently first published in the Nov. 1998 issue of the Reader's Digest. I've reported the full text of the joke some years ago (Dec 01 #6); I won't reprint it here.

"Sherlock Holmes (well-cut trenches) meets Edwardian dandy (slick, elegant, eight-button double-breasted suits) meets...Hong Kong Phooey? (silk boxer briefs)." That's GQ's description of John Galliano's fall 2010 collection, unveiled in Paris this month; thanks to Mitch Higurashi for a URL that has lots of photographs <[www.gq.com/fashion-shows/brief/F2010MEN-JGMEN](http://www.gq.com/fashion-shows/brief/F2010MEN-JGMEN)>. One suspects, of course, that Galliano was inspired by the Guy Ritchie film.

Robert Downey Jr. received the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe Award for best performance as an actor in a motion picture (musical or comedy) for his performance in "Sherlock Holmes" (winning over Matt Damon, Daniel Day-Lewis, Joseph Gordon Levitt, and Michael Stuhlborg), and in his acceptance speech (one of the more interesting during the evening) he quoted the Canon: "Art in the blood is liable to take the strangest forms," he said, noting that the Hollywood Foreign Press Association is a "strange bunch."

The Critics' Choice Awards (bestowed by the Broadcast Film Critics Association) included a nomination for Hans Zimmer ("Sherlock Holmes"); the winner in the category was Michael Giacchino ("Up"); nominations were announced on Dec. 14, and the awards were made on Jan. 15.

Jacquelynn Morris reports that Laurie R. King will speak (and sign books) at East Columbia Branch of the Howard County Library at 5:00 pm on Apr. 30; 6000 Cradlerock way, Columbia, MD 21045. More information will be available at <[www.hclibrary.com](http://www.hclibrary.com)>. Laurie will be on tour promoting the new Mary Russell novel THE GOD OF THE HIVE.

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Feb 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The papers presented at "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: A Sesquicentennial Symposium" at the Houghton Library at Harvard last May have been published as PAPERS AT AN EXHIBITION, and it is a delightful volume, with 14 papers about Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and Sherlockians, and a full-color dust jacket showing a portrait of Holmes by Frederic Dorr Steele. \$38.95 postpaid to the U.S. (or \$49.50 elsewhere) from The Baker Street Irregulars (3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953) <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>.

Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (originally commissioned by Jeremy Brett in 1988) will be performed at the People's Light & Theatre,

from July 7 through Aug. 8; 39 Conestoga Road, Malvern, PA 19355 (610-544-3500) <[www.peopleslight.org](http://www.peopleslight.org)>.

Spotted by Joan Betzner: THE GRAPHIC NOVEL ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Vincent Goodwin, from the ABDOPUBLISHING Co.; six titles, \$28.50 each, tgfkm, \$19.95 each at the company's web-site <[www.abdopub.com](http://www.abdopub.com)>; you can also request a catalog (8000 West 78th Street #310, Edina, MN 55439 (800-800-1312)).

THE CARLTON HOBBS SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTION (BBC Audiobooks, 2010; L30.00) is a set of three CDs with twelve programs from the old 30-minute Carlton Hobbs/Norman Shelley series and new introductions by Nicholas Utechin, that were broadcast by BBC Digital Radio 7 in 2004; Hobbs and Shelley did (and Utechin does) well indeed.

There's a trailer for The Asylum's DVD "Sherlock Holmes" (Jan 10 #6); Lloyd Rose spotted it at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbJgOYUapRT](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbJgOYUapRT)>.

Catherine Wynne discusses the connections, both literary and personal, between Arthur Conan Doyle and Bram Stoker, in her interesting introduction to a new reprint of Conan Doyle's THE PARASITE and Stoker's THE WATTER'S MOU' (Kansas City: Valancourt Books, 2009, 163 pp., \$16.95); the book also reprints Conan Doyle's "John Barrington Cowles", Stoker's "The Coming of Abel Behenna", and an interview written by Stoker after a visit with Conan Doyle at Hindhead in 1907, and offers a fine look at authors who are much better known for Sherlock Holmes and Dracula. Valancourt has reprinted two other books by Conan Doyle, and has many other authors in print; their web-site's at <[www.valancourtbooks.com](http://www.valancourtbooks.com)>.

Frogwares' latest Sherlockian adventure game for computers "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" was released last year (Apr 09 #7); Dreamcatcher plans to release the game for Xbox 360 in March. There are screen shots and much more at <[www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh](http://www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/sh)>.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Dana Richards' "50 Years Ago" discussion of Martin Gardner, accompanied by Gardner's "Remembering John Bennett Shaw", Russell Merritt's reminiscences about Chris Steinbrunner, and other news from and about the Collections; 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](mailto:sveum001@tc.umn.edu)>.

Feb 10 #2 Jeff Katz has reported an 87th language for translations of the Canon: HANETA is A STUDY IN SCARLET translated into Tigrigna (a language in Eritrea). It's available from Ibex (a Swedish on-line company that specializes in African books) for 125kr (about \$17.50); you can order at <[www.ibexbook.com/book/haneta](http://www.ibexbook.com/book/haneta)>. The new discovery will be listed in the next edition of THE GALACTIC SHERLOCK HOLMES, Don Hobbs' electronic bibliography of translations; a one-year subscription (with two to three up-dated CDs) costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere), from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028.

The Westport Community Theatre has scheduled F. Andrew Leslie's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for Apr. 9-21; Town Hall, Westport, CT 06880 (203-226-1983) <[www.westportcommunitytheatre.com](http://www.westportcommunitytheatre.com)>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (to be awarded at their gala banquet on Apr. 29 in New York). The nominees include (best juvenile) Nancy's Springer's THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE, (the latest in her series featuring Sherlock Holmes' younger sister Enola). The MWA web-site <[www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/nominees07.htm](http://www.mysterywriters.org/pages/awards/nominees07.htm)> lists the nominees in all the categories.

YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD is the title of the first book in Andrew Lane's new series for children (Apr 09 #7); it's due from Macmillan in the

UK on June 4, and there's a one-minute trailer at <[www.youngsherlock.com](http://www.youngsherlock.com)>.

"Walk in the footsteps of Sherlock Holmes," advises MC Black, who offers to guide visitors to appropriate Canonical locales, with the price discounted to £5.00 for those who say the magic word [scuttlebutt]. He has a web-site at <[www.detectivewalks.co.uk](http://www.detectivewalks.co.uk)>, and he's at Hardknott, Chadwell, Ware, Hertfordshire SG12 9JY, England <[info@detectivewalks.co.uk](mailto:info@detectivewalks.co.uk)>.

Sorry about that: the correct dates for the conference ("Spirits of Sherlock Holmes") planned by the Norwegian Explorers in Minneapolis (Jan 10 #6) at Aug. 6-8.

Francine Kitts reports that there's a third Sherlockian mystery jigsaw (Jan 10 #4): it's "The Case of the Fallen Actress" and she discovered all three of them priced at \$2.99 each at her local Christmas Tree Shop (which is a discount-store chain that seems to be open throughout the year).

Boa Sr. died this month. She was 85 years old, a member of the Great Andamense tribe, and the last person to be able to speak Bo, one of the ancient tribal dialects in the Andaman Islands; it is not known whether Tonga was a speaker of Bo, but (thanks to the BBC) you can listen to a recording of Boa Sr. speaking Bo <[news.bbc.co.uk/today/h/today/newsid\\_8499000/8499752.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/h/today/newsid_8499000/8499752.stm)>.

THE FRENCH ARTILLERY OFFICER, by Lawrence Fischman (Dallas: Gram's Group, 2009; 491 pp., \$26.95 cloth/\$18.95 paper) is billed as "a Sherlock Holmes/John Watson adventure" and offers plenty for both of them to do, working to help save Alfred Dreyfus from a second conviction, and involved with Winston Churchill, La belle Otero, Auguste Escoffier, Cesar Ritz, Mycroft, and a variety of villains of various nationalities and allegiances; you can order on-line at <[www.thefrenchartilleryofficer.com](http://www.thefrenchartilleryofficer.com)>.

Feb 10 #3 It's nice news indeed that "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes: Set 2" will be issued by Acorn Media in March with the second set of 13 programs that were broadcast in the U.S. in 1972 and in the U.K. in 1973 (\$59.99). As with the first set (Jan 10 #3), there are excellent performances by actors who include Douglas Wilmer (Prof. Augustus S. F. X. Van Dusen), Charles Gray (Eugene Valmont), Barrie Ingham (Dr. John Thorndyke), and John Thaw (Lieutenant Holst).

SHERLOCK HOLMES CASEBOOK: FAMOUS CRIME SCENES, a series of attractive artwork by Larry Gosser, now runs to nine scenes (\$9.95 each). and you can see them all in full color at his web-site <[www.drawingroomg.com](http://www.drawingroomg.com)>; just click on "gallery" to see his Sherlockian and other art.

"Is It Inevitable, My Dear Watson?" was the headline on Lenny Picker's informative article in Publishers Weekly (Jan. 18), reflecting on the likelihood of another "boom" resulting from all the attention that has been given to Guy Ritchie's new film; you can read all about it at their web-site at <[www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6715287.html](http://www.publishersweekly.com/article/CA6715287.html)>.

Rod Mollise's web-site <[skywatch.brainiac.com/holmes/index.htm](http://skywatch.brainiac.com/holmes/index.htm)> is an interesting "Homage to the Master"; he offers newly annotated versions of the first eight short stories, and his paper on "The Erotic Hound: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as a Text of Pleasure".

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: A SHERLOCK HOLMES GRAPHIC NOVEL is the first in a new series adapted by Ian Edginton and illustrated by I. N. J. Culbard (London: SelfMadeHero, 2009; 132 pp., £14.99); it's nicely done, with fine artwork, and there's an American edition from Sterling (\$14.95). A STUDY IN SCARLET is next, followed by THE SIGN OF FOUR and THE VALLEY OF FEAR.

The Falls Players will perform Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the Lunda Theater Stage on Apr. 16-18; Box 371, Black River Falls, WI 54615 (715-896-4123) <[www.fallsplayers.org](http://www.fallsplayers.org)>.



The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at [www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times10-1.htm](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-1.htm), with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including a CD with Joel Senter's radio drama "The Golf Stroker's Quirk" from its premiere performance during the Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, Wis., in 1996.

"Lively and cogent speculations on the life and times of Sherlock Holmes, including a new theory on the site of 221B," was Edgar W. Smith's description of Gavin Brend's *MY DEAR HOLMES* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1951). Francine and Richard Kitts have found mint copies of the second impression of this classic, in dust jacket, and are offering them for \$30.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$35.00 elsewhere); you can contact Francine at 35 Van Cortlandt Avenue, Staten Island, NY 10301 [fkitts@aol.com](mailto:fkitts@aol.com).

The script for K. C. Brown's play "Sherlock's Veiled Secret" has been published by the Dramatists Play Service (440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016) [www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com); \$5.25 plus postage. The play is set in 1920, when young Violet Sheridan discovers she has a family connection to Sherlock Holmes and collaborates with him on a case involving blackmail.

Feb 10 #4 THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION: AN ELEMENTARY GUIDE, by Daniel Smith (London: Aurum Press, 2009; 192 pp., £20.00/\$27.95), is an interesting, attractive, and useful book; he offers summaries for each of the stories (without spoilers), essays on Conan Doyle and Holmes and the Canon, interviews with actors and authors, and a wealth of artwork and illustrations. It's an excellent demonstration of how much fun the world of Sherlock Holmes can be.

The detailed schedule and registration form for "Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds" (to be held at Bennington College in Bennington, Vt., June 24-27, 2010) is now available from Sally Sugarman (Box 407, Shaftsbury, VT 05262) and at [www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.com](http://www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.com).

The March issue of *Playboy* has a Sherlockian cartoon by Clive Colins, and news of GAHAN WILSON: 50 YEARS OF PLAYBOY CARTOONS (Seattle: Fantagraphics Books, 2010; 942 pp., \$125.00); three volumes in a slipcase, with introductions by Neil Gaiman and Hugh Hefner. Gahan's first Sherlockian contribution to *Playboy* was in the Dec. 1959 issue, and he has had many S'ian cartoons in later issues.

Ken Lanza found a new Sherlockian first day cover for the new "Seabiscuit" stamped envelope created by Tris Fall at Baker Street Cachets, which began last year with the Edgar Allan Poe stamp and now has four different covers available [www.tinyurl.com/ycbcyzu](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycbcyzu).

Malice Domestic has reported that Nancy Springer's *THE CASE OF THE CRYPTIC CRINOLINE*, the fifth in her series featuring Enola Holmes, 14 years old and the younger sister of Mycroft and Sherlock, has been nominated for an Agatha (best children's/young adult novel); the winners will be announced at the convention banquet on May 1.

The comic book mini-series *VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES* has reached its third issue (March, \$2.99 from Wildstorm), with an interesting story by Ian Edginton and fine artwork by Davide Fabbri; there are previews at the web-site [www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics/?cm=13662](http://www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics/?cm=13662).

Pj Doyle reports: "Fringe's annual 'Five Fifths of...' is tackling a Sherlock Holmes story this year." That's the Minnesota Fringe, and the event will be at the Ritz Theatre in Minneapolis on May 3; the Fringe has invited five different performing arts companies to "tear apart and piece back one of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's stories" More information will be available at [www.fringefestival.com](http://www.fringefestival.com).

Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* has added podcasts to its web-site, and one of them is Steve Hockensmith and Michael Wiltrout reading Steve's "Dear Dr.

watson" (from the Feb. 2007 issue). Go to <[www.themysteryplace.com/eqmm](http://www.themysteryplace.com/eqmm)> and scroll down to the podcast link.

Michael Procter has discovered Retrovision Internet TV, a web-site that has a wide variety of films and television programs that you can watch on-line at <[www.retrovision.tv](http://www.retrovision.tv)>; the Sherlockian offerings range from Arthur Wontner's "The Sleeping Cardinal" (1931) to Christopher Lee's "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1992).

Feb 10 #5 DREAMS OF FUTURE PAST: THE SCIENCE FICTION WORLDS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND H. G. WELLS, by Dana Martin Batory (Indianapolis: Wessex Press, 2010; 141 pp., \$13.95), is a collection of essays published in the 1980s and 1990s in hard-to-find magazines such as Riverside Quarterly and The Age of the Unicorn, and Batory offers interesting insights into the work of Conan Doyle and Wells. The publisher's address is: Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>.

The Baker Street Irregulars were born and nurtured in the pages of the Saturday Review of Literature, but the SRL was not the first American literary magazine to aid and abet Sherlockians: The Bookman came first, and did so during its entire history from 1895 to 1933. The editors (Harry Thurston Peck and Arthur Bartlett Maurice) debated "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as each episode was published in the American edition of The Strand Magazine, and in Feb. 1903 an editor described a contributor to The Bookman's Letter-Box as a "true Sherlockian," the first known usage of the word. And over the years The Bookman published commentary, articles (by authors that included Arthur Conan Doyle and Vincent Starrett), and pastiches and parodies (by Charlton Andrews, Corey Ford, and others). SHERLOCK HOLMES, CONAN DOYLE & THE BOOKMAN, edited and annotated by S. E. Dahlinger and Leslie S. Klinger (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2010; 271 pp., \$29.95), is a fascinating demonstration of just how much Sherlockians and Doyleans owe to The Bookman. Gasogene Books is an imprint of the Wessex Press; see above for the publisher's address.

Forecast for March (from Doubleday): THE DEVIL AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: TALES OF MURDER, MADNESS, AND OBSESSION, by David Grann (352 pp., \$26.95) (and from Simon & Schuster in the U.K., £12.99); Grann is a staff writer for The New Yorker, and the collection includes his 2004 article "Mysterious Circumstances" about the death of Richard Lancelyn Green.

There's a new 30-second animated Sherlockian commercial, for Red Bull, and you can watch it at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0FykOCcX1E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M0FykOCcX1E)>. There's also a Sherlockian puppet in two 1-minute commercials (Episodes 2 and 3) at <[www.nikebasketball.com](http://www.nikebasketball.com)>; check the "Crew" to see more of The Detective.

"Arthur & George" (the new play by David Edgar based on the novel by Julian Barnes about Conan Doyle and Edalji) will premiere at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre from Mar. 19 to Apr. 10 (Nov 09 #4), and will then move to the Nottingham Playhouse from Apr. 22 to May 8 (Wellington Circus, Nottingham, NG1 5AF, England (0115-941-0410) <[www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamplayhouse.co.uk)>

Spotted by Evy Herzog: COLOR YOUR OWN GRAPHIC NOVEL: SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, adapted and illustrated by John Green (Mineola: Dover Publications, 2009; 46 pp., \$4.99); an imaginative approach, and it's nicely executed. Dover also has issued SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS, by Tom Tierney (32 pp., \$9.99); Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Lestrade, and Irene Adler, with different costumes, and interchangeable heads for many actors who have played Holmes and Watson over the years. And a SHERLOCK HOLMES ACTIVITY BOOK, by David Schimmell (48 pp., \$4.99); 32 puzzles for young detectives. Also the SHERLOCK HOLMES STICKER ACTIVITY BOOK, by Arkady Roytman (4 pp., \$1.50); you create your own crime scenes with 20 reusable stickers. The publisher's web-site is at <[www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com)>.

Feb 10 #6 Forecast for April (from Bantam Books, 368 pp., \$25.00): Laurie R. King's THE GOD OF THE HIVE, her tenth Mary Russell/Sherlock

Holmes novel. There are excerpts from the novel at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>, weekly episodes of a new short story ("A Case of Correspondence"), contests (she's now well into "Twenty Weeks of Buzz!"), links to blogs (both ladies have their own blogs) and to Russell's tweets at <[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES - THE DEATH AND LIFE, a two-CD set from Big Finish (PO Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England) <[www.bigfinish.com](http://www.bigfinish.com)>, is a two-act play written by David Stuart Davies and performed by Roger Llewellyn in 2008 in Guildford, and then on tour. It's an imaginative script and a fine performance, and the CD set costs \$24.40 (or \$12.99 as a download); the set includes interviews with Llewellyn, Davies, and director Nicholas Briggs. SHERLOCK HOLMES - THE LAST ACT, written by Davies for Llewellyn and first performed in 1999 and then on tour, was recorded and issued last year on a similar two-CD set, available from Big Finish (same address, same price).

It's nice when radio station keep their program available in archives: Doug Wigglesworth and Karen Campbell were on the CBC series "Fresh Air" on Feb. 7 discussing the new film, Sherlock Holmes, Sherlockians, and The Bootmakers of Toronto, and you can listen to the 13-minute segment at the CBC web-site at <[www.cbc.ca/freshair/2010/02/sherlock\\_holmes\\_livesontario\\_m.htm](http://www.cbc.ca/freshair/2010/02/sherlock_holmes_livesontario_m.htm)>.

Martin Gardner is an entertaining and knowledgeable writer; there are Canonical allusions in his THE ANNOTATED CASEY AT THE BAT (1984) and THE ANNOTATED NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS (1991), and many other books, and his WHEN YOU WERE A TADPOLE AND I WAS A FISH: AND OTHER SPECULATIONS ABOUT THIS AND THAT (New York: Hill and Wang, 2009; 246 pp. \$26.00) is an interesting collection of essays about science, bogus science, mathematics, and other topics; Conan Doyle appears in two essays, both about bogus science.

Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" won two Oscar nominations: Sarah Greenwood and Katie Spencer (best art direction) and Hans Zimmer (best achievement in music written for motion pictures, original score); the winners will be announced on Mar. 7. And Robert Downey Jr. won an Irish Film and Television Award (best international actor) on Feb. 20 in Dublin.

According to the Box Office Mojo web-site, the film has grossed more than \$462 million worldwide, and is now in the top 100 all-time films ("Avatar" is #1, with \$2.463 billion).

Entertainment web-sites have reported that Warner Home Video plans to issue the film on Blu-ray disc and on DVD on Mar. 30; the Blu-ray disc (\$35.99) will have many additional features that aren't listed for the DVD (\$28.98), but the company likely will also issue a special DVD with that includes the features. The success of the film has won some attention from film-makers who are said to be considering up-dated "action" version of "The Three Musketeers" and "Treasure Island". And Al Gregory spotted a report in Retail Jeweller (Jan. 21) that jewellers have noted an increase in demand for fob or pocket watches coinciding with the release of the movie.

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

Mar 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

If you're a member of the generation that still wishes your mother hadn't thrown out your collection of comic books, the record for the world's most expensive magazine is now held by a very-fine copy of Detective Comics #27 (May 1939), in which The Bat-Man first appeared: it brought \$1,075,500 (including the buyer's premium) at auction last month.

Tom Tierney's SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS (Feb 10 #5) is artistic and imaginative, with Holmes, Watson, Moriarty, Lestrade, Irene Adler, Irene Adler, and Mrs. Hudson in different costumes, and a set of interchangeable heads for 30 pairs of actors who have played Holmes and Watson, from Gillette and Mason to Downey and Law (and Cohen and Ferrell, who may or may not get to

make a Sherlock Holmes film). Published by Dover in 2009 (32 pp., \$9.99) <[www.doverpublications.com](http://www.doverpublications.com)>.

Jon Lellenberg has noted Douglas Kerr's interesting article "The Straight Left: Sport and the Nation" in the March issue of *Victorian Literature and Culture*. His title alludes to "The Solitary Cyclist" ("It was a straight left against a slogging ruffian"), and Kerr explains persuasively why Conan Doyle's enthusiastic participation in sports, his writing about the subject, and his understand of sporting culture have a great deal to tell us about Victorian Britain." The journal is published by the Cambridge University Press, and the article is available on the Internet as a PDF file at <[www.journals.cambridge.org](http://www.journals.cambridge.org)>.

Roger Johnson has reported in his excellent newsletter *The District Messenger* that BBC Radio 4 will air a new program in their series written by Bert Coules and starring Clive Merrison and Andrew Sachs as Holmes and Watson. "The Marlbourne Point Mystery" will be broadcast in two parts on Apr. 5 and 6, and you can listen to it on-line. The program will be included with two others in *THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: VOLUME FOUR*, from BBC Audiobooks in April (L17.99).

*The District Messenger* (launched in 1985 and now with more than 300 issues) is available by mail from Roger, at 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE, England, and on-line at <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php)>.

Laurie R. King's Mary Russell short story "A Venomous Death" was published as a 14x20" broadside last year (Apr 09 #4), and her new broadside story is "Birth of a Green Man" (illuminating a character in her upcoming *THE GOD OF THE HIVE*); 250 copies, numbered and signed by Laurie and artist Jean Lukens (\$25.00 plus shipping). Details at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>, where you will also find contests and an invitation to a Russell/Holmes Twitter Party at <[www.twitterfall.com/#hivegod](http://www.twitterfall.com/#hivegod)> (sorry, the party will be over by the time you read this, but you can read what those at the party have tweeted).

*THE GOD OF THE HIVE* (New York: Bantam Books, 2010; 368 pp., \$25.00) continues the story that began last year in *THE LANGUAGE OF BEES*. Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes and Mycroft Holmes are all being pursued by the official police, Holmes' son Damian and granddaughter Estelle are in serious peril, and there's a villainous opponent behind it all; the supporting characters are interesting, and there are interesting twists and turns.

Mar 10 #2 *THE DARK DETECTIVE: SHERLOCK HOLMES* began last year as a three-issue comic-book mini-series from Black House Comics in Australia (AU\$5.00 each), but there are now four issues (with more to come, presumably; macabre and gruesome, with stories by Christopher Sequeira and art by Australian Sherlockian Phil Cornell and others. You can order at their web-site <[www.blackhousecomics.com/the-dark-detective-sherlock-holmes.html](http://www.blackhousecomics.com/the-dark-detective-sherlock-holmes.html)> and download a free preview of the series.

Francine Kitts discovered *Read How You Want*, which offers a wide variety of large-print books in sizes from 16pt to 24pt, and in Braille editions, with many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian books available. The web-site is at <[www.readhowyouwant.com](http://www.readhowyouwant.com)>.

The Los Angeles Chronicle reported (Feb. 25) that a new annual independent paranormal film festival will debut at the 2010 Paranormal Symposium in Angel Fire, N. Mex., Sept. 9-12; the festival will present Sir Arthur Awards to winning submissions, honoring his interest in spiritualism and the paranormal. The symposium is sponsored by the Alliance Studying Paranormal Experiences, and more information is available at <[www.aspefiles.org](http://www.aspefiles.org)>.

CNN sent Katie Walmsley to record some of the birthday festivities in New York, and broadcast a 3-minute segment on Jan. 21. You can view the segment (which includes interviews with some of the Sherlockians on hand for the festivities) at <[www.tinyurl.com/ydwb34j](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydwb34j)>.

William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Rochester Civic Theatre, Sept. 10-26; 20 Civic Center Drive SE, Rochester, MN 55904 (507-282-8481) <[www.rochestercivictheatre.org](http://www.rochestercivictheatre.org)>.

The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle will hold its 35th annual Reichenbach Day at Mulnomah Falls, near Portland, Ore. It's a festive event, and more information is available from Kent Teynor (910 NW Island Terrace #B-4, Beaverton, OR 97006) <[kentt@teleport.com](mailto:kentt@teleport.com)>.

The registration form for "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 6-8) is now available from Gary Thaden (2301 Aldrich Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55404) <[norwegianexplorers@gmail.com](mailto:norwegianexplorers@gmail.com)>. The University of Minnesota's Anderson Library will have an exhibition with the same title from June 1 through Aug. 29, exploring "the many meanings of the word 'spirits' and how they relate to Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and the Victorian Era. And the Library's gallery will have an exhibition highlighting the collection of the late Allen Mackler (whose replica of the sitting-room also is on display at the Library).

Jon Lellenberg has noted Douglas Kerr's interesting article "The Straight Left: Sport and the Nation" in the March issue of Victorian Literature and Culture. His title alludes to "The Solitary Cyclist" ("It was a straight left against a slogging ruffian"), and Kerr explains persuasively why Conan Doyle's enthusiastic participation in sports, his writing about the subject, and his understand of sporting culture have a great deal to tell us about Victorian Britain." The journal is published by the Cambridge University Press, and the article is available on the Internet as a PDF file at <[www.journals.cambridge.org](http://www.journals.cambridge.org)>.

Mar 10 #3 A commemorative Green Plaque has been installed at the Langham by the City of Westminster, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, the Oscar Wilde Society, and the hotel. Unveiled by Gyles Brandreth on Mar. 19, the plaque reads "Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle dined here with the publisher of 'Lippincott's Magazine' on 30 August 1899, a meeting that led to 'The Sign of Four' & 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'." The plaque is green not because of the Irish heritage of the two authors, but rather because the City of Westminster uses green to distinguish its plaques from the blue plaques installed by English Heritage.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times10-3.htm](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-3.htm)>, with news of their plans for a 2011 calendar featuring likenesses of Sherlockians pets, plus offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new.

The latest catalog from Acorn (Box 1670, West Chester, OH 45071) (888-870-8047) <[www.acornonline.com](http://www.acornonline.com)> offers "Sherlock Holmes: Collector's Edition" (\$39.99) with Christopher Lee's "Incident at Victoria Falls" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady", and the documentary "The Secret Identity of Jack the Ripper" narrated by Peter Ustinov, on a 5-DVD set with a 32-page booklet in a gift tin.

Well known for his assistance to Conan Doyle with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, B. Fletcher Robinson was a prolific writer, and his RUGBY FOOTBALL, first published in 1896, offers a detailed look at a sport that's perceived by many Americans as merely an excuse for post-game drinking and singing. Of course rugby also is of interest to Sherlockians, and his book explains well just what a three-quarter does, and why it can be a disaster if he's missing. RUGBY FOOTBALL DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 338 pp., £9.99/\$15.99/€12.99) is a facsimile reprint of Fletcher Robinson's book, accompanied by some modern essays, all compiled by Paul R. Spiring.

Some Americans do take rugby seriously, Paul notes, and are pleased that it will be reinstated as an Olympic sport in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro. The U.S.

will be the defending champion, having won gold medals the last time rugby was an Olympic sport, in 1924.

The Hollywood Reporter announced (Feb. 22) that PBS-TV will co-produce the BBC "Sherlock" television series co-created by Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat (Jul 09 #4); Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman will star as Holmes and Watson. This Holmes will be a modern-day detective, giving the series a "21st century spin." Filming is now underway, Gatiss has said that "the fact that Steven, myself, and millions of others are still addicted to Conan Doyle's brilliant stories is testament to their indestructibility."

Jim Suszynski has noted Caroline Lawrence's "The Roman Mysteries" series, from Orion's Children's Books in London; the detective is a young girl in ancient Rome, and there are 17 books in the series, which started in 2002 and ended this year. THE LEGIONARY FROM LONDINIUM AND OTHER MINI-MYSTERIES (176 pp., L6.99) is an additional collection of short stories that fills in gaps and wraps up loose ends, and two of the stories were inspired by tales from the Canon. The author has a web-site at <[www.romanmysteries.com](http://www.romanmysteries.com)>.

Mar 10 #4 The next annual STUD-watsonian weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 23-25; the schedule includes a dinner (with a musical tribute to Sherlock Holmes), a running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. Registration forms are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <[szdiamond@comcast.net](mailto:szdiamond@comcast.net)>.

The Beacon Society has announced a May 15 deadline for teachers, librarians, Sherlockian literary societies, and others to apply for a Jan Stauber Grant, which funds (up to \$250) development of a project that will introduce young people to the Canon. An application form, guidelines, and other details are available at the society's web-site at <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)>.

"Duke Ellington Meets Sherlock Holmes" is being performed by the University of New Hampshire Dance Company from Mar. 30 through Apr. 3 (83 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824) (603-62-2290) <[www.unh.edu/theatre-dance](http://www.unh.edu/theatre-dance)>; it's a jazz, tap, and aerial production paying homage to Sherlock Holmes through the music of Ellington, who read the Sherlock Holmes stories when he was a child (May 85 4).

Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Kanata Theatre Company on Mar. 23 through Apr. 3 (1 Ron Maslin Way, Kanata, ON K2V 1A7, Canada) (613-831-445) <[www.kanatatheatre.com](http://www.kanatatheatre.com)>.

"The Strange Case of the Too Few Suspects" is a new one-act play written by Dan Hurwitz, available on-line at <[writersnotebook.org](http://writersnotebook.org)>

Mystery Scene Magazine has published more than a hundred issues, and it's a fine way to keep up with what's happening in the mystery genre. Edited by Kate Stine, it is published five times a year (\$32.00 a year to the U.S.) and you can subscribe by mail at 331 West 57th Street #148, New York, NY 10019, or on-line <[www.mysteryscenemag.com](http://www.mysteryscenemag.com)>; the web-site offers links to articles from the current and past issues, and to all the book reviews published in the magazine.

Kenneth Smookler is planning a tour "In the Footsteps of Sherlock Holmes" from Toronto to England (Sept. 28-Oct. 9), with Switzerland an additional option (Oct. 9-15); there is much more information available at a web-site <[www.cwttravelsource.com/SherlockHolmes2.html](http://www.cwttravelsource.com/SherlockHolmes2.html)>.

The BBC America Shop's spring catalog (Box 681, Holmes, PA 19043) (800-898-4921) <[www.bbcamericashop.com](http://www.bbcamericashop.com)> offers a set of two "Book Lovers Mugs" (item 15137) for \$24.98; bone china, 12 ounces, decorated with "cherished, gilded leather-bound novels," from PRIDE AND PREJUDICE and JANE EYRE to SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE HOBBIT.

Barry Grant's *THE STRANGE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES* (Sutton: Severn House, 2010; 13 pp., \$27.95) is an intriguing pastiche: correspondent James Wilson has been invalidated home after a brief stint in Afghanistan in 2008, and encounters a mysterious detective named Cedric Coombes, who often calls Wilson Watson, and is thoroughly Sherlockian; there are mysteries to be solved (and more to come, presumably), and it's an entertaining novel.

Mar 10 #5 A bibliographic query from Nicholas Utechin, who is conducting research on Ronald Knox's *ESSAYS IN SATIRE* (1928): there was a signed and numbered limited edition of the book, and he would be delighted to hear from anyone who has a copy of the limited edition in a dust jacket. You can reach him at Highfield Farmhouse, 23 Highfield Avenue, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LR, England <highfieldfarmhouse@yahoo.co.uk>.

The list of Sherlockian societies with web-sites continues to grow, and the newest one is The Crew of the S.S. May Day, in Northern Ireland; their URL is <www.thesmayday.org.uk>. The best round-up of society web-sites I know of is provided by Chris Redmond <www.sherlockian.net/societies/index.html>.

Ripperologist, an electronic monthly journal edited by Eduardo Zinna, casts its net widely, and has had Sherlockian content in all three issues so far this year: "Ripping Yarns: Sherlock Holmes on Screen" (#110/Jan) is Zinna's long review of the Guy Ritchie film and retrospective review of the Rathbone films, followed by "Jeremy Brett: An Appreciation" (#111/Feb) by Jon Rees, and (also by Rees) "The BBC TV's Sherlock Holmes: Productions of the Past Decade" (#112/Mar); information on subscriptions is available on request from Zinna <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.

The campaign to preserve Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, continues, and Jim Ballinger has reported a story on the BBC web-site that includes a two-minute video showing what the house looks like now, inside and out <www.tinyurl.com/yaa8c6c>.

The Birmingham-Southern College Library now has a Sherlock Holmes Collection: Richard Green and his son Joshua have placed their Sherlockian collection on indefinite loan to the Library. The Greens are both members of the Genius Loci, the local S'ian society, which was founded at the college in 1980.

The delightful Sherlockian dolls made by Martha Heller ("Martha-My-Dear") in the 1980s can again be seen in action, so to speak, in an amusing video ("Rule, Britannia") by Amy Mantell at <www.sherlockshorts.com>, along with two earlier Sherlockian videos (Aug 09 #5).

Al Gregory has found the web-site for Craig-a-Bella Sherlock, described as a "newly refurbished centrally heated two bedroom apartment, perched on the cliff above Poldhu Cove" <www.tinyurl.com/ybgepm2>; it's available for rental by vacationers, and the web-site says that it's the "little whitewashed house" where Holmes and Watson stayed in "The Devil's Foot".

Michael Procter offers "an elegant solution for a Sherlock Holmes library" using Internet images to create attractive labels for book-shelf boxes used to store magazines and other ephemera; there is a PDF file of what he has done at <www.michael-procter.com/SHLib.pdf> and he's at <micproc@aol.com>.

The Minnesota Fringe boasts that it "celebrates the wacky and the sublime (and the sublimely wacky)," and this year their sixth annual "Five-Fifths of..." event will feature five different theatrical companies or artists in five pieces of "A Study in Scarlet" on May 3 at the Ritz Theater in Minneapolis. Tickets go on sale on Apr. 1 at <www.fringefestival.org>.

Mar 10 #6 Peter Egan and Philip Franks had a well-received tour as Holmes and Watson in Clive Francis' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Britain in 2007-2008, and now they are playing Holmes and Watson once again

in Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (first performed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988); the tour opened in Bath on Mar. 8 and will close in Cambridge on Apr. 24.

PLANETARY: LEAVING THE 20TH CENTURY is the third in a four-volume graphic novel by Warren Ellis and John Cassaday that offers "a complete new Elijah Snow astonishing adventure" (Wildstorm, 2004, \$24.95 hardcover and \$14.99 softcover); the third volume includes issue #13 (Feb. 2001), which has an aged Holmes. Published by Wildstorm <[www.dccomics.com/wildstorm](http://www.dccomics.com/wildstorm)>.

Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin now have three titles in print in their SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS series for readers ages 9-12, the latest being IN SEARCH OF WATSON (Dec 09 #5), and there was an interesting feature article about them in the Jan.-Feb. issue of Berkshire Living (their home is in Ashley Falls, Mass.). You can read the article online at <[www.berkshirelivingmag.com](http://www.berkshirelivingmag.com)>.

Paramount has joined The Asylum (Jan 10 #6) in releasing DVDs in boxes with covers in the same colors Warner Bros. is using for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes": "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) has been reissued, but according to reviewers the cover is all that's new; the DVD (\$19.99) is the same one that was released (\$19.99), and there are no extra features.

"Sherlock Holmes" has been nominated for Saturn Awards from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films in eight categories: best action/adventure/thriller film, best actor (Robert Downey Jr.), best supporting actor (Jude Law), best supporting actress (Rachel McAdams), best director (Guy Ritchie), best music (Hans Zimmer), best costume (Jenny Beavan), and production design (Sarah Greenwood); the winners will be announced on June 24 in Burbank. And Jameson Empire Awards (sponsored by Jameson Irish Whiskey and Empire magazine and voted for by British film fans) went to "Sherlock Holmes" (best thriller) and Jude Law (Empire Hero)

And the film continues to do extremely well at the box office: it has now grossed more than \$500 million worldwide. Department of placing things in perspective: according to Walter Scott (Parade, Mar. 28) Daniel Radcliffe will be paid \$40 million for starring in both parts of the last "Harry Potter" film, and Emma Watson and Rupert Grint will each be paid \$30 million; that's a total of \$100 million for three actors, more than the entire cost of Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes".

John Watkiss, an artist who has worked on Neil Gaiman's "Sandman" series, was commissioned by Lionel Wigram to create a set of "pitch illustrations" for the film, and is reported to have credited Watkiss' work as the leverage needed to convince Warner Bros. to proceed with the project. You can see the artwork at <[www.gallerynucleus.com](http://www.gallerynucleus.com)>; search for [watkiss]. Some of the original artwork still is available for purchase.

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Apr 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Christopher Redmond's A SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK (1993) was a comprehensive guide to all things Sherlockian, and the second edition (Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2009; 336 pp., \$32.00/L19.00) is even more comprehensive: Chris discusses the Sherlock Holmes stories, their author, pastiches, parodies, fans and followers, Sherlock Holmes in the media, and much more, offering intelligent comment and insight. And the book is thoroughly up to date, exploring in depth the many Sherlockian aspects of the Internet. Recommended.

Sorry about that: the link for Katie Walmsley's CNN video segment about the birthday festivities in New York doesn't work. You can go to <[www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com)> and search for [sherlock holmes intrigues fans], or you can try this URL <[www.tinyurl.com/ybcqhht](http://www.tinyurl.com/ybcqhht)>.



Reported: BAKER STREET MYSTERIES is a series for readers aged 9-12, written by Tim Pigott-Smith (who has played Watson on stage and Holmes on radio), published by Hodder Children's Books in London. There are three titles so far: THE DRAGON TATTOO (2008), THE ROSE OF AFRICA (2009), and THE SHADOW OF EVIL (2009); £5.99 each.

If you want to read twelve Sherlock Holmes stories on your iPod, just visit <[www.notescasts.com/booksnew/sherlockholmesnotescast.html](http://www.notescasts.com/booksnew/sherlockholmesnotescast.html)>, where you can download THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for \$0.99.

A new "Sherlock Holmes Shaped Puzzle" available from Bits and Pieces (Box 4150, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025) (866-503-6395) <[www.bitsandpieces.com](http://www.bitsandpieces.com)> comes in two formats (300 pieces or 750 pieces) (items 45849 and 45850) and costs \$16.99.

Records are meant to be broken: the very-fine copy of Detective Comics #27 (May 1939) that sold for \$1,075,500 at auction in February (Mar 10 #1) was surpassed by the \$1.5 million paid for a copy in even better condition of Action Comics #1 (June 1938), which featured the first appearance of Superman, in March. Thanks to Paul Herbert for the report.

LibraryThing is an interesting user-generated Internet project for people who want to catalog their books and make that information available to others (May 06 #8), and it's now possible to catalog someone else's library. Benjamin L. Clark has done just that for Conan Doyle, and you can see 403 titles at <[www.librarything.com/profile/acdoylelibrary](http://www.librarything.com/profile/acdoylelibrary)>. He has cast his net widely, and includes books about which Conan Doyle wrote (as in THROUGH THE MAGIC DOOR), books inscribed to Conan Doyle, books inscribed by Conan Doyle to others, and books that have the bookplate commissioned by Adrian Conan Doyle (and placed in some books purchased by Adrian and added to the library at the Chateau de Lucens). And he would be happy to hear from anyone who can add titles to the list; he's at <[benjaminlclark@gmail.com](mailto:benjaminlclark@gmail.com)>.

It has been a while since I mentioned the Internet Archive (Feb 07 #8); the web-site offers a wide variety of scanned books. Allyn Gibson has reported that the site now offers Ellery Queen's classic anthology of pastiches and parodies THE MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1944), not easy to find ink-on-paper, at <[www.archive.org/details/scriblio\\_test\\_044](http://www.archive.org/details/scriblio_test_044)>.

Apr 10 #2 Jon Lellenberg has forwarded an announcement of the 2010-2011 season at the City Lit Theater in Chicago <[www.citylit.org](http://www.citylit.org)>. A new dramatization of "The Sign of the Four" by Terry McCabe begins previews on May 27, 2011, and run through July 3. Sherlock Holmes will be played by Don Bender, who previously was Holmes in the their productions of "Holmes and Watson" (2006) and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2007).

Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her reports at <[anglofileplus.livejournal.com/6322.html](http://anglofileplus.livejournal.com/6322.html)>.

Al Gregory has noted a report in the Glasgow Herald (Apr. 1) that Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, where Conan Doyle lived as a child, is one of 16 nominees for a Scottish Civic Trust Place Award that recognizes "good local design and conservation." The formerly-derelect 18th-century house was renovated and converted into the Dunedin School (Apr 09 #2).

Our new set of four stamps honoring "Cowboys of the Silver Screen" includes one commemorating Roy Rogers, who starred in the western "San Fernando Valley" (1944). When a herd of horses is rustled one dark evening, Roy deduces that it must have been an inside job, because of the ranch dog; Roy noted that "If they'd a been strangers, he would've barked, and there wasn't a peep out of him." William S. Hart, Gene Autry, and Tom Mix are the other three cowboys, so far with

no known Sherlockian connections.

GRAPHIC CLASSICS is an attractive series of collections and anthologies edited by Tom Pomplun and featuring imaginative artwork; vol. 2 was devoted to Conan Doyle's work (Apr 02 #7), and it was followed by vol. 12 (ADVENTURE STORIES) with "The Crime of the Brigadier", a "special edition" with "John Barrington Cowles", and a revised and expanded second edition of vol. 2 (Jun 08 #6). Vol. 17 (SCIENCE FICTION CLASSICS), published in 2009 (144 pp.) included "The Disintegration Machine". Almost all of the issues can be ordered at <[www.graphicclassics.com](http://www.graphicclassics.com)>: vol. 2 (second edition) and vol. 12 cost \$11.95 each, the special edition is \$6.95, and vol. 17 is \$17.95; you can also see samples of the artists' work at the web-site. Eureka Productions is the publisher (8778 Oak Grove Road, Mount Horeb, WI 53572), and (due in October) their CHRISTMAS CLASSICS will include British cartoonist Hunt Emerson's new adaptation of "The Blue Carbuncle".

There was an interesting run of The Strand Magazine at auction at PBA Galleries in San Francisco on Mar. 18, from the collection of Roger Wagner, who had a nearly complete run from Jan. 1891 to Mar. 1950 in publisher's cloth, library cloth, and single issues in wrappers. Estimated at \$6,000-9,000, the lot went unsold.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Ralph and Kacoo's in New Orleans on Apr. 14, when the visiting geologists were welcomed by Dr. Rennie Culver on behalf of the local Sherlockians (Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes). Our next meetings will be in Denver on Nov. 3, in Houston on Apr. 13, in Minneapolis on Oct. 12.

Apr 10 #3 Thomas A. Stetak ("The Head of the Police at Cleveland") died on Apr. 12. He owned a company that restored historic buildings and energetically pursued history, both local and Victorian, and he presided over Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers of Cleveland; as a resident of Cleveland he was delighted when he received his thoroughly appropriate investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.

"Jack el Destripador contra Sherlock Holmes" is the name of a tour that Luz Retamar has led for five years for Spanish tourists who want to join Holmes in pursuing Jack through the actual locations in London. You can read more about the tour (in Spanish) at <[viajesconimaginacion.com](http://viajesconimaginacion.com)> and (in English) in issue #113 of Ripperologist, an electronic monthly journal edited by Eduardo Zinna <[editorez@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:editorez@yahoo.co.uk)>.

Recently discovered: THE ADVENTURE OF THE SOLITARY CYCLIST (Mankato: Creative Education, 1991); it's a 48-page book with attractive design and imaginative dust-jacket artwork. The company also published similar editions of "The Red-Headed League", "Silver Blaze", and "The Speckled Band", all out of print but available at <[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)> and other web-sites.

Sherlock Parlour is the name of a head shop in Dinkytown, newly opened and offering a store-wide sale to celebrate, according to a story in the Minnesota Daily (Apr. 19), reported by Don Pollock. Dinkytown adjoins the University of Minnesota, and the store is offering an occasional 20-percent student discount on its selection of glass and pipe products. A head shop (for those who aren't familiar with the phrase) specializes in paraphernalia related to consumption of cannabis, other recreational drugs, and New Age herbs, as well as counterculture art, magazines, music, clothing, and home decor.

"Give Jeremy Brett a Posthumous BAFTA Award" is the title of an on-line petition at <[www.petitiononline.com/JBBAFTA2/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/JBBAFTA2/petition.html)> launched by Charlotte Smith. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film & Television Arts, and you can see more about the campaign at <[www.bafta4jb.com/To](http://www.bafta4jb.com/To)>.

Reported: the television film "The Crucifer of Blood" (1991, with Charlton

Heston and Richard Johnson), previously available on VHS cassette (1998), has now been issued on DVD from Warner Home Video (\$14.98).

Donald Pickering died on Dec. 19. He made his stage debut in 1951 and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television. He played Watson in Sheldon Reynolds' second television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980, with Geoffrey Whitehead as Holmes), and recorded "The Speckled Band" for an audiocassette in 1982.

Tweet, tweet . . . messages from an estimated 105 million users of Twitter will be archived by the Library of Congress, and of course there are Sherlockian corners in what's known as the Twitterverse; you can read Sherlockian tweets at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <[www.bakerstreetblog.com](http://www.bakerstreetblog.com)>, at other web-sites, and on your cell phones. For those who came in late: some 50 million messages limited to 140 characters) are posted each day, and you can read all about it at <[www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)> (where the slogan is "discover what's happening right now, anywhere in the world").

Apr 10 #4 Further to the report (Dec 08 #1) that the British oil company Serica Energy had named two natural-gas prospects in the East Irish Sea "Conan" and "Doyle", Jon Lellenberg spotted an announcement that Serica has entered into a farm-out agreement with Agora Oil & Gas (UK) for the prospects, and that drilling on Conan will begin in May. Serica holds the lease, Agora will drill the test well, and the two companies will share the proceeds if exploration is successful.

Last year's THE WIND OF CERTITUDE: A LITERARY BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD KNOX, by David Rooney (Aug 09 #2), has been followed by another new biography: RONALD KNOX AND ENGLISH CATHOLICISM, by Terry Tastard (Leonminster: Gracewing, 2009; 232 pp., £12.99), favorably reviewed in the Sunday Telegraph (Feb. 6).

Dr. William R. Hanson has designed Sherlockian cachets for a first day cover for last year's "Early TV Memories" (with his portrait of Ronald Howard and the artwork from the closing credits on the 1954 series) and for a cover honoring the 30th anniversary of Altamont's Agents (with his portraits of society founder Tom Dandrew and Sherlock Holmes); the covers cost \$10.00 each postpaid to the U.S. (\$11.00 elsewhere). His address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; please pay with currency or U.S. postal money orders.

The iPad (\$499.00), Apple's response to Amazon's Kindle, is much more than a just new way to read books, and there's already a Sherlockian adventure game for the iPad available at <[www.itunes.com/appstore](http://www.itunes.com/appstore)> (\$2.99). "Sherlock Holmes Mysteries" is inspired by the Guy Ritchie film. Also available is "The Sherlock Holmes Experience" (\$2.99), which has "The Speckled Band" and "The Man with the Twisted Lip" accompanied by "videos that provide historical perspective and annotations from academics and experts."

Katie Forgette's 2008 play "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Barter Theatre from Oct. 1 through Nov. 13; Box 867, Abingdon, VA 24212 (276-628-3991) <[www.bartertheatre.com](http://www.bartertheatre.com)>.

An interesting signed baseball was offered at auction at Heritage Auction

Galleries on Apr. 23: signed by Babe Ruth, Jack Johnson, Clarence Darrow, Jack Dempsey, Bob Muesel, Ted Williams, and Arthur Conan Doyle (the auction house considered describing the lot as "the strangest multi-signed baseball on Earth"); it sold for \$1,792.50 (including buyer's premium). It wasn't the only signed baseball in the auction; the most expensive was a baseball signed by Babe Ruth alone that sold for \$11,950 (ditto).

Apr 10 #5 The Times has reported (Apr. 25) that a painting of the ghosts of dead Australian soldiers in the Gallipoli campaign, bought by Conan Doyle in 1928, has been found in Australia, and will be offered at auction by Bonhams in Sydney in June. The painting is by Will Longstaff; the story says that Conan Doyle kept it in his home until his death, and it is estimated at AU\$20,000-40,000. You can see the painting in full color at <[www.tinyurl.com/35t9qow](http://www.tinyurl.com/35t9qow)>.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who died in 2003. He became famous for his creation of Willie and Joe in World War II cartoons, and went on to a long career as an editorial cartoonist. He won two Pulitzer prizes, and used Sherlockian themes in at least three of his editorial cartoons, including this one, which was published on July 1, 1987; Ed Meese is shown with the caption "He's got a rear-view mirror on his magnifying glass."

Further to the report (May 09 #5) about the violin that Steve Burnett made from wood from a 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, the "Sherlock" violin will be used in a concert celebrating Conan Doyle at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh on May 15. Concert proceeds will aid the SOS Children's Haiti Appeal and the program is to include shorter pieces of music from the era of Conan Doyle and the world premiere of "Elsie and Frances" by the Scottish composer James Clapperton (inspired by the girls who invented the Cottingley Fairies), plus short dramatic excerpts by storyteller Mike Maran.

Keir Helberg is offering for sale 19 transcription disks for "The Falcon", "Sherlock Holmes", and "Bulldog Drummond" radio broadcasts from the 1940s, and will be happy to supply details on request. He's in England; his telephone numbers are 020-8809-4991 (home) and 07747-611889 (cell); his e-mail address is <[sthellusson@googlemail.com](mailto:sthellusson@googlemail.com)>.

Reported from India: a graphic novel of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, adapted by J. R. Parks and illustrated by Vinod Kumar, published in 2009 by Campfire (72 pp., \$9.99 postpaid); some of the artwork can be seen at their web-site <[www.campfire.co.in](http://www.campfire.co.in)>.

Joe and Brad Dickinson's 1992 comedy-spoof "Sherlock Holmes: The Melodrama" is being performed at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre through May 15 (5400 East Mockingbird Lane #119, Dallas, TX 75206) (214-821-860) <[www.dallas.net](http://www.dallas.net)>.

Long-lost old films do turn up from time to time: a copy of "When Lincoln Paid" was discovered in an old barn in New Hampshire, according to newspaper reports this month. The 30-minute film, released in 1913, survived on nitrate stock and has now been preserved and restored; Francis Ford, older brother of director John Ford, directed and played Lincoln in the film. It is nice to think that someone may some day find a copy of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914); Francis Ford directed that film as well, and played Sherlock Holmes (John Ford, credited as Jack Ford, played Watson).

Apr 10 #6 <[www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)> is a useful resource for research: Thad Holt reports that Google has digitized OUT OF DOORS: A SELECTION OF ORIGINAL ARTICLES ON PRACTICAL NATURAL HISTORY, by the Rev. J. G. Wood (1874), a book which Sherlock Holmes quotes in "The Lion's Mane" (Thad

also notes that Holmes actually misquoted Wood).

Arkham House was founded by August Derleth and Donald Wandrei in 1939, and published many Solar Pons stories from their Mycroft & Moran imprint; the company continues to publish interesting books, including (due in November, \$39.95) Jon Lellenberg's BAKER STREET IRREGULAR, a novel that begins in the 1930s and involves the BSI in mystery and espionage. There's a brief history of Arkham House at <[www.arkhamhouse.com](http://www.arkhamhouse.com)>, and much more about Derleth at the web-site of the August Derleth Society <[www.derleth.org](http://www.derleth.org)>.

Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell novel THE GOD OF THE HIVE (Mar 10 #1) has been published, and Laurie reports from Lisbon (where she's in the midst of researching and writing the next book in the series) that Russell has been dragged into an absurd film venture and is sailing off for Portugal in the company of a megalomaniacal director making a movie about pirates. You can read all of that and much more at <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)>; click on "God of the Hive, day one" and then on the link to the interview.

"Baffling clues, astonishing Holmesian deductions, nimble repartee, catch-your-breath scenes of one slam thing after another" is the description of the Guy Ritchie film on the DVD box. And there's a reason to buy the "deluxe edition" of the DVD from Target (\$24.99): it includes a limited edition (30,000 copies) of a 52-page booklet with the John Watkiss "pitch illustrations" that Lionel Wigram used to convince Warner Bros. to make the film (Mar 10 #6). Still available at Target stores and at their web-site <[www.target.com](http://www.target.com)>. Early publicity for the film said that it was going to be based on a comic book written by Wigram, but since no such comic book or graphic novel has been published, it's quite possible that the pitch illustrations are all there is; Wigram's original story only vaguely resembles the film.

And there's more: the Los Angeles Times reported (Apr. 23) that Kieran and Michele Mulroney, the writers working on the sequel, have said that "there have been a number of serious conversations at Warner Bros." about producing the new film in 3-D. The Mulroneys have also said that Brad Pitt has been reading the script to see if he wants to play Moriarty. "I hope Brad likes it," Kieran Mulroney said, "Let's leave it at that."

The film has now grossed more than \$515.6 million at the box office worldwide. It also headed the list of DVD rentals in the U.S. in mid-April.

Finally, Ken Lanza has reported an amusing story about the DVD of the film: KSFN-TV (Fresno) said (Apr. 21) that a woman who bought a copy of the DVD at Wal-Mart discovered when she got home that someone had replaced the DVD with a pornographic video with a fake "Sherlock Holmes" label; Wal-Mart has replaced the porno video with a real DVD without charge.

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May 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

One of the more interesting copies of Beeton's Christmas Annual will go to auction at Sotheby's in London on July 15. Previously owned by William S. Hall and then by William R. Smith, it is one of two surviving copies signed by Conan Doyle, and it's inscribed "This is the very first independent book of mine which ever was published" and dated Jan. 9, 1914, on an extra leaf. Bill Hall wrote about this copy in the June 1963 issue of The Baker Street Journal, reproducing Conan Doyle's inscription and discussing some of the points of the two variants of Beeton's.

If you would like to know more about the surviving copies of Beeton's, you can go to <[www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/beetons-christmas-annual.htm)>, where Randall Stock offers an excellent survey. And if you're wondering what to bid in July, the record price for a copy of Beeton's is \$156,000 (including the

buyer's premium) for Walter Pond's copy, at Sotheby's in New York in 2007; that one's unsigned, and complete except for having the spine in facsimile, and some repairs and restorations (the inscribed copy going to auction in July is complete except for four leaves of advertisements).

The March issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report on how the Collection benefited from publicity for Guy Ritchie's new film ("The Adventure of the Media Buzz"), Julie McKuras' examination of a 100-year-old parody, and other news from and about the Collections; 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>.

Phil Attwell has reported that Legacy Interactive's computer game "The Lost Cases of Sherlock Holmes 2" (Oct 09 #1) is now available on-line: you can download a 60-minute demo (243 MB) without charge at <www.virginmedia.com>; "find hidden objects and decipher clues alongside Sherlock and Watson, as you travel to Stonehenge, Marisbury Castle, and London's Music Hall."

Tony Harries, who had been Sherlock Holmes' secretary at 221B Baker Street, toured the U.S. and Canada in 1990. And he kept a journal, which has now been published: THE CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' SECRETARY (Morrisville: Lulu, 2010; 185 pp., \$11.15 paper/\$9.40 download/\$3.92 download) offers an interesting and amusing look at Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) America, and at many of the Sherlockians who provided him with hospitality (and only a few of their names have been changed); you can order the book from the publisher <www.lulu.com>, and it will soon be available from major bookstores and web-sites. If you would like to have a signed bookplate, you can send a request to Tony; his address is 11 Longridge, Colchester, Essex CO4 3FD, England <rhinehart@sky.com>.

Further to the report of the discovery of a giant rat in a "lost world" in the remote Foja Mountains in western New Guinea (Dec 07 #4), there's an article about a new expedition to the area in the June issue of National Geographic, with a handsome photograph of the woolly giant rat, which has been named \*Mallomys\* sp. nov. (it's the photograph that's handsome, rather than the rat). The article is available on-line at <www.ngm.com/foja>, with the photograph and (scroll down) links to earlier reports and photographs.

May 10 #2 Felony & Mayhem Press has an interesting catalog of good books by fine authors, and one of their books is a reprint of WHAT I TELL YOU THREE TIMES IS FALSE, by Samuel Holt (Mar 87 #1); it's an entertaining murder mystery in which the sleuths (and suspects) include actors noted for portraying Miss Marple, Charlie Chan, and Sherlock Holmes. Samuel Holt is one of the many pseudonyms used by the late Donald E. Westlake, and if you'd like to know what the others are, you can visit his web-site at <www.donaldwestlake.com>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Footlight Players Theatre, June 24-July 3 (20 Queen Street, Charleston, SC 29401) (843-722-4487) <www.footlightplayers.net>.

Al Gregory reports a nice seven-page article about Sherlock Holmes ("Elementary, My Dear Watson") in the Feb.-March issue of Britain (the official magazine of VisitBritain) [the new name for the old British Tourist Authority]; you can read the story (and many others) at the magazine's web-site at <www.britain-magazine.com/articles/sherlock-holmes-feature>.

Ken Lanza noted a listing for an imaginative event: "Horror at the Museum--Mummy Stories by Conan Doyle" at the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology at University College London on May 14. British actor Steven Wickham read "The Ring of Thoth" and "Lot 249" in the "atmospheric surroundings" of the museum, and "in the break between the stories the museum will be available to explore by torch light--if you dare!"

Kids on Stage will present Thomas W. Olsen's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" (1989) at the Main Street Theater (Chelsea Market) from May 7 to May 9 (4617 Montrose Boulevard, Houston, TX 77006) (713-524-6706) <[www.mainstreettheater.com](http://www.mainstreettheater.com)>.

Reported: PETER PAN'S FIRST XI: THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF J. M. BARRIE'S CRICKET TEAM, by Kevin Telfer (London: Sceptre, 2010; 336 pp., £16.99); the cricket team was the Allahakbarries, and its members included Barrie's fellow authors A. A. Milne, E. W. Hornung, Jerome K. Jerome, P. G. Wodehouse, A. E. W. Mason, and Arthur Conan Doyle.

Malice Domestic (the Washington-area convention celebrating the traditional mystery) was enjoyable, and included a panel ("The Game Is Afoot: Sherlock Holmes' Influence on Modern Sleuths") moderated by John Betancourt and with panelists Parnell Hall, William Link, Daniel Stashower, and Steven Steinbock. Malice 23 will be held in Bethesda, Md., Apr. 29 through May 1, 2011 <[www.malicedomestic.org](http://www.malicedomestic.org)>.

Further to the item about the set of four stamps honoring "Cowboys of the Silver Screen" (Apr 10 #2), Paul Herbert reports that Eleanor Packer's GENE AUTRY IN PUBLIC COWBOY NO. 1 (Big Little Book #1433, Whitman, 1938) has a mention of Frog (Autry's assistant) wearing Sherlockian costume, and a photograph of Frog (Smiley Burnette) with a deerstalker and a curved pipe (p. 190). The book is based on the film "Public Cowboy No. 1" (1937), which is available on DVD, restored to its full 61 minutes, from Image Entertainment (2007); there's a one-minute scene with Frog in S'ian costume, and the special features include two stills and one lobby card.

May 10 #3 A STUDY IN SCARLET is the second in the new series of graphic novels adapted by Ian Edginton and illustrated by I. N. J. Culbard (London: SelfMadeHero, 2010; 130 pp., £14.99) and (New York: Sterling, \$14.95) as with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Feb 10 #3) the artwork's excellent and the adaptation is faithful. THE SIGN OF FOUR and THE VALLEY OF FEAR and next in line.

Bob Byrne published two issues of his electronic newsletter "Baker Street Essay" in 2007, and he has returned to his keyboard, so to speak, with the third issue (spring 2010), and he offers 16 pages of interesting Canonical comment and analysis; all three issues are available at Bob's web-site at <[www.solarpons.com/BakerStreetEssays.htm](http://www.solarpons.com/BakerStreetEssays.htm)>.

Further to the report (Apr 10 #5) about the Edinburgh concert at which the "Sherlock" violin will be played, there's a two-minute video of Ani Batikian playing the violin at <[www.tinyurl.com/39ktnwk](http://www.tinyurl.com/39ktnwk)>.

Doug Wrigglesworth notes that Peggy Perdue has created a tribute to "Sidney Paget: Iconic Illustrator of Sherlock Holmes" on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of his birth; it's nicely done, and well illustrated, and there are interesting examples of Paget's work for other magazines as well as the Strand. You can view the tribute at the Toronto Public Library's web-site at <[ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/sidney\\_paget/index.html](http://ve.torontopubliclibrary.ca/sidney_paget/index.html)>.

Waterstone's (the British bookstore chain) held a contest for a new design for their electronic gift cards, and one of the winners was Rochelle Donald of Inverness; her design features a silhouette of Holmes and page from "The Blue Carbuncle", and the card now can be purchased in Waterstone's 315 stores across the U.K.

Bert Coules spotted a report that the BBC and Warner Home Video are planning to re-lease (on Sept. 14) a set of two-DVDs with 11 of the delightful "Sherlock Holmes" television programs that starred Douglas Wilmer and Nigel Stock in

1964 and 1965; two programs ("The Abbey Grange" and "The Bruce-Partington Plans") will not be included in the set, which will be priced at \$11.98 in the U.S.

Nice news for researchers (eventually): the Daily Telegraph reported (May 19) that the British Library will digitize up to 40 million pages of newspapers from its archive over the next ten years, and will make them available on-line. The project will be funded by Brightsolid, a private company that owns the Friends Reunited and Genes Reunited web-sites; the data-base will be available free at the British Library, and for a charge at Brightsolid's web-sites.

BBC Radio 7 continues to air web-site repeats of the Clive Merrison/Michael Williams dramatizations; it was a fine series, and the only one to do all 60 stories with the same actors and Holmes and Watson. You can listen to the repeats at <[www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/radio/bbc\\_7](http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/radio/bbc_7)>.

May 10 #4 Laurie R. King's new THE GOD OF THE HIVE made the best-sellers list in the N.Y. Times Book Review on May 16, ranked at #11 in its first week on the list. You can download a copy of her short story "A Case of Correspondence" (an imaginative story told in postcards and other correspondence, released on the Internet during the run-up to the launch of the book); it's available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/32lwcfj](http://www.tinyurl.com/32lwcfj)>

There's an interesting discount offer at the Deal Table at the Baker Street Journal's web-site <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)> (click on "items for sale" and then on "deal table"): IRREGULAR PROCEEDING OF THE MID-FORTIES and IRREGULAR CRISES OF THE LATE-FORTIES are available at \$25.00 (plus shipping) for the two books. And Henry Boote has recorded a CD with selection of the period Doylean and Sherlockian music performed during the Harvard symposium in 2009 <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com/doyleat150.html](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/doyleat150.html)>; \$9.95 plus shipping.

Les Klinger spotted "Letters with Character: Letters Written to Fictional Characters by Real People", an imaginative (and sometimes amusing) blog at <[www.letterswithcharacter.blogspot.com](http://www.letterswithcharacter.blogspot.com)>; there is a letter to Dr. Watson, and of course you're welcome to write your own letter to a character in the Canon.

"The Suite Life on Deck" (a 30-minute series that airs on the Disney channel) has a Sherlockian episode ("Rollin' with the Holmies") that was first broadcast on Jan. 29, 2010; "Cody attempts to solve a mystery surrounding a stolen book that belongs to Queen Elizabeth II." Episodes repeat often on the Disney channel.

The comic book mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES has reached its final (sixth) issue (June, \$2.99 from wildstorm); story by Ian Edginton and artwork by Davide Fabbri, and there are previews at their web-site <[www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics/?cm=13662](http://www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics/?cm=13662)>. It's quite likely that a graphic-novel collection will appear sooner rather than later.

Christy Kinahan, dubbed the "Irish Godfather" and believed to be head of a gang operating on the Costa del Sol, was arrested this month by Spanish police in Malaga. According to a blogger's report on May 25, Malaga's police headquarters is located on Calle Conan Doyle.

Mark Hime's catalogs are always interesting, and his latest (Bibliotopus #44) offers a portrait of Sherlock Holmes by Sidney Paget (\$45,000); the portrait reportedly was torn in half by the artist and the top portion recovered by his wife from a waste-paper basket. It was shown at the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London in 1951 and the Plaza Art Galleries in New York in 1952, and published in The Cornhill Magazine (summer 1951).

SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES, by Steven Doyle and David A. Crowder (Indianapolis: Wiley, 2010; 360 pp., \$19.99) is a useful addition to a series that



began in 1991 with DOS FOR DUMMIES and now has more than 1,700 titles; it's up to date (with mention of Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes") and of course nicely timed to take advantage of the renewed interest in Holmes. The book is an excellent introduction to the Canon, Conan Doyle, the world of Sherlock Holmes, Sherlockiana, and Sherlockians.

May 10 #5 Martin Gardner died on May 22. Born in Tulsa, he grew up with John Bennett Shaw (and reminisced delightfully about their long friendship in the Dec. 1990 issue of The Baker Street Journal), and went on to write more than 70 books about mathematics, magic, Alice in Wonderland, the Wizard of Oz, Casey at the Bat (an annotated edition in which he paid tribute to John by including a mention of Moorville, Kans.), religion, philosophy, and the paranormal and supernatural (which he happily and energetically debunked, sometimes with unkind comments about Conan Doyle).

Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is scheduled at the Park Square Theatre, June 4 to July 3; the dates are different from those announced earlier (May 09 #6). The theater is at 20 West 7th Place, St. Paul, MN 55102 (651-291-7005) <[www.parksquaretheatre.org](http://www.parksquaretheatre.org)>.

Macmillan had a launch party at the English-Speaking Union in London in April for Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD, the first in his new series for children, due to be published on June 4. The photograph (by Carl Court), forwarded by Jon Lellenberg, shows a copy of the book in the hands of Joshua Conan Doyle, the great-grandson of Sir Arthur's younger brother Innes. You can see a one-minute trailer for the book at <[www.youngsherlock.com](http://www.youngsherlock.com)>.

MUPPET SHERLOCK HOLMES, a new four-part comic-book mini-series (reported to be "in development" by BOOM! Studios) with a story by Patrick Storck and artwork by Amy Mebberson and David Petersen. Gonzo appears as Holmes, and Fozzy Bear as Watson; you can see some preliminary cover artwork at the web-site <[www.muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Muppet\\_Sherlock\\_Holmes](http://www.muppet.wikia.com/wiki/Muppet_Sherlock_Holmes)>.

The Muppet Wiki, by the way, has some interesting features, including entries for characters in "The Muppet Show", including Sherlock Holmes' cat, Sherlock Holmes (whale), and Baskerville the Hound. And, of course, Sherlock Hemlock in "Sesame Street".

Keith Topping blogged on May 14 that BBC dumped all the footage for the 60-minute pilot of "Sherlock" (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman) after deciding to turn the drama into a three-part 90-minute series; the production cost of the pilot was reported to be £800,000. The series (Mar 10 #3) has Holmes as a modern-day detective. A BBC spokeswoman confirmed the decision not to air the pilot, and said that the series is expected to air in July or August.

Oscar Ross spotted an announcement for "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" (an original animation) to be released by Warner Home Video in August. The film will run 75 minutes, and the DVD has been announced at \$18.95 in the U.S. and £9.99 in the U.K. There also will be a Blu-ray version (\$19.99). You can see the cover artwork at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)>.

May 10 #6 Cameo Auctioneers <[www.cameo-auctioneers.co.uk](http://www.cameo-auctioneers.co.uk)> had an interesting sale of material from films and television productions on May 23: the lots included a dinner jacket worn by Nigel Bruce as Watson in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (L850), a frock-coat worn by Jeremy Brett as Holmes (L340), a waistcoat worn by Michael Caine as Reginald Kincaid in

"Without a Clue" (L100), and a tail coat worn by Christopher Lee as Mycroft in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (L60). Some items went unsold: a woolen tweed jacket worn by Alan Arkin as Sigmund Freud in "The Seven-Percent Solution" (estimated at L50-80) and a jacket worn by Ben Kingsley as Watson in "Without a Clue" (L80-120).

Alex Braun has reported "The Watson Files", a new radio series that's produced by Strobie Studios, in Riverside, Iowa, and is available on the Internet at <[www.strobiestudios.com](http://www.strobiestudios.com)>; the series debuted on Apr. 11, and you can listen to it on-line, on YouTube, and on iTunes. Written and directed by Scott Strohsal, the series features the grandchildren of Holmes and Watson: Spencer Holmes (played by Michael Helgens) and Dr. Jack Watson (Greg Kilberger).

Robert Downey Jr. has already started work on provoking buzz for the "Sherlock Holmes" sequel: according to a message posted at the LiveJournal website Downey has announced that "I'm doing Sherlock Holmes again so I'm going to be going back and reading all the Conan Doyle books again. I just finished them, I'm gonna start over again, at volume 1." He also joked that there will be a "pantsless" nude scene between him and co-star Jude Law in the sequel.

The film has won an Excellence in Production Design Award (for period film) from the Art Directors Guild, and ITV's National Movie Award (best action/thriller); the ITV awards are voted for by the public in the U.K. (Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law were nominated for the ITV best performance award, which went to Robert Pattinson for his performance in "The Twilight Saga: New Moon"). Accepting the ITV award, Guy Ritchie made a brief speech, explaining that "We set out to make a comedy but we'll take it where we can get it."

The John Watkiss "pitch illustrations" for the film aren't the only artwork available; <[www.heyuguys.co.uk/2010/05/13/sherlock-holmes-concept-art](http://www.heyuguys.co.uk/2010/05/13/sherlock-holmes-concept-art)> has six atmospheric images that Warner Bros. made available in Britain during promotion for the DVD there.

The "Sherlock Holmes" Blu-ray disk (\$35.99) has a 31 minute "special feature" that isn't found on the commercial DVD: a sequence of "focus points" that includes a 3-minute segment ("The Sherlockians") in which "the experts at a Sherlockian conference in New York explain why Sherlock Holmes is one of fiction's most enduring characters." That footage was filmed during the birthday festivities in 2009 and offers glimpses of (and brief interviews with) some of those who were on hand for the festivities. It is possible, of course, that the special feature will be included on a later version of the DVD of the film.

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Jun 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

It is nice, as we approach the centenary of Ronald Knox's classic "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", to see a renewed interest in Knox: last year saw David Rooney's THE WIND OF CERTITUDE: A LITERARY BIOGRAPHY OF RONALD KNOX (Aug 09 #2), and now there is Terry Tastard's RONALD KNOX AND ENGLISH CATHOLICISM (Leominster, Gracewing, 2009; 215 pp., L12.99). Both books were published exactly 50 years after Evelyn Waugh's excellent biography of Knox, and Tastard takes the reader through Knox's spiritual life: Knox was born and raised in a Protestant family, became a convert to Catholicism and chaplain to Oxford University, and created a new translation of the Bible, and Tastard suggests that Knox's story reflects the revival of Catholicism in England in the first half of the 20th century.

TCM (Turner Classic Movies) will celebrate summer with a weekly series of "family-time favorites" hosted by John Lithgow; "The Adventures of Sherlock

Holmes" (1939) will air on Aug. 1.

For the completists: Phil Jones reports that SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS: THE FALL OF THE AMAZING ZALINDAS, by Tracy Mack and Michael Citrin (Sep 6 #6), was first published as THE FALL OF THE AMAZING WALLENDAS; an advanced reader's edition exists, with different cover, title, text, and pagination, and can be found (if you're lucky) at web-sites such as Alibris and Abebooks. It is possible that the authors or publisher received a complaint from the Amazing Wallendas (that's the correct spelling of the circus act's name).

Anthony D. P. Mann, who earlier produced a Canadian version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Jul 04 #4) is now in production on "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers", which is scheduled for release on DVD later this year. His web-site <[www.anthonypmann.com](http://www.anthonypmann.com)> has more information about the new film, and a 2-minute trailer.

"Of all ghosts the ghosts of our old loves are the worst," is a thoroughly romantic sentiment, written by Arthur Conan Doyle and quoted in "A Common-place Book" in the May issue of British Heritage. Who spoke those words, and in what work?

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times10-5.htm](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-5.htm)>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including Art Schroeder's SHERLOCKIAN SHTICK!, other books, lapel pins, notecards, and much more.

Catherine Cooke reports that the Folio Society is planning a new edition of THE LOST WORLD, in pictorial binding and with a new introduction by Andrew Lycett and illustrations that include the drawing and photographs that Conan Doyle commissioned for the first edition of the book. The new edition will cost \$48.95, and you can read more about the book and see some of the illustrations at <[www.foliosociety.com/book/LWR/lost-world](http://www.foliosociety.com/book/LWR/lost-world)>. And if you'd like to join the society, Catherine will be happy to introduce you, since she's a member and gets vouchers for introducing people; she's at 15 Copperfield Court, 146 Worple Road, Wimbledon SW20 8QA, England, and her e-mail address is <[ccooke@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:ccooke@westminster.gov.uk)>.

Jun 10 #2 The new independent film "Cold weather" (not yet in theaters) appears to be Sherlockian: according to one review, Cris Lankenau (Doug) moves in with his sister and quickly finds himself thrust into a real-life who-done-it when his ex-girlfriend suddenly vanishes; being an admittedly big fan of Sherlock Holmes, Doug sets out to play real-life detective.

It was Justice of the Peace Trevor who said that "Of all ghosts the ghosts of our old loves are the worst" (in "The \*Gloria Scott\*"). He was offering an explanation of the initials tattooed in the bend of his elbow, but the sentiment isn't all that romantic when one realizes that the initials were his own: J.A. (for James Armitage).

The "It's That Time Again" series edited by Jim Harmon continues, offering stories about the popular heroes and villains from those long-ago days of old-time radio. IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN 3: (Boalsburg: BearManor Media, 2006; 236 pp., \$15.00) has imaginative encounters that include Martin Grams Jr.'s "Hold the Press: Palladin vs. Dillon" (Gunsmoke/Have Gun Will Travel), Michael Leannah's "Vacation in Hollywood" (Jack Benny/Richard Diamond), and Gareth Tilley's "The Singular Affair of the Gentleman Cracksman" (Sherlock Holmes/Raffles). IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN, VOLUME IV (Albany: BearManor Media, 2009; 278 pp., \$19.95) Harmon's "Sherlock Holmes Out West" (with Sherlock Holmes and Tom Mix), and other non-Sherlockian tales that include two nostalgic stories by Jack French. Ben Ohmart, proprietor of BearManor Media, offers many other OTR radio titles at <[www.bearmanormedia.com](http://www.bearmanormedia.com)>.

Arthur Conan Doyle, on tour in the United States in 1894, visited Rudyard

Kipling at his home in Vermont, and gave Kipling golf lessons in a field near the house (Mar 05 #1). And Kipling's home, which he named Naulakha, carefully restored and with his original furniture, is now a vacation rental: Anne Lawrence Guyon wrote an interesting report about the house for the N.Y. Times <[www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/travel/escapes/19kipling.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/19/travel/escapes/19kipling.html)>, and there's an on-line slide show of the house and its rooms.

Sherlock Holmes stories have been translated into Croatian, and so have six of Laurie R. King's series about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, with interesting new cover artwork. Available from Algoritam in Zagreb priced at 69 to 79 kuna (that's about \$11.38 to \$13.02) <[www.algoritam.hr](http://www.algoritam.hr)>.

Rue McClanahan died on June 3. She made her stage debut at the age of 4 in "The Three Little Kittens" and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television, where she became famous as Blanche Devereaux in the series "The Golden Girls" from 1985 to 1992; Her autobiography was titled MY FIRST FIVE HUSBANDS...AND THE ONES WHO GOT AWAY (2007), and she acted with George C. Scott as Justin Playfair's supportive sister Daisy in "They Might Be Giants" (1971).

Prescott's Press, edited by Warren Randall for The Three Garridebs, continues its nice mix of scholarship and whimsy, and the March issue (#55) has Mike McKuras' "Variety Is the Spouse of Life" (in which he offers an amused look at Sherlockians and their world). Subscriptions cost \$15.00 for four issues (\$20.00 outside the U.S.), and issue #55 costs \$5.00/\$6.00 postpaid, from Warren Randall (15 Fawn Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720).

Jun 10 #3 "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" is an "interactive murder mystery comedy theatre" show that was written by Matthew D. Osmun first performed at the Broker Restaurant in Denver on Mar. 6; it is still being presented in repertory on Saturdays, at least through July 24. The Broker Restaurant's address is at 621 17th Street, Denver, CO 80202 (303-292-5065) <[www.thebrokerrestaurant.com/mysterydinner.htm](http://www.thebrokerrestaurant.com/mysterydinner.htm)>, and there's more about MO Productions at <[www.moproductions.net](http://www.moproductions.net)>.

The Oxford University Press has an "English Language Teaching" series that includes SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SPORT OF KINGS, retold by Jennifer Bassett and illustrated by Ron Tiner; first published in 2003, it was reissued with new cover artwork in 2007 (56 pp., \$6.75/L4.75).

SparkNotes, an on-line version of the old student standbys Cliff Notes and Monarch Notes, will be found at <[www.sparknotes.com](http://www.sparknotes.com)>. They have long offered "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (Sep 05 #1), and now have added "The Red-Headed League" to their repertoire. SparkNotes provides analysis, discussion, quotations, study questions, and other assistance to those who are studying good literature.

Howard Ostrom has reported that the Orlando Jai-alai and Race Book in Fern Park, Fla., offers a "Sherlock's Sure Shot" promotion on Thursdays and Fridays: "Sherlock" posts a horse pick for the day, and you buy a \$10.00 win ticket and you either win the money the horse pays for winning or you can get \$10.00 worth of food or drink in exchange for the losing ticket. And suggest, in their e-mail promotion, "be sure to read Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Silver Blaze' if you don't think Sherlock knows a thing or two about the sport of Kings!" <[www.orlandojaialai.com](http://www.orlandojaialai.com)>.

It is interesting to see how many good Sherlockian books are being written for young reader: the latest is Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD (London: Macmillan Children's Books, 2010; 311 pp., L6.99), and it's a fine start to a new series. Fourteen-year-old Sherlock, on holiday from school, is quickly involved in investigating a bizarre murder, learning deductive skills from an American tutor whose tomboy daughter helps Sherlock combat sinister villains and foil a plot against the Empire.

Roger Johnson notes that it's possible to pre-order "Sherlock Holmes: The

Rediscovered Railway" ("four more thrilling Sherlock Holmes adventures from John Taylor, the creator of 'The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes'") at the BBC Shop <[www.bbcshop.com](http://www.bbcshop.com)>; £12.99, or £9.09 at the web-site. "The Unopened Casebook" was a series of six stories broadcast by BBC Radio 5, with Simon Callow as Holmes and Nicky Henson as Watson (Mar 93 #1).

The phrase "flash fiction" seems to have originated in 1992, and the genre has quickly found a home on the Internet, where fiction with a limited number of words is welcome. HOLMES IN A FLASH: NEW SHORT HOLMES STORIES, edited by Stephen Abbott (Manchester: Abbott ePublishing, 2010, \$2.49); offers 13 new stories (1,100 words or less) and Conan Doyle's own short parody "How Holmes Learned the Trick", and can be downloaded from the publisher's web-site <[www.abbottepub.com](http://www.abbottepub.com)>. Some pieces are atmospheric snapshots rather than plot-driven stories, and the eBook is an interesting introduction to a new format for pastiche and parody.

Jun 10 #4 Sonia Fetherston has noted that the Sherlock Building in Portland has been bought by the Church of Scientology. The building, which has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1977, is named for William Sherlock, who came to the United States from Ireland in the 1840s and completed construction of the property in 1893, and it has an interesting web-site at <[www.sherlockbuilding.com](http://www.sherlockbuilding.com)>. A development company paid \$9.75 million for the building in 2007, and sold it to the Scientologists for \$6.4 million.

Kelly Blau reports that she received a message from Amazon saying that because she had bought the "Sherlock Holmes" DVD, they had some suggestions that might be of interest to her: "Crack in the World" (with Dana Andrews), "Thanks for the Memories Collection" (with Bob Hope), and "Freud" (with David Suchet). She thinks it must say something profound about Sherlockians.

Himan Brown died on June 4. His career in radio began in the late 1920s, and he was best known as the producer of series such as "Inner Sanctum Mysteries", "Bulldog Drummond", "Dick Tracy", and "The Adventures of the Thin Man"; he estimated that he created more than 30,000 radio shows over seven decades. In 1974 Brown launched the "CBS Radio Mystery Theater", which ran for nine years and won a Peabody Award; the series included many dramatizations of Sherlock Holmes stories and, "Nightmare in Gillette Castle" (with Kevin McCarthy as William Gillette/Sherlock Holmes).

The Waverley Borough Council met on June 9 to consider the future of Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, and approved the developer's latest plan: the house will be converted into three homes, with a public pavilion with information about Conan Doyle, and a new second wing will be built to provide five town houses; the developer said the project would provide restoration of the building, including the historic details and leaded windows, and enhance the landscape. According to a story posted at the web-site <[www.getsurrey.co.uk](http://www.getsurrey.co.uk)>, Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard Doyle was at the meeting, and said afterward that "It is just such a shame that all that history will be lost forever. The family had been trying to come up with ways of buying it, but the price was so high we could not afford it. We just wish there was something we could do." Actor Stephen Fry described the proposal as "a foolish, short-sighted, and wanton act of vandalism. The Surrey County Council estimated last year (Apr 09 #6) that acquisition and restoration of Undershaw would cost about £3.5 million.

E.J. Wagner, author of THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jun 06 #2) discussed Holmes and forensics in a 5-minute interview on BBC Radio Ulster on May 22. You can listen to the interview at <[www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com](http://www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com)>; the link is under "What's new".

<[www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/14/sherlockian-graham-moores\\_n\\_609293.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2010/06/14/sherlockian-graham-moores_n_609293.html)> is the URL for an advance report on Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (with favorable comments by Christopher Hitchens and Rupert Holmes, and a 2-minute video; the book's due from Twelve/Grand Central in December. AC-

According to a post by Amy Hertz: "When literary researcher Harold White is inducted into the preeminent Sherlock Holmes enthusiast society, The Baker Street Irregulars, he never imagines he's about to be thrust onto the hunt for the holy grail of Holmesophiles"

Jun 10 #5 Catherine Cooke's article on the collection at the Marylebone Library appeared in the first issue of CADS: Crime and Detective Stories (Sep 85 #3), and publisher Geoff Bradley has included Sherlockiana in many issues since then. The magazine is celebrating its first 25 years of publication with the June issue, and it leads with an interesting discovery: George Bellairs' article "Sherlock Holmes and the Bankers" (reprinted from the spring 1954 issue of Martins Bank Magazine). There's other S'iana as well in the 80 pages in CADS 58, and many interesting articles about old and new books. You can order a copy of CADS 58 from the publisher (9 Vicarage Hill, South Benfleet, Essex SS7 1PA, England); £5.75 to the U.K./\$12.00 to the U.S./£7.00 or €10.00 other.

One of the useful features of CADS is Marvin Lachman's "Death of a Mystery Writer" section of brief obituaries for writers and others associated with the genre. John Dankworth died on Feb. 6; he was an accomplished musician, and wrote the music (Benny Green wrote the score) for "The Diamond and the Goose" an oratorio first performed in Birmingham in 1981. Jim Harmon died on Feb. 16, 2010; he was a great enthusiast for old time radio, and a prolific writer; his pastiche "Confidence Game" appeared in Galaxy (June 1957) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Duplicate Daughter" in IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN 2 (2004). Robert Weverka died on May 19, 2010; his MURDER BY DECREE (1972) was an adaptation of the film (he adapted many non-Sherlockian films as well).

Frogwares continues to engineer new Sherlockian computer games; their website <[www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/index.php?rub=news](http://www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com/en/index.php?rub=news)> offers links to "Sherlock Holmes: The Mystery of Osborne House" (for Nintendo DS) and "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" (only a trailer, since the next game in the series has not been released).

Go to <[www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description)> if you'd like to see Randall Stock's updated report on the inscribed copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual that will be at auction at Sotheby's on July 15 (May 10 #1); it includes links to Sotheby's five-page catalog description, and to news articles about the sale.

Dollhouse Miniatures' room-box contest for Sherlockians (Jan 10 #5) was won by Judy Rosshirt, and they have a description (and full-color photograph of her impressive room in the May-June issue, along with photograph from three other miniaturists (including Joe Coppola), and a story about Jay Pearlman and the Mini-Tonga Society. \$6.95 (866-606-6587) <[www.dhminiatures.com](http://www.dhminiatures.com)>.

"The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" is a new 60-minute "drama documentary" from Electric Theatre in Britain; so far all that's available is a 4-minute trailer at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=00ix4QgTCi8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=00ix4QgTCi8)>, with brief comments by Owen Dudley Edwards, Roger Johnson, and Catherine Cooke.

"What man wouldn't pass up a necktie for a chance to be associated with an educated, supermacho giant rat?" asked Nicholas D. Kristof in an op-ed column about Father's Day in the N.Y. Times (June 16). African giant pouched rats have been trained by a Dutch company, Apopo, to detect landmines and cases of tuberculosis, and you can read about (and donate to) the HeroRATS program at <[www.globalgiving.org](http://www.globalgiving.org)>.

Jun 10 #6 The Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, which since 1882 has sought "the opening sentence to the worst of all possible novels," has named Dennis Pearce as the runner-up in the "detective" category this year, and his entry was: "As Holmes, who had a nose for danger, quietly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his

throat, silently mouthed to his companion, 'Arm yourself, Watson, there is an evil hand ahead.'" The best of this year's entries can be read on-line <[www.bulwer-lytton.com](http://www.bulwer-lytton.com)>; the contest's motto is "Where www means 'Wretched Writers Welcome.'" A Sherlockian entry previously won in the "detective" category (Aug 92 #4).

Will Longstaff's painting of the ghosts of dead Australian soldiers in the Gallipoli campaign, bought by Conan Doyle in 1928, was sold at auction by Bonhams in Sydney this month; estimated at AU\$20,000-40,000, the painting went for AU\$72,000 including the buyer's premium (that's about \$62,586). More information at <[www.tinyurl.com/2dftf6s](http://www.tinyurl.com/2dftf6s)>.

Peter Egan and Philip Franks began their British tour in Jeremy Paul's "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" last spring (Mar 10 #6), and the play will now begin an eight-week run at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End on July 15 <[www.nimaxtheatres.com](http://www.nimaxtheatres.com)>. Robert Daws will play Watson.

Laurie R. King will be on tour in England and Scotland, signing in libraries and bookshops, from July 15 through Aug. 2 (Allison and Busby are publishing British editions of her books with attractive cover art); you will find a detailed schedule at <[www.laurierking.com/events/whereslaurie](http://www.laurierking.com/events/whereslaurie)>. And she will be guest of honor at Bouchercon 41 in San Francisco, Oct. 14-17; there's more information the convention at <[www.bcon2010.com](http://www.bcon2010.com)>.

Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants) draws attention to its work with an Elephant Parade of decorated life-size model baby elephants displayed in major cities around the world; the parade has now reached London, where 258 elephants are to be sold in an auction that will end on July 4. Cherrie Walthero has reported (and photographed) a Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street (Nick Utechin notes that it's almost outside #109, which was James Holroyd's choice for 221B). More information, along with color photographs, is available at their web-site at <[www.elephantparadelondon.org](http://www.elephantparadelondon.org)>, where there's also a shop that sells miniature reproductions in four sizes, from 10 cm (L27.50) to 35 cm (L199.00). The artist who created the Sherlock Holmes elephant is Turdsak Piromkraipak, and it was sponsored by the Evening Standard. The organizers are hoping for an audience estimated at 25 million, and that the auction will raise £2 million.

Apologies for being a few days late with this month's newsletter: the Sherlockian conference ("Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds") in Bennington was great fun, and I'll report more about the event next month.

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Jul 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His Worlds" (the conference held at Bennington College on June 24-27) was nicely done (as was the first conference, 16 years ago); Sally Sugarman and her accomplices offered a varied schedule of lectures by authors, scholars, and others; late night (and early morning) movie screenings; tours of local attractions (including the Park-McCullough House, a spectacular Victorian mansion where the tour featured a champagne tea); an exhibition of Sherlockian art and artifacts; a Victorian Musicale and a performance of a (non-Sherlockian) play by the Oldcastle Theatre Company. There was an article about the conference in the Bennington Banner; go to <[www.benningtonbanner.com](http://www.benningtonbanner.com)> and search for [sherlock holmes].

One of the nicer extracurricular opportunities at the conference was a visit (at Lloyd Rose's recommendation) to Owl Pen Books in Greenwich, N.Y. It is one of the last of the grand old book barns, and one of my finds was Elmer Davis' novel GIANT KILLER, published by John Day in 1928 and reprinted

by the Readers Club in 1943 (the Readers Club, a competitor of the Book-of-the-Month Club, had Clifton Fadiman, Sinclair Lewis, and Carl Van Doren as its judges). The novel is not Sherlockian (except for having been written by a future member of The Baker Street Irregulars and The Red Circle), but it's great fun (according to Lewis "is a lively, well-colored and sometimes ribald restoration of King David the Psalmist, Joab who was his field marshal, his other sanguinary and difficult relatives, and their innumerable girls.")

One of the panelists at the conference in Bennington was M. Lee Alexander, whose course on "Detective Fiction: From Victorian Sleuths to the Present" includes a lecture on "Arthur Conan Doyle, Sherlock Holmes, and the Victorian Era"; the course is available on CD (\$98.75) or as a download (\$59.75), and there's a course description at <[www.tinyurl.com/2ckpfqo](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ckpfqo)>. You can also listen to a 7-minute interview with her (June 14) at The Modern Scholar Blog at <[www.themodernscholar.org/wordpress.com](http://www.themodernscholar.org/wordpress.com)>.

Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet and an official postmark for the conference (there was someone from the local post office on hand to sell and cancel stamps), and the covers cost \$6.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$7.00 (elsewhere); please pay with currency or U.S. postal money orders, and his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.

Further to the report (Jun 10 #4) on the Waverley Borough Council decision to approve the developer's latest plan for Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, John Gibson, who is chairman of the Undershaw Preservation Trust <[www.saveundershaw.com](http://www.saveundershaw.com)> is challenging the decision on legal grounds, and Lynn Gale has more information about the campaign at <[www.undershawhelp.blogspot.com](http://www.undershawhelp.blogspot.com)>. Gibson was co-author with Richard Lance-Lyn Green of the landmark A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF A. CONAN DOYLE (1983), and co-editor with him of volumes of Conan Doyle's previously uncollected work.

Jul 10 #2 "A Keyboard to Make Sherlock Holmes Proud" was the title of a post to the Tom's Guide web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/2fg8sx7](http://www.tinyurl.com/2fg8sx7)>, reported by Ken Lanza. The item is an imaginative steampunk computer keyboard created by Richard R. Nagy of <[www.datamancer.net](http://www.datamancer.net)>, offered at eBay this month; bidding began at \$1,500, and the keyboard sold for \$2,646.

"Dr. Watson's 158th Birthday Celebration" is the title of a joint meeting of Rochester Row, The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse, An Irish Secret Society of Buffalo, and Watson's Holmestead of Binghamton, on Aug. 7, 2010, in Rochester, N.Y. More information on the all-day event is available from Lewis Neisner (585-360-4715) <[lewisneisner@yahoo.com](mailto:lewisneisner@yahoo.com)>.

Youngsters know all about Silly Bandz, which are die-molded with non-toxic silicone; they're worn by kids as bracelets that return to their original shapes when taken off. Ray Betzner spotted the new "Guess who?" pack (\$5.49 from PII Industries) with twelve bandz that feature the outlines of six

famous people, including Marilyn Monroe, Alfred Hitchcock, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes. The pack is shown in full color (and you can order it) at <[www.amazon.com/Rubba-Bandz-Rubba-Bracelets-Guess/dp/B003MA90IE](http://www.amazon.com/Rubba-Bandz-Rubba-Bracelets-Guess/dp/B003MA90IE)>.

THE FICTIONAL 100, by Lucy Pollard-Gott (Bloomington: iUniverse, 2010; 475 pp., \$25.95), is a ranking of "the most influential characters in world literature and legend," and the author casts her net widely to include less-



well-known characters from Asian and African literature as well as those to be found in European and American books; it is fascinating to read (or to browse) what she has written. Sherlock Holmes ranks #9, and you can read an excerpt from his chapter at <[www.fictional100.com](http://www.fictional100.com)>.

The Baker Street Irregulars have two new items available for purchase. The original of the Sherlockian switch plate that Edgar W. Smith installed in his cottage in Morristown, N.J., has been reproduced in unfinished aluminum (\$55.00 postpaid to the U.S., \$57.50 elsewhere); proceeds from the sale directly benefit the BSI Archives at the Houghton Library at Harvard, where the original switch plate has been preserved. Jens Byskov Jensen's FIFTY YEARS IN BAKER STREET (95 pp.) is a history of The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street, and is published jointly by the two societies (\$11.95, shipping extra). You can order at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>.

Ceil Baring-Gould died on June 27. She married Bill Baring-Gould in 1936 and happily shared his varied interests over many years; they jointly authored the well-received THE ANNOTATED MOTHER GOOSE (1962), and it was Ceil who saw THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (1967) into print after his untimely death. She once complained that Bill's most popular book seemed to be THE LURE OF THE LIMERICK (1967), judging by the number of letters received from readers who sent him obscene limericks they felt ought to be in second edition. In 1969 Ceil was honored by The Baker Street Irregulars as \*The\* woman in 1969, and in 1992 she was the first (and still the only) woman ever to dine with The Five Orange Pips, at the home of the late Ben Clark.

Jul 10 #3 SHERLOCK ALIVE, compiled and annotated by Karen Murdock, is a delightful collection of the Sherlockiana that Vincent Starrett wrote for his "Books Alive" column in the Chicago Daily News and the Chicago Tribune from 1942 to 1967 (and a bit more, since he contributed to other columns in the paper). There's an appreciative Introduction by Susan Rice, and a dozen appendices, including brief biographies of many of the people mentioned by Starrett, and the book offers a splendid view of the literary talents and knowledge of one of the early and most knowledgeable Sherlockians. The publisher is George Vanderburgh (2010; 503 pp., \$35.00); visit <[www.batteredbox.com/VincentStarrett/25-Starrett-SherlockAlive.htm](http://www.batteredbox.com/VincentStarrett/25-Starrett-SherlockAlive.htm)> for a detailed description of (and an excerpt from) the book, and information on how to order is at <[www.batteredbox.com/contactus.html](http://www.batteredbox.com/contactus.html)>. It's not a book to be read quickly, and the annotations will be most helpful to people who aren't familiar with all the things that Starrett (and his audience) knew in those distant Sherlockian days.

Bret M. Herholz's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE PAINFUL PREDICAMENT OF ALICE FAULKNER is a graphic-novel adaptation of William Gillette's play from Alternac Comics (2009; 128 pp., \$11.99); the artwork is quite atmospheric, reminiscent of Edward Gorey, and you can see a sample at the publisher's web-site at <[www.alternacomics.com/#/sherlock-holmes/4535753000](http://www.alternacomics.com/#/sherlock-holmes/4535753000)>.

Christopher Roden has noted that some interesting Conan Doyle letters have been advertised by Classic Bindings Ltd. (61 Cambridge Street, London SW1V 4PS, England) <[www.classicbindings.net](http://www.classicbindings.net)>. One lot (priced at L4,300) is an exchange of correspondence in 1919 between Lord Alfred Douglas (son of the Marquess of Queensbury and intimate friend of Oscar Wilde) and Conan Doyle; Douglas accused Conan Doyle of promoting Spiritualism for the sake of money and notoriety and "with the same flat-footed low persistence as you worked your idiot 'Sherlock Holmes' business," and Conan Doyle replied that "It is only your approval which could in any way annoy me." The letters are accompanied by a label written by Lady Doyle: "A splendid answer from my darling to that rat Alfred Douglas."

The other lot (priced at L8,300) is a collection of eleven letters he wrote to his wife Jean in 1923 from Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Cincinnati; they are affectionate and amusing: in one he says that he has "Nothing to read all day but the Bible which is interesting but old fashioned rather," and in another that Pittsburgh is "a hateful place--hell upon earth." Both of

the lots were in the family papers sold at auction at Christie's in 2004, when they sold for £1,912 and £3,585 (including buyer's premium).

Tina Rhea has reported a spectacular color photograph of a Lion's Mane, the "picture of the day" (for July 6) at the National Geographic's web-site; it is possible to download it as wallpaper for your monitor, and you see it at <[www.tinyurl.com/37zntft](http://www.tinyurl.com/37zntft)>.

THE MAN WHO MURDERED SHERLOCK HOLMES is an interesting 63-minute documentary from Electric Theatre Productions; it was written, produced, and presented by Richard Jones, and features interviews with Roger Johnson, Catherine Cooke, Owen Dudley Edwards, and others, and it's available on a DVD in PAL format only (£15.99) at <[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)>. And you can see a brief clip from the series at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFzgZTw2D2A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFzgZTw2D2A)>.

Jul 10 #4 Dixie Haywood (aka The Little Georgia Magnet), "known for being able to withstand the strength of some of the world's strongest men," including Eugene Sandow, is the subject of a book by Susan and Hugh Harrington <[www.annieabbott.com](http://www.annieabbott.com)>; it's a fine example of the strange things that Sherlockians get do (Hugh is "Wisteria Lodge" in The Baker Street Irregulars, class of 1996).

Ken Lanza spotted a blog (July 5) with some interesting ideas for a Sherlock Holmes Party (posted by a homeschooling parent); you'll find the blog at <[www.syndiluhu.blogspot.com/2010/07/sherlock-holmes-party.html](http://www.syndiluhu.blogspot.com/2010/07/sherlock-holmes-party.html)>.

"A Study in Pink", "The Blind Banker", and "The Great Game" are the titles of the three-part mini-series "Sherlock", according to Wikipedia; the entry is informative, and has links to older articles and the BBC's latest press release. Go to <[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)> and search for [sherlock (tv series)]. Oscar Ross kindly reported this entry; one might say that anything important has an entry on Wikipedia (of course one does need to be careful about blithely believing everything found there).

I can't do it justice in my newsletter, but a search for [jacques camory] at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)> will display an image of his attractive giclee poster print of a scene in "The Dancing Men" ("Sherlock Holmes Studies the Case at His Desk") offered in various sizes and priced from \$34.99 to \$179.99.

THE CASE OF THE ILL-FATED PLAYWRIGHT, by Fred W. Edmiston (Scotts Valley: Createspace, 2010; 155 pp., \$13.99), has Holmes and Watson involved in an attempt to rescue Oscar Wilde from dire peril at the hands of the Marquess of Queensbury; their attempt was not successful, of course, but there are many Wildean epigrams in the book.

Bidding on the inscribed copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual (Jun 10 #5) opened at £140,000 and stopped at £240,000, not reaching the reserve, Nick Utechin has reported, and the Beeton's did not sell. It was estimated at £250,000 to £400,000; the buyer's premium was 25% on the first £25,000 and 20% thereafter, so the person who bid £240,000 was willing to pay £289,000 (a bit more than \$444,000). Randall Stock has lots of information on this copy at <[www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/sothebys-2010-beetons.htm#description)>.

THE SECRET FIEND (Toronto: Tundra, 2010; 244 pp., \$19.95) is the fourth in Shane Peacock's series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (still on his own in London and learning how to be a detective); Peacock has won many awards for his books, and deserves them: he's good at character, atmosphere, and mystery. And his web-site's at <[www.shanepeacock.ca](http://www.shanepeacock.ca)>.

MX Publishing <[www.tinyurl.com/34725mh](http://www.tinyurl.com/34725mh)> is offering its five books by and about B. Fletcher Robinson as a set and at a significant discount to members of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London: £81.96/\$148.41 postpaid (if bought separately the books cost £131.96/\$238.95 plus shipping). The titles are BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON: A FOOTNOTE TO THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Sep 08 #1), ASIDE ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: TWENTY ORIGINAL TALES (Mar 09

#4), THE WORLD OF VANITY FAIR (May 09 #2), BOBBLES AND PLUM: FOUR SATIRICAL PLAYLETS BY BERTRAM FLETCHER ROBINSON AND P.G. WODEHOUSE (Jul 09 #3), and RUGBY FOOTBALL DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (Mar 10 #3).

Jul 10 #5 Alan Plater died on June 25. He trained as an architect, and became a full-time writer in 1961, earning more than 200 stage, screen, radio, and television credits. He was appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire), for services to drama, in 1995, and he dramatized two of the stories for Granada's television series: "The Solitary Cyclist" (1984) and "The Man with the Twisted Lip (1986).

Sad news for researchers: the web-sites for The Times and The Sunday Times are now available "exclusively by subscription" (L1 for 30 days and then L2 a week); free access will continue, I expect, at libraries that subscribe to the web-sites.

Barry S. Brown's THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT PARKERTON MANOR (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2010; 260 pp., \$22.95) is the first in a projected series that stars Mrs. Hudson doing the detecting, with assistance of Holmes and Watson; the unpleasantness involves two murders, and exotic heroines and villains.

"Can Holmes solve the mystery of the Hound of the Baskervilles and 27 other crimes before Moriarty tightens his grip? And just who does keep sending postcards from Reichenbach Falls?" Answers to those questions may be found in the play "Sherlock (Abridged)" performed on Aug. 8-10 during the Camden Fringe in London. <[www.camdenfringe.com](http://www.camdenfringe.com)>

The play "Sherlock Holmes in the Crucifer of Blood" (by Paul Giovanni) will be produced at Theatre Three ("the theatre-in-the-round at the quadrangle") from Aug. 5 to Sept. 5; 2800 Routh Street #168, Dallas, TX 75201 (214-871-3300) <[www.theatre3dallas.com](http://www.theatre3dallas.com)>.

Reported: THE FICTIONAL 100, by Lucy Pollard-Gott (Bloomington: iUniverse, 2010; 496 pp., \$25.95); Sherlock Holmes ranks #9, and you can read an excerpt from his chapter at <[www.fictional100.com](http://www.fictional100.com)>. KILLER'S DOZEN, by Richard A. Lupoff (Rockville: Wildside, 2010; 252 pp., \$14.95); 13 of his previously uncollected stories, including "Inga Sigerson Weds" reprinted from SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE AMERICAN YEARS).

<[www.canada.com](http://www.canada.com)> is a web-site maintained by Canwest Communications Corp. (Canada's largest media company), and Laura Kuhn has reported their interesting (and well illustrated) story (by Robert Evans) about Meiringen and Sherlock Holmes, at <[www.tinyurl.com/23rxkw8](http://www.tinyurl.com/23rxkw8)>.

Spoken Ink: The Audio Story website <[www.spokenink.co.uk](http://www.spokenink.co.uk)> offers a wide variety of downloadable recordings by authors who include Conan Doyle: four of the Sherlock Holmes stories read by Edward Hardwicke (L2.99 each), "The Brazilian Cat" read by Graham Seed (L2.99), and "B24" read by Ben Whybrow (L1.99).

Cambridge Scholars Publishing has issued a CSP Classic Texts edition of THE COMPLETE WORKS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE IN 56 VOLUMES, with an introduction by Neil McCaw (he's academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth) (2009; 10,988 pp., L399.00); Jonathan Barnes reviewed the set in the Times Literary Supplement (June 23), noting that it's not comprehensive (no plays, letters, or journalism), almost entirely without illustrations, not scholarly, and poorly copy-edited.

Jul 10 #6 Paul Spiring spotted a BBC report (July 16) about the possible closing of the 200-year-old Dartmoor Prison; a Ministry of Justice study has suggested the "permanent closure of old and inefficient existing capacity." The prison, mentioned (as the Princetown Prison) in "The Sign of the Four", "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and two "Brigadier Gerard" stories, is now a Category C facility for less violent offenders; the Prison Reform Trust said earlier in July that the prison "should eventually

be closed because it was too isolated and too old."

Karen Ellery has kindly noted Russell Stutler's web-site <[www.stutler.cc](http://www.stutler.cc)>, where you will find his striking birds-eye view of 221B Baker Street in an improved version with annotations and a link to <[www.zazzle.com](http://www.zazzle.com)>, where you can purchase his artwork in various formats and sizes. He also has a link to his imaginative Japanese hiragana version of the Dancing Men code.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" is a delightful parody that was written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson in 2007; it debuted at the Central Square Theatre on July 22 and will run through Aug. 22. 450 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02139 (617-576-9278) <[www.centralsquaretheater.com](http://www.centralsquaretheater.com)>.

"From the tiny scratches on your mobile, I deduce that your brother is an alcoholic and that you don't get on with him," is something that Benedict Cumberbatch says, according to The Guardian (July 17), in the new television mini-series "Sherlock", which was debuted on BBC-1 on July 25; it will premiere on "Masterpiece Mystery" on PBS-TV on Oct. 24, and they will begin running a promotion on Aug. 4 at <[www.pbs.org/masterpiece](http://www.pbs.org/masterpiece)>. "Sherlocking" (a fan site devoted to the series) is at <[www.sherlocking.org](http://www.sherlocking.org)>; preview reports and reviews in the British press have been quite favorable.

John Sherwood reports that Holmes and Watson are expected to be on hand for "The Adventure of the Nameless Corpse" as part of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Weekend at the Victorian Villa Inn on Sept. 24-26 (John will impersonate Sherlock Holmes). Additional information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552); the e-mail address is <[info@avictorianvilla.com](mailto:info@avictorianvilla.com)>.

Randall Stock notes that this is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Sidney Paget, and Randall has updated and expanded his census of Paget's original artwork at <[www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/sidney-paget-original-art.htm)>. It would be nice indeed if unrecorded originals could be added to the census.

"I hear of Sherlock everywhere." The Associated Press reported (July 19) that Patti Blagojevich has been reading "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" on her cell phone during less-riveting stretches of her husband's corruption trial. She is the wife of former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich, who is on trial for scheming to sell President Barack Obama's former Senate seat (and other offences); she says she's also fond of Jane Austen.

Wait, wait, there's more: the TPM Muckraker reported (July 19) that the 41-page memorandum filed by Blagojevich's attorneys in support of a motion for acquittal quoted Conan Doyle: "It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts." Judge James Zagel denied the motion.

Jul 10 #7 Rugby is not the only British sport with rules and jargon that are incomprehensible to most Americans: there's cricket, which is Canonical (barely) and which the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the P. G. Wodehouse Society have played against each other nine times in the last decade. Nicholas Utechin's WYCOMBE WONDERS is a 30-page pamphlet that was published by the SHSOL for this year's match, and it's interesting, amusing, and generally understandable. £3.50 to the U.K., £5.00 to Europe, \$9.00 elsewhere; available at <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop.php](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop.php)> (credit cards accepted).

There are now (at least) 25 titles in Marjorie Weinman Sharmat's "Nate the Great" series that features Nate in Sherlockian costume; some of the early volumes have been reissued by Yearling/Random House (with "extra fun activities inside!"), and there's a musical first performed by Theatreworks USA in New York in the spring of 2008 and then on tour.

Further to the discussion of miniature Sherlockian room-boxes (Jun 10 #5), a letter from Ann Dickerson in Dollhouse Miniatures (July-Aug. 2010) notes

(with a color photograph) a miniature of 221B Baker Street in the collection of Samie Keith's dollhouses at the Mining Museum in Butte, Mont. (the museum's open from June to September); the cost of the issue is \$6.95 (866-606-6587) <[www.dhminiatures.com](http://www.dhminiatures.com)>.

For Sherlockian golfers: Nick Utechin observed that up until the end of the second day of the Open at St. Andrews, the players included Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty. And Overton, Garcia, and ("so nearly," Nick notes) Garrido.

Further to the report (Jun 10 #6) on the Sherlock Holmes elephant in Baker Street, installed during a fund-raising campaign by Elephant Family (a financial support organization for endangered Asian elephants), the campaign raised more than £4 million, and the Sherlock Holmes elephant sold at auction for £9,750. Needless to say, one hopes to see it eventually on some Sherlockian's front lawn (or in some Sherlockian's very large living room).

Lion's mane jellyfish seem to be invading British waters every year; last month John Baesch spotted an astounding color photograph in the Daily Telegraph (June 15) showing a diver making a close inspection of a lion's mane <[www.tinyurl.com/3xrz9o3](http://www.tinyurl.com/3xrz9o3)>. It's difficult to decide whether the diver was brave or foolhardy.

According to a story in the Hollywood Reporter (May 27), Warner Bros. has announced that Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" sequel will open in the U.S. on Dec. 16, 2011; the date was included on a slide during a presentation by Warner chairman and CEO Barry Meyer during Time Warner's investor day. And the Sun reported (June 29) that Ritchie plans to shoot the sequel in 3D and has hired some of the crew that worked on "Avatar" (truth alert: the Sun is regarded by many as the least reliable of the British tabloids). And there is continuing Internet buzz about candidates to play Moriarty: in addition to Brad Pitts, the list now includes Daniel Day-Lewis, Sean Penn, Gary Oldham, and Javier Bardem.

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Aug 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference in Minneapolis on Aug. 6-8) was delightful (as always for these triennial gatherings), with excellent panels and exhibits. Four librarians (Tim Johnson, Neil McCaw, Catherine Cooke and Peggy Perdue) talked about the present and future in Minneapolis, Portsmouth, London, and Toronto; EV Herzog reminisced about the beginnings of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; Gideon Hill reported on Watson's possible dipsomania; Dick Sveum and Jon Lellenberg debated whether Ronald Knox should be honored as the creator of the Grand Game that (some) Sherlockians play; Ray Betzner paid tribute to Vincent Starrett (only a few of the items on the agenda).

And there was an important announcement: the university has reached its \$1 million goal for the E. W. McDiarmid Fund that will endow a curator for the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the first endowed curator is Tim Johnson, who received thunderous applause, a plaque, and a handsome medallion hand-crafted by Maggie Schpak.

Tim Johnson would like people to know about the Elmer L. Anderson Research Scholars Program, which supports scholarly research projects that use material from the rare and special collections at the University of Minnesota Libraries. The deadline for applications this year is Sept. 30, and there is more information at <[www.tinyurl.com/38ecc9w](http://www.tinyurl.com/38ecc9w)>.

Tim also has reported on new links at the Sherlock Holmes Collections website: the proceedings of "Rogues, Rascals, and Ruffians" (the Norwegian Explorers' conference in 1993 are now available at <[www.tinyurl.com/2vgvau2](http://www.tinyurl.com/2vgvau2)>. And there's a preliminary inventory of the John Bennett Shaw correspondence

at <[www.tinyurl.com/358tqyz](http://www.tinyurl.com/358tqyz)>, and of the "Lumber Room" collection of John's miscellaneous and single-issue periodicals <[www.tinyurl.com/3xvudkp](http://www.tinyurl.com/3xvudkp)>. And of the Vincent Starrett papers <[www.tinyurl.com/37cc39c](http://www.tinyurl.com/37cc39c)>. There has been additional upgrading on the Sherlock Holmes Collections web-site, including material from the conference this year, and it's well worth exploring <[special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml](http://special.lib.umn.edu/rare/holmes.phtml)>.

The souvenirs from the conference included THE SPIRITS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, a 58-page pamphlet edited by Michael Eckman, with articles such as the editor's discussion of Sherlockian in Mad magazine, and Lucy Brusic's analysis of changes Edith Meiser made over the years in her scripts for radio broadcasts of "The Red-Headed League"; \$12.00 postpaid from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122).

Oliver Sacks' "A Neurologist's Notebook: A Man of Letters" in The New Yorker (June 28) tells the story of "the novelist who suddenly couldn't read." The novelist is Howard Engel: after a stroke, he could no longer read, but he could write, and it's a fascinating article. Engel is the author of the Benny Cooperman mysteries, and of MR. DOYLE & DR. BELL: A VICTORIAN MYSTERY (Nov 97 #3), a fiction-based-on-fact pastiche that has Conan Doyle still a medical student in Edinburgh in 1879, involved with Joe Bell in solving a mystery full of echoes from the decades-later Oscar Slater case. Sacks, in his article "An Anthropologist on Mars" in The New Yorker, Dec. 23, 1993, noted that Sherlock Holmes showed some of the symptoms of autism.

Aug 10 #2 Ann Marlowe has discovered Gallica, an interesting Internet resource that you can visit at <[www.gallica.bnf.fr](http://www.gallica.bnf.fr)>; it's the digital library of the Bibliotheque nationale de France, and allows users to download and read books published in France. There are 389 hits for [conan doyle] and 436 hits for [sherlock holmes]; note: you can't get full access to some of the more recent titles.

You're able to "check which famous writer you write like" at <[www.iwl.me](http://www.iwl.me)>. Maybe, maybe not: I pasted in a few paragraphs from my June newsletter, and was told I write like H. P. Lovecraft. Thanks to Ann Lewis for the discovery of the web-site. The domain is .me for Montenegro; Wikipedia says that "the dot-ME top-level domain replaced the dot-YU (Yugoslavia) domain previously used by Serbia and Montenegro, in addition to declaring .me independent of .yu" (someone has a sense of humor).

And there's more: Jason Kirkfield has discovered a blog by Steve Tuttle at <[www.newsweek.com/2010/07/23/consider-the-crowded.print.html](http://www.newsweek.com/2010/07/23/consider-the-crowded.print.html)>; Tuttle found that "I Write Like" is the brain-child of 27-year-old Dmitry Chestnyhk, who founded a software-development company called Coding Robots, and whose website had had (as of July 23) more than a million visitors since July 12 and 4.4 million page views. Tuttle also discovered an amusing parody called "I Actually Write Like" at <[www.richardclegg.org/write](http://www.richardclegg.org/write)>.

Noted by Karen Murdock: Peter Macinnis' THE KILLER BEAN OF CALABAR AND OTHER STORIES (published in Australia in 2004, and in the U.S. in 2005 as POISONS: FROM HEMLOCK TO BOTOX AND THE KILLER BEAN OF CALABAR); passing references to Conan Doyle and Holmes, and lots of interesting stories.

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Thaddeus Holt's "100 Years Ago" discussion of Lyndon Orr and his Sherlockian contribution to The Bookman, Dick Sveum's "50 Years Ago" tribute to Fred Kittle, and other news and other news from and about the Collections]; the newsletter is available from Richard J. Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <[sveum001@tc.umn.edu](mailto:sveum001@tc.umn.edu)>.

It is interesting to see how authors and publishers are using the Internet to publicize their books: Graham Moore, author of the THE SHERLOCKIAN (Jun 10 #4), which is due in December, has a blog about the book (and many other things) at <[www.thesherlockian.com/about-graham-moore](http://www.thesherlockian.com/about-graham-moore)>.

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 Cliff Goldfarb's report on Conan Doyle's connection with the 1916 Olympics, Barbara Rusch's discussion of "Arthur Conan Doyle Among the Fairies", and Peggy Perdue's essay on the Library's Virtual Exhibit on Sidney Paget; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Forecast: THE BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2010, edited by Lee Child and Otto Penzler (from Mariner in September) will include Lyndsay Faye's "The Case of Colonel Warburton's Madness" (reprinted from last year's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA).

Aug 10 #3 It may (or may not) be true that there are some security clearances that are so secret that those who have them can't tell you unless they know you know anyway. According to the three-part story in the Washington Post about "Top Secret America", there now are 854,000 Americans with Top Secret clearances, 265,00 of them private contractors; David Sarasohn (Portland Oregonian, July 27) quoted a Senator who said that all that is needed is "someone responsible for keeping everyone on the same page and making sure the dots are connected." Sarasohn also quoted Sherlock Holmes' statement about the abilities of his brother, who "could get separate advices from various departments, focus them all, and say off-hand how each factor would affect the other." Sarasohn ended by lamenting that "Mycroft Holmes just isn't available" now. Credit Sonia Fetherston for the report.

THRILLERS: 100 MUST-READS, edited by David Morrell and Hank Wagner (Longboat Key: Oceanview, 2010; 378 pp., \$27.95), casts its net widely, and is an interesting survey of the genre, from the ancient Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur (1500 B.C.) to Dan Brown's THE DA VINCI CODE (2003). And of course THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES is a thriller, discussed by Laura Benedict. Carol Nelson Douglas has an intriguing chapter on Bram Stoker's DRACULA (managing to include a mention of Irene Adler).

Jeff Bradway spotted a set of artistic "Great Moments in Literature Note Cards" available from Bas Bleu (Box 2599, Hudson, OH 44236) (800-433-1155) <www.basbleu.com>; four cards each of four designs ("Gulliver's Travels", "Peter Pan", "The Three Musketeers", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), and the Sherlock Holmes artwork also is on the cover of the box. \$12.00 (item UD2842).

Randall Stock continues to expand the scope of his "Best of Sherlock" website and has added a census of known copies of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's classic pastiche "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet", including the copy inscribed by Starrett and sent to Conan Doyle in 1920. Needless to say, Randall hopes to locate more copies, and will be happy to hear from those whose copies aren't listed. Go to <www.bestofsherlock.com> to read the census, which includes a careful description of the first edition and a link to the text of the pastiche.

Jim Ballinger spotted a news release about CHARM (The Centre for the History and Analysis of Recorded Music) at King's College London; they've made almost 5,000 history recordings available on-line, one of them the recording Conan Doyle made for the Gramophone Company on May 14, 1930. The quality of the recording is splendid <www.charm.kcl.ac.uk/sound/sound.html>.

Forecast: a Japanese translation (by Masamichi Higurashi) of ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, edited by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Charles Foley, from Toro Shorin next year.

The late David Levine caricatured both Holmes and Conan Doyle in the N.Y. Review of Books (Jan 10 #3); Lucy Pollard Gott reports that the magazine's web-site has a gallery of many of his caricatures, and offers made-to-order

print of his Sherlock Holmes (\$150.00) <[www.tinyurl.com/34o7osx](http://www.tinyurl.com/34o7osx)>. His Conan Doyle, unfortunately is not available as a print.

Aug 10 #4 Molly Carr's THE SIGN OF FEAR (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 310 pp., £12.99/\$19.95/€16.99) is an entertaining pastiche in which just about everyone is a bit (or more) different from what they are in the Canon: Mrs. Watson is the detective, working with Mrs. Neville St. Clair, encountering Prof. Moriarty, John Clay, J. Neil Gibson, and others who include Raffles, Bunny, Hercule Poirot's father, and Miss Marple's mother (to name only a few); the detectives travel to Australia and the Vatican, and manage to solve quite a few mysteries (some but not all with the assistance of Dr. Watson).

Reported: KILLER'S DOZEN, by Richard A. Lupoff (Rockville: Wildside, 2010; 252 pp., \$14.95); 13 of his previously uncollected stories, including "Inga Sigerson Weds" reprinted from SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE AMERICAN YEARS).

Aaron Smith's SEASON OF MADNESS: A DOCTOR WATSON ADVENTURE (Metairie: Cornerstone, 2009; 190 pp., \$21.95) has Watson and John Seward pursuing a macabre and grotesque mystery that involves other characters from the worlds of the Canon and Dracula; there are two stories in the book, and the second ("Attack of the Electric Shark") features Hound Dog Harker (the son of Jonathan and Mina Harker).

Tina Rhea spotted a report in The Independent (Aug. 11) that the web-site <[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)> now offers a data base that contains more than six million British wills, dating from 1861 to 1941; one of them is the will of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who left an estate of £63,491 (nearly £3 million today, according to the article).

Plan well ahead: NATMEET is what Sherlockians in Australia call their national meeting of Sherlockian societies, and Steve Duke has reported that NATMEET 6 will be held in Adelaide in 2012, on Easter Weekend (Apr. 7-8).

It's hard to imagine Conan Doyle "knew his title character would be the inspiration for an electro-pop band from down under made up of four guys and a sultry lead singer," David Dennis Jr. wrote at <[www.spinner.com](http://www.spinner.com)> on Feb. 25; the sultry lead singer is Tanya Horo, who said that Conan Doyle is one of her favorite writers, and "I think I'm slightly obsessed with him on a really unhealthy way [laughs]." Their music is pleasant to listen to, and you'll find it easily on the Internet; search for [sherlock's daughter].

Forecast: Andrew Lane's "Young Sherlock Holmes" series (Jun 10 #3) continues with RED LEECH, which is due from Macmillan in November; the first title in the series was DEATH CLOUD, scheduled for an American edition from Farrar, Straus and Giroux in February.

James J. Kilpatrick died on Aug. 15. He was a journalist and author, and a fervent conservative, and his great interest in language was expressed in his column "The Writer's Art". In 1989 he discussed the coinage of verbs, complaining that Conan Doyle used the verb "disillusionize" in "The Reigate Squires". He heard from many readers who could find only "disillusion" in the story, and later explained (one paper used the headline "Schlock Holmes Says It's Elementalized, Dr. Watson") that the offending word does appear in the story (and indeed it does, in The Strand Magazine and British editions of the Canon).

Aug 10 #5 Anne Perry wrote an afterword for a new Signet Classics edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Dec 02 #5), and an introduction for a new Signet Classics edition of THE SHERLOCK HOLMES MYSTERIES: 22 STORIES (2005, \$5.95), and an introduction for a Modern Library edition of A STUDY IN SCARLET (2003, \$9.00); all nicely done.

And there's more about the campaign to preserve Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907 (Jul 10 #1): "Conan Doyle and the Bar-



barians" was the headline on a letter published in The Times (July 31) with signatures from 53 people who included authors, actors, relatives of Conan Doyle, and Sherlockians from a dozen different countries. The Times also had a story about the campaign.

The discussion of Sherlock Holmes in The Times that day also focused on a suggestion by Jeremy Hunt, the government's Culture Secretary, that funding for the BBC could be cut, with a story that quoted Steven Moffat: "If you want shows like 'Sherlock' and 'Doctor Who', you are going to need the BBC." Moffat, co-creator of "Sherlock" and lead writer for "Doctor Who", must have welcomed a review of "Sherlock" by Caitlin Moran, who announced: "Sherlock is so good, if BBC funding is ever called into question I'll pay for it myself."

A later story in the Petersfield Post (Aug. 15), forwarded by Al Gregory, reports that John Gibson, chairman of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, is seeking a judicial review of the Waverley Borough Council decision to approve the application of a developer to convert the house into three flats. According to the story, Max Norris, a professional developer who wants to keep Undershaw as a single dwelling, with limited public access, submitted his own application shortly before the Council meeting, too late for formal consideration; the Trust said that the house was valued at £600,000 before the Council's decision, which increased the value to £1.5 million, which is more than Norris can afford to pay. And Paul Spiring reports that there's an recently-updated Wikipedia entry for Undershaw; it's a work-in-progress, at <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undershaw](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Undershaw)>.

Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall (on Long Island), Nov. 13-21 (120 Main Street, Northport Village, N.Y. 11768) (631-732-2926) <[www.minstrelplayers.org](http://www.minstrelplayers.org)>.

George Vanderburgh has published Hugh T. Harrington's RE: SHERLOCK, A COLLECTION OF OBSERVATIONS & COMMENTARIES (2005; 80 pp., \$12.00); the book reprints his interesting Sherlockian scholarship from magazines and newsletters from 1987 to 1999. The publisher's at Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <[www.batteredbox.com](http://www.batteredbox.com)>.

The spring issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the newsletter of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust) offers a report (with photographs) from the 2009 sesquicentennial symposium at the Houghton Library, Tom Francis' discussion of the Trust's activities, and archivist Bob Coghill's description of his work on the correspondence that has been donated to the Trust. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <[editor@bsitrust.org](mailto:editor@bsitrust.org)>.

Aug 10 #6 Alan Stockwell's pastiche "The Singular Adventure of the Vanishing Nobleman" was published in his THE SINGULAR ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2003) and then dramatized as "The Singular Adventure of the Gloved Pianist" and performed for the Sherlock Holmes Society of London in 2008; Stockwell has turned the play back into a pastiche, and his SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SINGULAR ADVENTURE OF THE GLOVED PIANIST (Ashford: Vesper Hawk, 2010; 128 pp., £6.95/\$12.95/€10.00); it's an entertaining mystery (in more ways than one with opportunities for audience participation. The publisher's web-site is at <[www.vesperhawk.com](http://www.vesperhawk.com)>.

"The Great Mouse Detective" is now available on a "Mystery in the Mist Edition" DVD from Disney (\$19.99); it's an "all-new digital restoration" with special features that include a "So You Think You Can Sleuth" game, a "making of" featurette, and a "World's Greatest Criminal Mind" sing-along.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" is a new play written by Heather Wallen and scheduled at the York Little Theatre, Oct. 29 to Nov. 7; 27 South Belmont Street, York, PA 17403 (717-854-3894) <[www.ylt.org](http://www.ylt.org)>.

Steve Rothman delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Toronto Public Library on Nov. 15, 2008, and his remarks (titled "Tincture of Conan Doyle: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes") were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. A limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now <[www.acdfriends.org](http://www.acdfriends.org)> (or contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada); the minimum donation is \$25.00. Michael Dirda's 2009 lecture ("The Press Is a Most Valuable Institution: Conan Doyle as Essayist and Journalist") will be sent to members of the Friends later this year.

The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., on Nov. 5-7, will include a repeat performance of "The Case of the Demons in a Padded Room" (written by John K. Alvarez. The weekends have been held in the spring and fall for many years; there's more information available from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278) and at the festival's web-site, which is at <[www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html](http://www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html)>.

Gene Grossman's "Peter Sharp Legal Mysteries" feature a former lawyer and private detective who is legal guardian of 12-year-old Suzi, who's a better detective than he is, and the series has reached #15, THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CAPER (Magic Lamp Press, 2010; 167 pp., \$12.95); there's imaginative use of clues from the Canon, and you can read the first chapters of earlier books in the series at <[www.legalmystery.com](http://www.legalmystery.com)> (the author reports that there are Sherlockian allusions in other titles in the series).

Acorn Media continues to issue interesting old film and television on DVDs, and Randall Stock spotted a review of RAFFLES: THE COMPLETE COLLECTION on six DVDs (\$59.99); Anthony Valentine played Raffles in a British television film in 1975, and then in a 13-episode television series; you can read the review at <[www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/42814/raffles-complete-collection](http://www.dvdtalk.com/reviews/42814/raffles-complete-collection)>. As far as I know, neither the film nor the series has ever been broadcast in the U.S., and there's nothing Sherlockian about them (other than the fact that Raffles was created by Conan Doyle's brother-in-law). But Valentine did play Baron Gruner in Granada's "The Illustrious Client" (1991).

Aug 10 #7 Leo Sauvage was a journalist and author, the N.Y. correspondent for Le Figaro from 1950 to 1975, and then the drama critic for the New Leader, and he was a Sherlockian (investitured as "Victor Savage" in the Baker Street Irregulars). When he died in 1988 he had been working on a book about Holmes, and most of his first draft has been found and has now been published. SHERLOCKIAN HERESIES, edited by Julie Mckuras and Sue Vizoskie (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2010; 233 pp., \$19.95), offers fine Sherlockian scholarship; there are reprints of his earlier work (he wrote articles for The Baker Street Journal in 1958, 1983, and 1984) and there's much that's new.

Gasogene also has published MURDER IN THE VATICAN: THE CHURCH MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Ann Margaret Lewis (2010; 151 pp., \$18.95); there are three pastiches that involve Pope Leo XIII: "The Death of Cardinal Tosca", "The Vatican Cameos" (recorded by His Holiness), and "The Second Coptic Patriarch", and they're all nicely done. The publisher's at Box 63808, Indianapolis, IN 46268 <[www.gasogenebooks.com](http://www.gasogenebooks.com)>.

Michael Capuzzo's THE MURDER ROOM: THE HEIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES GATHER TO SOLVE THE WORLD'S MOST PERPLEXING COLD CASES (New York: Gotham Books, 2010; 439 pp., \$26.00) is a history of the Vidocq Society, which is named in honor of the brilliant 18th-century detective Eugene Vidocq; it is a group of forensic experts based in Philadelphia who use joint forensic expertise to attempt to solve "cold case" homicides and other crimes. Capuzzo reports that they are similar to the Baker Street Irregulars (both societies being "strictly fraternal"), and that forensic psychologist and forensic profiler Richard Walter has been described by Scotland Yard as "the living Sherlock Holmes."

But Walter doesn't like that description: when one of his colleagues said

that Walter looks like Basil Rathbone in "The Hound of the Baskervilles": "he talks like him, thinks like him, Walter responded that "whenever someone says that, I look away and wait for the moment to pass, as if someone just farted." Sherlockian allusions aside, it's a fascinating book; there will be a segment about the society (and the book) on "20/20" on ABC-TV on Sept. 21.

"Miss Marple is aiming to break up the illustrious duo to prevent herself being demoted from the ranks of Britain's foremost detectives, and the pair must set out to prevent Watson from being framed for the murder of one of the aristocratic Baskervilles." That's the Scotsman's description of the play "Sherlock Holmes and the Sound of the Baskervilles" performed by Two Shades of Blue during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August. It was so well received that they added three matinee performances at the end of the one-week run.

The British Film Institute has renewed its "BFI Most Wanted" campaign with a list of 75 films it would like to find, preserve, and make available from its archives, and the "ten most wanted" films include "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), described as the first British feature film to be based on the adventures of "the immortal detective". You can read more about the project, and the film, at [www.bfi.org.uk/nationalarchives/news/mostwanted](http://www.bfi.org.uk/nationalarchives/news/mostwanted); there are some interesting stills and a publicity release at the web-site.

Aug 10 #8 Oscar Ross reported a story at the Digital Spy web-site (July 26) about ratings for the first episode of BBC-1's "Sherlock", which attracted 7.5 million viewers (30.4% of people watching television). "Antiques Roadshow" ran second that night, with only 4.82 million viewers (24.3%). The population of the U.K. was estimated at 61.8 million people in mid-2009 (according to Wikipedia). "The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" (the first program in David Pirie's series), aired on BBC-2 in 2005 with 2.63 million viewers (12.6%); the most popular show that night was "Coronation Street" with 9.95 million viewers (47.1%).

You can watch "Sherlock" on the Internet, even though the BBC web-site does not allow access from the United States; [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) has the episodes in (I think) nine parts each, and the episodes are available at web-sites such as [www.megaupload.com](http://www.megaupload.com) (well, at least they were available) (one never knows how long it will be before they're removed). If you want to know where their 221B Baker Street is, the address is 185 North Gower Street and you can dine (as they do) at Speedy's Sandwich Bar on the ground floor of the building.

Or you can wait until Oct. 24, when the series will begin on PBS-TV's "Masterpiece Mystery". [www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/sherlock/index.html) is the URL for their promotion, which includes a few video clips. I can report that the series is extremely good overall, with intelligent scripts, delightful humor, and good acting; it's quite Canonical (if you accept the basic premise that the Canon is set in modern London).

And things do change: as with Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes", the new series generated a mild flurry of press and Internet comment about suggestions that Holmes and Watson were gay; I don't recall that sort of publicity when the Granada series aired in the 1980s.

Nice news: the BBC, encouraged by the 7 million people who tuned in for the third episode of the series, has announced that there will be more programs ("We're having a meeting to talk about how many and when," series producer Sue Vertue said). She should know: her husband Steven Moffat is co-creator of the series. Mark Gatiss, the other co-creator, can be seen in the series, uncredited, as Holmes' brother Mycroft.

Nicer news: according to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), the series will be released on region 2 DVD and Blu-ray on Aug. 30, and the disk will include the 60-minute pilot that was never broadcast; region 2 is the U.K., but those in oth-

er regions will be able to watch the DVD on their computers (if their computers have the nice software that plays DVDs from any region) or on multi-region DVD players.

And the Bookseller reported (Aug. 12) that the series has boosted sales of books such as Penguin's THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (up 83%), Wordsworth Classics' THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (up 431%), Macmillan's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: DEATH CLOUD by Andrew Lane (up 18%), and Quirk's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES HANDBOOK by Ransom Riggs (up 57%).

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

Sep 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Good news: Ken Ludwig has written a new play about William Gillette. The first play was "Dramatic License", a murder mystery set in Gillette's home that had its premiere in 1983, starring Patrick Horgan as Gillette; renamed "Postmortem", it has had more than two dozen productions by local theater groups. The new play is "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays", a "comedy-mystery-thriller" that's also set in Gillette's home, and it is absolutely hilarious; there was a staged reading, directed by Ludwig, at the Terrace Theatre of the Kennedy Center in Washington on Sept. 6 as part of a free "Page-to-Stage" festival over the Labor Day weekend.

Bad news: that was the only performance of the play, and there are no plans for a full-scale production. The author said that he is hoping to find a producer (one does wonder how hard it is for Ken Ludwig to get a play produced).

Jon Lellenberg's BAKER STREET IRREGULAR (Sauk City: Mycroft & Moran, 2010; 404 pp., \$39.95) is a novel about the early days of the BSI: it begins in 1933, when New York lawyer Woody Hazelbaker gets into conversation with the librarian of the Harvard Club, Earle Walbridge, who takes him to lunch at Christ Cella's and introduces him to Christopher Morley and other members of the Three Hours for Lunch Club. Woody soon becomes a member of the BSI, finds romance and intrigue, and with the assistance of other Irregulars is heavily involved in intelligence operations during World War Two, turning the novel into a thriller rather than an Irregular history. \$44.95 post-paid to the U.S. from Arkham House Publishing, Box 122, Sauk City, WI 53585 <www.arkhamhouse.com>.

Jon also has created a web-site at <www.bsiarchivalhistory.org>; it's full of interesting material, including links to some of his published essays, excerpts from his books, his blog, and departments that include "The Editor's Gas-Bag" and "Ask Thucydides!" (in which Jon attempts to answer his readers' questions about the web-site and about BSI history). And if you click on "novel" you'll find a link to "Woody's World" in which there are weekly posts about the new book. The web-site's a lively read, including his links to non-Sherlockian but intriguing web-sites.

Janice Fisher has noted an intriguing trivia question from Nancy Friedman at her "Fritinancy" web-site: "What do Grace Kelly, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Weir, and Sherlock Holmes have in common?"

"Previously unseen colour footage of London during the Blitz has been discovered after lying in an attic for almost 70 years," the Daily Telegraph reported on Sept. 6 (noted in a post by an admirer of Mary Russell to the "Letters of Mary" group at Yahoo); go to <www.westendatwar.org.uk> to see the film. Click on "Rare Colour Film Footage" and then on Part 5 of "Pages from St. Marylebone's War Diary" to see "Baker Street Bazaar (Druce & Co.) Is Burnt Out, May 10, 1941". The Baker Street Bazaar was on the west side of Baker Street, between Dorset Street and King (now Blandford) Street, and had an entrance at what is now 59-63 Baker Street, according to Catherine Cooke, who notes that the Bazaar is on the end-paper maps in James Edward

Holroyd's SEVENTEEN STEPS TO 221B (1967).

Sep 10 #2 "What do Grace Kelly, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Weir, and Sherlock Holmes have in common?" They've all had asteroids named after them. Actually, you should add Dr. Watson and Prof. Moriarty to the list: three of the many asteroids discovered and named by American astronomer Edward L. G. Bowell are 5048 Moriarty, 5049 Sherlock, and 5050 Doctor Watson (and the names have been approved by the International Astronomical Union's Committee on Small-Body Nomenclature).

Jon Lellenberg has reported "Literary Worlds: Illumination of the Mind", an impressive exhibition at the L. Tom Perry Special Collections of the Harold B. Lee Library at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, running through June 2011; their web-site is <[www.lib.byu.edu/exhibits/literaryworlds](http://www.lib.byu.edu/exhibits/literaryworlds)>, and you can click on "Arthur Conan Doyle" to see their images of the manuscript of THE REFUGEES, an interesting letter about his work on THE WHITE COMPANY, and other material.

Pat Ward has noted that Cracker Barrel restaurants have shops that offer a Sherlockian resin basset hound figure that's also available on-line at <[www.crackerbarrel.com](http://www.crackerbarrel.com)> (click on "Halloween"); item #329933 (\$24.99). And Karen Murdock reports a similar (and smaller) shelf-sitter figure (\$6.00) that apparently is available only in the shops and not on-line.

It's not often that one finds allusions to O.J. Simpson, Madonna, and the Rat Pack in a book of Sherlockian essays, but those who have heard Bill Mason speak at S'ian conferences won't be a bit surprised. PURSUING SHERLOCK HOLMES (Philadelphia: Xlibris, 2010; 151 pp., \$29.99 cloth, \$19.99 paper, \$9.99 Ebook) offers conference presentations, reprints of earlier limited-circulation articles, and new pieces, all nicely done, and more important, interesting and amusing. Signed copies can be ordered from Bill (2367 Lights Chapel Road, Greenbrier, TN 37073); \$24.00 postpaid for cloth, or \$16.00 for paper.

Further to the report (May 10 #5) on rhw four-issue comic-book mini-series MUPPET SHERLOCK HOLMES due from BOOM! Studios, there's going to be a book edition coming out in March (\$9.99/L6.63), noted at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)> and at <[www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk)>.

Corbis Motion <[www.corbismotion.com](http://www.corbismotion.com)> offers easy access to "motion content" (more than 500,000 clips, of which more than 300,000 are in HD); they can be viewed at the web-site (but you need to pay to download and use them). Four clips tagged for [sherlock holmes], and three actually are Sherlockian (two clips at the Sherlock Holmes Museum, and one at the statue in Baker Street).

THE PONTINE DOSSIER was a delightful journal published from 1967 to 1977 by Luther Norris for The Praed Street Irregulars; the contributors wrote about Solar Pons, of course, and many other things, and it's grand to find it all available again, this time on a CD (in PDF format) issued by George Vanderburgh (\$10.00). If you were a contributor and don't yet have a copy of the CD, let him know and he'll send you a free copy; Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <[gav@cablerocket.com](mailto:gav@cablerocket.com)> <[www.batteredbox.com](http://www.batteredbox.com)>.

Sep 10 #3 H. Ripley Crommarsh's THE SECRET OF MOOR COTTAGE was published in 1906, and has been reprinted by various public-domain publishers; it's available at Amazon and AbeBooks, and is of interest because H. Ripley Crommarsh was a pseudonym used by Bryan Mary Angell, Arthur Conan Doyle's youngest sister Dodo. She wrote two other books, THE EPISODES OF MARGE: MEMOIRS OF A HUMBLE ADVENTURESS (1903) and AT THE WATERS OF STRIFE (1913), but they haven't been reprinted. I suspect that none of the current publishers know who Crommarsh actually was.

A reminder that Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" web-site has links to lists of Sherlockian societies; at the moment there are 874 societies, including 415 active societies in 21 countries. And many other links, of course; the URL is <[www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/sherlocktron](http://www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/sherlocktron)>.

And Willis, back from vacation in Africa, reports that he found a copy of Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES in the library of Abu Camp in the Okavango Delta in Botswana; there's a photograph of the library at the bush camp's web-site <[www.abucamp.com](http://www.abucamp.com)> (alas, you can't quite make see the books).

Just in time for Halloween: BuyCostumes.com (5915 South Moorland Road, New Berlin, WI 53151) (866-726-7886) <[www.buycostumes.com](http://www.buycostumes.com)> offers a nice selection of costumes and accessories for men and women who want to dress up as Holmes or Watson.

You can live like a Baskerville: Paul Spiring has reported that Honeysuckle Cottage in Ipplepen is for sale; two bedrooms, one bathroom, garden, asking price £210,000. It's the former home of B. Fletcher Robinson's coachman, Harry Baskerville, who received a copy of the first edition of the book inscribed by Fletcher Robinson with thanks for the use of the name.

<[www.sherlockpeoria.net](http://www.sherlockpeoria.net)> is the URL for Brad Keefauver's weird and wonderful Sherlock Peoria web-site, now in its ninth year, offering personal essays, contribution from The Maniac Collector, interesting links, and an imaginative "Action Sherlock Brain Theater" (all well worth checking out).

"Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" was broadcast on the Discovery channel in 2003 (Oct 03 #1); it's a 46-minute documentary about Dr. Joseph Bell, with interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards and Ely Liebow, and Dorothy Young has reported that it's now available on the Internet at YouTube and other web-sites.

Singer/songwriter Brian McKnight's group "The Baker Street Irregulars" has issued a CD "Hanging on for Dear Life" (Atomic Mouse Recordings, 2006). It is available at Amazon (\$10.98) and as MP3 downloads of the albums and each track (you can also listen to samples).

THE WORLD'S SHORTEST STORIES, edited by Steve Moss (Philadelphia: Running Press, 1998; 224 pp., \$8.95); some of the results of a "Fifty-Five Fiction" contest, which challenged authors to write short stories exactly 55 words long. And one of them is Sherlockian: Tom Ford's "The Mystery". The story also appears in a CoasterBook edition with fewer stories (but you can use the stories as coasters), issued in 2001 (\$6.95) and now out of print.

Sep 10 #4 The Green Bag was (and still is) a monthly magazine published for lawyers, and early issues had items of Sherlockian interest: J. B. Mackenzie's "Sherlock Holmes' Plots and Strategy" (Sept. 1902) and Donald B. Richberg's "Sherlock Holmes, Witness: The Famous Detective Testifies" (Aug. 1907); Les Klinger has discovered both of the articles at <[www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)> (search for the titles).

Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Townhouse Players at the Powerhouse Performing Arts Center, Oct. 29-Nov. 13. Box 201, New Canaan, CT 06840 (203-966-7371) <[www.tpnc.org](http://www.tpnc.org)>.

Further to reports on the campaign to preserve Undershaw, the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907, there was a two-minute segment about the house on the BBC-1's "South Today" news program in March, with views of the outside and inside of the derelict house, and statements by John Gibson and Richard Doyle. You can see it at <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>; search for [arthur conan doyle's house].

Cindy & Bert (Jutta Gusenberger and Norbert Berger) are a German vocal duo;

you can watch them perform their hit song "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1970) at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIYRFvQMh7A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pIYRFvQMh7A) (reported by the Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden).

Kieron Freeburn's *THE OFFICIAL PAPERS INTO THE MATTER KNOWN AS 'THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES'* (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 162 pp., £14.99/£17.99/\$22.95) is an imaginative reprint of the files of the Metropolitan Police and the Devon County Constabulary, offering an instructive and often entertaining look at what the police did during the case, and what they thought about what Sherlock Holmes did.

Mystery Readers Journal has been published quarterly for many years by Mystery Readers International, and many back issues are available for purchase and download at their web-site [www.mysteryreaders.org](http://www.mysteryreaders.org). Their fall 1996 issue (v. 12, n. 3) was devoted to Sports Mysteries, and included Philip L. Scowcroft's article "Sport and Sherlock Holmes".

*THE BAKER STREET PHANTOM*, by Fabrice Bourland (London: Gallic Books, 2010; 185 pp., £7.99), was published in France in 2008 and is now available in an English translation; it's set in London in 1932, when American detectives James Trelawney and Andrew Singleton become involved with the widow of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the ghosts of Sherlock Holmes and a variety of fictional (and non-fictional) characters.

Al Gregory is trying to assemble a complete run of *The Baker Street Journal* and needs a copy of the March 1965. If you have one for sale, he's at 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044 [gaslightandfog@earthlink.net](mailto:gaslightandfog@earthlink.net).

Further to the report (Apr 10 #5) about the violin that Steve Burnett made from wood from a 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, the "Sherlock" violin has been presented to Edinburgh University's instrument collection. Burnett plans to make a "Conan Doyle" string quartet (two violins, a cello, and a viola) next year using more wood from the tree.

Sep 10 #5 The wonders of modern technology: many Sherlockian societies in non-English-speaking countries have on-line web-sites and newsletters, and they're easily found at Chris Redmond's [www.sherlockian.net](http://www.sherlockian.net). And Google has a useful "translate" feature that will automatically translate from other languages into English, not fluently but good enough that you can figure out what's going on there, wherever there might be. Google Translate also works for English into other languages, needless to say, and there are more than fifty languages available.

Sherlockians and Doyleans have long been interested in Charles Dickens' unfinished novel *THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD*, as long ago as 1905, when Andrew Lang's pastiche-solution appeared in Longman's Magazine; Conan Doyle himself discussed the story with Dickens, who explained that "Edwin is alive and Chris is hiding him" (the discussion took place during a seance, needless to say). And there still are Dickensians who debate ins and outs and possible endings, including Ray Dubberke, who wrote *DICKENS, DROOD, AND THE DETECTIVES* (May 92 #5), and now *DICKENS, DROOD, AND REDEMPTION* (New York: Vantage Press, 2010; 169 pp., \$22.95); the new book is not Sherlockian, but begins by quoting Vincent Starrett, who wrote that the story is "the greatest detective-story in the world."

*Irene's Cabinet* is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (42 pp.) offers the usual interesting mix of articles, toasts, and poetry, including Fred Glueckstein's essay on Conan Doyle as a baseball fan, Andrew Solberg's investigation of reports in the press when "A Study in Scarlet" was first published, and Deborah Belchis' "Dancing Men Gangsta Rap"; \$15.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

There's more information on "Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes", the animation released on DVD by Warner Home Video (May 10 #5): Michael York is

the voice of Holmes, John Rhys-Davies is Watson, and Malcolm McDowell is Moriarty.

WHODUNITS: MORE THAN 100 MYSTERIES FOR YOU TO SOLVE, by Tom Bullimore, Hy Conrad, Derrick Niederman, and Stan Smith (New York: Sterling Innovation, 2008; 275 pp., \$6.98), includes Holmes and Watson in Bullimore's SHERLOCK HOLMES' PUZZLES OF DEDUCTION (1997) and Holmes' great-great-grandson Sherman Oliver Holmes in Conrad's WHODUNIT CRIME PUZZLES (2002); it's a reprint of CLASSIC WHODUNITS (Dec 03 #5).

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at Centre Stage, Feb. 10-26, 2011; the theater's at 501 River Street, Greenville, SC 29601 (877-377-1339) <[www.centrestage.org](http://www.centrestage.org)>.

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, SHERLOCK HOLMES, AND DEVON: A COMPLETE TOUR GUIDE AND COMPANION, by Brian W. Pugh, Paul R. Spiring, and Sadru Bhanji (London, MX Publishing, 2010; 255 pp., £12.99/\$19.95/€14.99), is a valuable and interesting guidebook for those who want to tour Devon, and for those who want to know more about an area that includes much more than Dartmoor. The book has five sections, about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, George Turnavine Budd, Sir George Newnes, Bertram Fletcher Robinson, and (the largest) Devon itself, all carefully researched and well illustrated.

Sep 10 #6 Stuart Kaminsky died on Oct. 9, 2009. A film historian, screenwriter, and prolific novelist, he had Sherlockian allusions in two of his "Toby Peters" mysteries: Basil Rathbone was Peters' Sherlockian assistant in THE HOWARD HUGHES AFFAIR (1979), and Peters attended a meeting of a Sherlockian society called The Engineer's Thumbs in HE DONE HER WRONG (1983). He also wrote two Sherlockian pastiches, one of which ("The Final Toast") he dramatized for performance at the International Mystery Writers' Festival in 2008.

Ken Lanza spotted the "Sherlock Holmes" shoe at <[www.keepcompany.com/detail.aspx?id=115](http://www.keepcompany.com/detail.aspx?id=115)>; it looks much better in full color, needless to say. The unisex tweed-and plaid shoe is made by Keep (\$75.00 at their web-site).

Further to the report on NATMEET, which is what Sherlockians in Australia call the national meeting of their Sherlockian societies (Aug 10 #4), Steve Duke now reports that something likely will be going on down under in 2012, but not on Easter weekend. Stay tuned, as they say.

worth a look: Shahan Cheong's web-site <[www.scheong.wordpress.com](http://www.scheong.wordpress.com)> offers a link to "The Encyclopedia Sherlockian".

This year's "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library will be on Nov. 6, from 10:00 to 1:00; 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. The event, open to the public and free, is sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, and this year's theme is "Is There a Doctor in the House?".

What's the most valuable modern Sherlockian periodical? A likely candidate is the first issue of Playboy, which included an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four"; it sold for 50c in Dec. 1953 and had a press run of 53,991 copies, and a copy sold at auction this month for \$3,032. It would have sold for much more, of course, if it had been signed by Hugh Hefner (and signed copies do exist).

There are some aspects of Sherlock Holmes' world that tend to be neglected by most commentators, one of those aspects being sanitation. Ripperologist (an interesting electronic journal edited by Eduardo Zinna) has been running Tim Mosley's intriguing multi-part article "The House That Jack Built" (it's a pun, since in Britain the common term for "privy" was "jakes" (believed to be derived from "Jack's house" rather than having anything to do with Jack the Ripper); the article began in issue #115 (July 2010) and is



continuing. Contact Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.

The story of the meeting between Conan Doyle and Chaplin has been told by many, but the source is never stated. The original, in Conan Doyle's own words, was reported in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 7, 1925) about his speech at the annual dinner of the Savage Club in London: "At one theatre," he said, they had a boy playing the part in 'Sherlock Holmes'. If I had said to him 'we will go halves for all our lives,' I should have made a great deal, for that little boy was Charlie Chaplin." It should be noted that Conan Doyle did not say that he actually had met Chaplin.

Sep 10 #7 I'm not sure it's worth buying the DVD with the complete first season, but the Canadian one-hour series broadcast (and now in repeats) by Syfy cable included "Revelations" (a two-part story that first aired on Dec. 29, 2008, and Jan. 5, 2009) in which Dr. James Watson (played by Peter Wingfield) is described as having been Conan Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes (and this Dr. Watson was modest, and satisfied to have his name used for the secondary character in the stories).

Heather Brown's creative knitwits include Sherlock Holmes (2.5 in. high and in appropriate colors); you can see a full-color image at <www.flickr.com/photos/londonmatt/3190604849>. \$27.00 postpaid (they're knitted to order); you can contact Heather at <heatherjanebrown-at-googlemail.com>.

"A character so sinister he makes Arthur Conan Doyle's Professor Moriarty look like a common shoplifter" is how the publisher described Fantomas when a new translation of the novel by Marcel Allain and Pierre Souvestre appeared in 1986. FANTOMAS was first published in 1911. launched a flood of novels and silent films; a new DVD will show you just how sinister he was. The DVD has five films (1913-1914), plus additional features, and you can see a trailer at <www.kino.com>.

Audio Editions offers a long list and wide range of books on CDs and as MP3 downloads; searching their web-site <www.audioeditions.com> yields 153 hits for [conan doyle] and 131 for [sherlock holmes]. Their more-limited catalog is available by mail (Box 6930, Auburn, CA 95604 (800-231-4261)).

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE AMERICAN YEARS, edited by Michael Kurland (New York: Minotaur, 2010; 347 pp. \$25.99), is an anthology of ten new stories about Sherlock Holmes in America, by authors who include Rhys Bowen, Peter Tremayne, and Steve Hockensmith (whose has arranged a meeting between Holmes and William Gillette).

Bernard Davies ("A Study in Scarlet") died on Sept. 21. A stalwart member of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, he was its chairman from 1983 to 1986, and became an honorary member in 1995. His specialty was the locations of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and he was an expert guide to the geography of the Canon and wrote many articles based on his research. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.

The artist Charles Wysocki (1928-2002) specialized in Americana, and there is a web-site at <www.charleswysocki.com> that shows his work, including a print "Hound of the Baskervilles" that was published in 1997. The print is available at eBay for \$425.00, Ken Lanza reports, along with a less-expensive plate and calendar.

Tina Rhea noted a story in the Observer (Sept. 26) about a television commercial in which John Lennon footage is used to advertise the Citroën DS3. But the footage was dubbed; the original footage, shot by the BBC in June 1968, shows Lennon talking about reading the Sherlock Holmes stories in Tahiti, before he went on to write about Shamrock wolms and Doctored Whopper in a story in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS (1965). You can see both versions of the footage at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipyUk5-wlFg>.

Sep 10 #8 The Scowrers and Molly Maguires invite people who are coming to San Francisco for Bouchercon to a reception on Saturday, Oct. 16, 6:00-8:00 pm, at Schroeder's Restaurant (240 Front Street); there will be a cash bar, and you're asked to rsvp by Oct. 9 to <sfbsi221@gmail.com>. The Bouchercon schedule is now available at <www.bcon2010.com>, and there's still time to register for the whole convention, or just one day (hint: the Sherlockian panel will be on Oct. 14, at 3:00 pm).

The BBC mini-series "Sherlock" started on Showcase in Canada on Sept. 10, which gave viewers there access before viewers in the U.S., where the series starts on PBS-TV on Oct. 24. There's a 2-minute preview available at <www.pbs.org/wghb/masterpiece/sherlock/index.html> (it also can be seen at YouTube). The American version of the two-DVD set is scheduled for release in the U.S. on Nov. 9 on DVD (\$34.98) and on Blu-ray (\$39.98), and the set will include audio commentaries, a making-of featurette, and the unbroadcast pilot episode.

"Masterpiece Mystery" will screen the first episode at New York Comicon at 10:00 pm on Oct. 8. And there will be a Twitter Party during the broadcast on Oct. 24.

The BBC has announced that they have commissioned three new episodes of the mini-series, for broadcast next autumn. The BBC press release quoted co-creators Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat as saying "there'll be baffling new puzzles, old friends, and new enemies--whether on two or four legs. And we might be seeing the cold master of logic and reason unexpectedly falling. But in love? Or over a precipice? Who can tell?" And (sorry about that): Sue Vertue's husband (Aug 10 #8) is Steven Moffat.

The nifty little hand lens that Sherlock Holmes uses in the new "Sherlock" mini-series is a designo slide-out magnifier made by Eschenbach in Germany, and you can win one the write-a-pastiche contest at <www.sherlocking.org> (click on "The Contest"); the fan-site is maintained by Sean Duncan and Liz Elcessor, and they have other interesting news and links.

I guess it's time for some gossip about Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes 2": according to the Hollywood Reporter (Sept. 11), Noomi Rapace (who starred in "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo") has been signed as the female lead, perhaps playing a French gypsy (although Irene Adler is reported to be returning). Mycroft and Moriarty are to appear in the film. And Jon Lellenberg reports that principal photography will begin in early October (so you can expect a lot more gossip).

And Stephen Fry has announced on a BBC radio show that he will be playing Mycroft in the film. There have been rumors as far back as 1991 of a television series in which he would star with Hugh Laurie as Holmes and Watson, but it was reported (Jan 05 #6) that Fry said at annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, that he had 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 had been scrapped.

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Oct 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Thad Holt has noted the impressive wikipedia entry at <www.wikipedia.org> for "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (the very first Sherlock Holmes film, made in 1900). There are interesting aspects to wikipedia, such as the "View history" feature (at the upper right) that allows you to review the work that wikipedia's editors have done, starting with Mary Read (who describes herself as "a goofy pirate chick with a penchant for crazed copy-editing") and others since she launched the entry on Jan. 26, 2007. It has been selected

as a "featured article" (click on the gold star at the upper right); there are at the moment 3,075 featured articles out of 3,453,810 articles on the English Wikipedia.

And it is intriguing to consider that by the time of "His Last Bow" Holmes would have had a chance to see a "Sherlock Holmes" film (perhaps one of the eight films that were made by the Franco-British Film Co. in 1912 starring Georges Treville).

The Baker Street Irregulars is a reggae rock group in Seattle and Bellevue, with a presence at <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>; search for [irregulars mars]

Peter Ashman reported an interesting entry in the "Lens" blog at the N.Y. Times web-site at <[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)>; search for [artistry and artifice in the times studio]. Slide #2 shows Charles Laughton as Hercule Poirot, but more important is a mention of Basil Rathbone in a "Sexiest Men" feature in 1926. And so he was, in the Rotogravure Picture Section on Dec. 26, 1926. Headlined "The Matinee Idols of 1926: Florenz Ziegfeld, America's Most Famous Judge of Beauty, Selects the Handsomest Men of Broadway", who was then playing the lead in "The Captive". On Feb. 9, 1927, "The Captive" was one of three plays raided by the police on charges of obscenity, but that, as they say, is another story.

Randall Stock has added new information to his "Best of Sherlock" census of known copies of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's pastiche "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet" (Aug 10 #3); go to <[www.bestofsherlock.com](http://www.bestofsherlock.com)> to see the latest version.

John Longenbaugh's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Taproot Theatre, from Nov. 26 through Dec. 30, with previews on Nov. 19-20; 204 North 85th Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (206-781-9707) <[www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org)>.

John Baesch spotted a report in the N.Y. Times (July 27) about the discovery of bone fragments of a giant rat in caves on East Timor; the rat, which may have lived as recently as 1,000 years ago, is estimated to have weighed 13 pounds. It has been many years since Guy G. Musser and Cameron Newcomb published their article "Malaysian Murids and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (Dec 83 #4), and the new discovery is described by K. P. Aplin and K. M. Helgen in "Quaternary Murid Rodents of Timor" (Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (n. 341). The giant rats are in the genus \*Coryphomus\*, and one of the new discoveries was named \*Coryphomus musseri\* in honor of Musser; you can read the Bulletin on-line at <[digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/handle/22466077](http://digitallibrary.amnh.org/dspace/handle/22466077)>.

Oct 10 #2 Mr. Frankland, of Lafter Hall, was not the last person to try to prevent people from crossing his land on Dartmoor: John Baesch has forwarded a story in the Sunday Telegraphy (Aug. 8) about what the paper calls "the battle of Vixen Tor". For generations Vixen Tor has been a highlight for people walking across Dartmoor (and for Sherlockians, since it's mentioned in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), but in 2003 Mary Alford bought the land and barred access to the site. Last year the Devon County Council's public rights of way committee unanimously called for two foot-paths to be opened across Vixen Tor on the grounds that a right of way had existed before Mrs. Alford bought the land; she has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, forcing a public inquiry into the case.

Earle W. Jacobs' THE GRIMPEN MIRE AFFAIR (Bloomington: AuthorHouse, 2010; 101 pp., \$10.99) involves Holmes, Watson, their landlady Mrs. Grimes, and Inspector LeStrade in an adventure that has nothing to do with the Hound, and is told by Watson as a journal entry rather than a story.

Anne Cotton reports that The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (who are devotees of the writings of both John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse) will convene a Junior Bloodstain (a considerably less than totally reverent event) during

the annual convention of the Wodehouse Society on October 13-16, 2011, in Dearborn, Mich. Additional information is available from Anne (12 Holly-wood Street, South Hadley, MA 01075) <ladybasset@comcast.net>.

Evy Herzog found a new Sherlockian T-shirt sold by Literary Threads; the color is mustard, and it is available in various sizes (\$20.00 postpaid) (904-557-3479) <www.literarythreads.com>.

Jack Cassin-Scott died on June 9. An artist, author, and actor, he was also an expert model-maker; his attractive Cassin Baker Street Series of 12-inch latex figures (1969-1971) included Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, Irene Adler, Prof. Moriarty, and Mycroft Holmes.

There's almost always something new for fans of Mary Russell at Laurie R. King's web-site <www.laurierking.com>; click on the Bouchercon page for a virtual tour of many of the locations in LOCKED ROOMS and THE ART OF DETECTION. There's news of STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, an anthology edited by Laurie and Les Klinger, with an interesting list of contributors, due from Random House for Christmas 2011. Laurie also offers A MARY RUSSELL COMPANION as a free e-Book, with excerpts from all the books, an essay by Laurie describing the writing process, and lots of extra features. The COMPANION will be up-dated when additional books in the series are published (PIRATE KING is due next year).

There's something new in Scotland: The Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland has held its first meeting, and plans to meet monthly in Glasgow. It's the first Sherlockian society in Scotland, and its founder is Barry Young; his postal address is 19 Windsor Court, Dirleton Drive, Glasgow G41 3BG, Great Britain, and the society's e-mail address is <sherlockscotland@btinternet>. They have a web-site at <www.sherlockscotland.blogspot.com>.

Oct 10 #3 Martha Stewart is now firmly in the world of Sherlock Holmes: in the Grandinroad catalog, which has a "Martha Stewart Detective Woman's Halloween Costume" (cape, collar, and cap) at \$119.00 (item #41814), and you can see it in full color at <www.grandinroad.com>; thanks to Evy Herzog, who noted the item. It's too late for Halloween this year, of course, but you'll be in plenty of time for next year.

But this isn't the first Sherlockian connection for Martha Stewart: "Where there is no imagination there is no horror" was the appropriate Halloween quote in Martha Stewart Living (Oct. 2008), credited to Conan Doyle. And where did he write that?

LONDON QUIZ, by Travis Elborough and Nick Rennison, is a handy pocket-size collection of "400 provocative, curious, and humorous questions to enlighten and entertain" (New York: The Little Bookroom, 2010; 240 pp., \$14.95), and it offers a pleasant challenge for people who think they know all about the city and its history (at least three of the questions are Sherlockian or Doylean).

Tsukasa Kobayashi ("Baritsu") died on Sept. 27. He was a psychologist, an educator, a novelist, and an active Esperantist, and he was a co-founder of the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club in 1977. He received his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.

Plan ahead: The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, the Toronto Public Library, and The Bootmakers of Toronto have scheduled a conference on "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal" in Toronto on Oct. 13-16, 2011; their website's at <www.acdfriends.org> and more details are available on request from Barbara Rusch (36 Macauley Drive, Thornhill, ON L3T 5S5, Canada) <ephemeradiva@rogers.com>. The Wessex Press is sponsoring its third "From Gillette to Brett" weekend in Indianapolis on Nov. 11-13, 2011; more

information (and an impressive video trailer at <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>. The Baker Street Irregulars and the UCLA School of Theater, Film, and Television will hold a Labor Day conference on "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" in Los Angeles on Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 2012; details to come. And The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has scheduled a new Swiss Pilgrimage for Sept. 9-16, 2012; they'll spend four days in Interlaken and three days in Meiringen, presumably all in appropriate Sherlockian costume.

"Such Suite Music with Holmes" was the headline on a story by John Gibson in the Scotsman (Oct. 20), spotted by Scott Monty. The Electric Light Orchestra will include Patrick Gowers' "Sherlock Holmes Suite" (from the Granada series) in a concert at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh on Nov. 6.

News from Toronto: three manuscripts that were owned by Adrian Conan Doyle and were bequeathed by his widow Anna to the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection have arrived at the Toronto Reference Library: "The Crown Diamond" (a play that was first performed in 1921 and then adapted as "The Mazarin Stone"), "Some Personalia about Mr. Sherlock Holmes" (an article first published in The Strand Magazine in 1917), and "On the Intemperance of Our Country, the Cause of Its Prevalence, and the Means of Its Suppression" (an essay that was written for a competition in 1878). Randall Stock discusses all three manuscripts at <[www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/crown-diamond-manuscript.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/crown-diamond-manuscript.htm)>.

Oct 10 #4 Bouchercon 41 ("Bouchercon by the Bay") was nicely done indeed, with registration about 1,400 plus about 400 one-day attendees. There were two Sherlockian panels: "Going Home" (with Michael Kean, Peter E. Blau, Chris Goetz, and Richard Sveum) and "Letters from the Grave" (with Les Klinger, Steve Hockensmith, Laurie R. King, Michael Kurland, and Graham Moore), and a third non-Sherlockian "A Trout in the Milk" about sex in mysteries (none of the panelists were familiar with the trout in the milk in the Canon). The titles of the panels presented their own mystery, and it was revealed at the end of the convention that the titles of all the panels were titles of (appropriately) of the television series "The Streets of San Francisco".

The Scowrers and Molly Maguires hosted a Saturday-evening reception to welcome the Sherlockian visitors, and the conventional also offered an opportunity to visit an exhibition on "Sidney Paget's Sherlock Holmes: A Sesquicentennial Exhibition" at the Arion Press Gallery. The exhibition honors Paget's 150th birthday, runs through Nov. 17, and features six original illustrations (from the collection of Glen Miranker); there's more about the gallery and the exhibition at <[www.arionpress.com/paget.html](http://www.arionpress.com/paget.html)>.

Future Bouchercons will be held in St. Louis, Mo., on Sept. 15-18, 2011; in Cleveland, Ohio, Oct. 4-7, 2012; in Albany, N.Y., Sept. 19-22, 2013; and in Long Beach, Calif., Nov. 13-16, 2014. More information about Bouchercons past, present, and future will be found at <[www.bouchercon.info](http://www.bouchercon.info)>.

"Where there is no imagination there is no horror" was said by Holmes, to Watson, in A STUDY IN SCARLET.

Mark Alberstat's 2011 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. US\$14.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.

Dennis Wickline's audience-participation mystery "Sherlock Holmes Is Coming to Dinner" opened at the Broadway Onstage Live Theatre on Oct. 22, and will run through Nov. 20. 21517 Kelly Road, Eastpointe, MI 48021 (586-771-6333) <[www.broadwayonstage.com](http://www.broadwayonstage.com)>.

Paul Singleton has reported that F. Andrew Leslie's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978) will be performed by the Gotham Radio Theatre on Nov. 8 at the Mint Theater (311 West 43rd Street #307, New York, NY 10036) (866-992-9263) <[www.gothamradiotheatre.com](http://www.gothamradiotheatre.com)>. There will be two performances, at

7:00 and 9:00 pm.

David F. Musto ("Dr. Anstruther") died on Oct. 8. He was for many years a professor at Yale University, and a leading historian of U.S. drug policy. His essay "A Study in Cocaine: Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud" appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1968, and was cited by Nicholas Meyer as one of the inspirations for his novel THE SEVEN-PERCENT SOLUTION. Dave also was founder of the Yale Sherlock Holmes Society, orchestrating annual summer meetings that featured guest speakers and the screening of a Basil Rathbone film. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.

Oct 10 #5 Sherlock Holmes' 157th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 7, 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 you should let Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> or Evy Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230) <herzogbaesch@aol.com> know if you are coming to the event.

The Christopher Morley walk, led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash, will leave from the Algonquin Hotel (59 West 44th Street) at 9:30 am on Thursday, followed by lunch at McSorley's at about 1:30 pm; those planning to participate are asked to get in touch with Jim (2240 15th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116) <jasdcx@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather. Burt Wolder reports that The Three Hours for Lunch Club will honor Frederic Dorr Steele's memory at 1:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South).

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture begins at 6:15 pm on the 2nd floor of the Midtown Executive Club (at 40 West 45th Street); the speaker will be Michael Sims, editor of the anthology THE PENGUIN BOOK OF GASLIGHT CRIME and the upcoming THE DEAD WITNESS: A CONNOISSEUR'S COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below). Tickets will not be sold at the door.

The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Friday in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 4th Street) to present their Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <www.beaconsociety.com>.

Otto Penzler will hold his traditional open house from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop). If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.

The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon starts at noon, at Moran's Chelsea Seafood Restaurant at 146 Tenth Avenue at 19th Street; the cost is \$45.00 for chicken or salmon (\$50.00 for prime rib). Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221bee@gmail.com> is the contact for a formal announcement.

The Baker Street Irregulars will gather at 6:00 pm at the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street and just north of Grand Central Station); attendance is by invitation only. The Gaslight Gala (which is open to all Sherlockians and their friends) will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Manhattan Club (201 West 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue); \$75.00 (checks payable to Will Walsh can be sent to Carol Fish at Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919 (845-361-4320).

Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and the Gaslight Gala, and early reservations are advised.

Oct 10 #6 Those who wish to have seasonal souvenirs or other mementos included in the various dinner packets can send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 110 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) 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 be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.

On Saturday a wide variety of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; for information about dealers' tables, contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com>.

The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:00 to 4:00 at the New York City Bar Association (42 West 44th Street); there will be hors d'oeuvres (adequate but not replacing lunch or dinner) and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks). The cost is \$79.00 (details below) or \$89.00 after Nov. 26 or at the door.

For those who wish to continue partying, there are as yet no plans (firm or infirm) for sporting events at Kennedy's or other venues on Saturday evening; stay tuned (as they say) for a further report.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:15 am to 2:30 pm at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant at 160 West 54th Street (between Sixth and Seventh Avenues) (and yes, Sixth Avenue is the Avenue of the Americas), and the cost will be \$20.00 including tax and tip (payable by cash or check at the door). The brunch is open to all, but space is limited; please let Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com> know if you are coming.

Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate; the special rate is available only for reservations made through The Baker Street Irregulars (details below).

And here are the details: if you've not already received Mike Whelan's announcement and reservation form (including prices) for the Roosevelt Hotel, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, after Nov. 1 you can visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on "BSI Weekend".

Mary Ellen Rich kindly continues to advise about hotels that offer reasonable (as defined by New York landlords) rates, but it's a mark of the 21st century that the best offers are to be found on the Internet, at web-sites such as <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com>, <www.hotels.com>, <www.expedia.com>, and <www.quikbook.com>; special rates also are available at <www.travelzoo.com/top20/82851294-890255>. You will be wise then to check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (and you should not forget about non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

Oct 10 #7 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.

And if you can't remember where you put your copy of all of this, detailed information about the birthday festivities is available on the Internet at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)> and <[www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com)>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.

More television news: BBC worldwide has said it has sold its mini-series "Sherlock" for broadcast in France, Russia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia, Serbia, New Zealand, South Africa, Latin America, and Ireland, in addition to Canada and the U.S. And co-creator Steven Moffat offered some clues about the next series in an interview on Oct. 15 on National Public Radio's "Morning Edition": Linda Wertheimer asked for hints, and Moffat replied "The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach." You can go to <[www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=13572175](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyid=13572175)> for audio and a transcript.

The new British government's call for budget cuts totaling \$83 billion includes a 30% reduction in funding for the Arts Council, which supports the BBC. The Financial Times noted (Oct. 22) that Benedict Cumberbatch, Simon Pegg, and Liam Neeson have all asked that the arts be spared, and the paper's columnist Jonathan Guthrie asked, "Who can gainsay the combined economic wisdom of men who between them have personated Sherlock Holmes, Scotty from 'Star Trek', and Jedi Knight Qui-Gon Jin?"

The U.S. broadcast of the first episode was marked by a Sherlockian first: PBS-TV created a live Twitter chat in which on-line viewers could watch and comment on the program. Scott Monty was one of the hosts, and reports that there were more than 1,500 tweets in less than 90 minutes; you can visit <[www.bakerstreetblog.com/2010/10/more-to-me-than-twitter-illu.html](http://www.bakerstreetblog.com/2010/10/more-to-me-than-twitter-illu.html)> to read all about it at Scott's "Baker Street Blog".

More movie news: Jared Harris (he plays Lane Pryce on "Mad Men" series) has been cast as Moriarty in Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock 2" (putting to rest those rumors about Brad Pitt, Daniel Day-Lewis, Sean Penn, and others). And production has started on "Sherlock 2"; go to <[www.dailymail.co.uk](http://www.dailymail.co.uk)> and search for [downey law richmond] to see a story (Oct. 19) with photographs taken during filming in Richmond Park, which reportedly was turned into a gypsy camp. The photographs don't show Noomi Rapace, who may be playing a French gypsy in the film (Sep 10 #8); if you would like to know how to pronounce her name, do a Google search for [pronounce noomi rapace].

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

Nov 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sorry about that: the Beacon Society's annual meeting will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, Jan. 8, during the birthday festivities in New York, in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel (at 45 East 4th Street) to present their Annual Beacon Award recognizing efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)>.

And Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will once again host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner at Kennedy's Irish Restaurant & Pub (327 West 57th Street, between 8th and 9th Avenues) on Saturday at 6:00 pm; \$44.50 for dinner, one alcoholic drink, tax, and tip. Please send checks (payable to the CCOBS) to Chrys at 18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235, to arrive by Dec. 28; if you have questions, she's at (818-675-5581) <[bswl@social.rr.com](mailto:bswl@social.rr.com)>.

Al Gregory requests everyone cooperation in ensuring that material intended for the packets at the annual dinner of The Baker Street Irregulars will be received by Dec. 15; his address is 118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044 <[gaslightandfog@earthlink.net](mailto:gaslightandfog@earthlink.net)>.



Julie Snell has discovered The Nostalgia League, an interesting on-line resource that includes a department called The Diogenes Club, where you can read two Sherlockian parodies: Sir James M. Barrie's "The Adventure of the Two Collaborators" (1893) and P. G. Wodehouse's "Dudley-Jones, Bore-Hunter" (1903) <[www.thenostalgialeague.com/olmag/doyle.html](http://www.thenostalgialeague.com/olmag/doyle.html)>.

The Strand Magazine (published by Andrew Gulli) offers its "Sherlock Holmes 2011 Wall Calendar" accompanied by a bonus DVD that has five Holmes films from 1921 to 1945). \$24.95 (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <[www.strandmag.com](http://www.strandmag.com)>.

Karen Murdock has noted a "The Doctor Is In... Literature" list on-line at <[www.abebooks.com](http://www.abebooks.com)>; the doctors include Mengele, Doolittle, Moreau, Jekyll, Fu-Manchu, Nikola, Van Helsing, No, Zhivago, and Watson.

E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jun 06 #2) is now available (unabridged) as an audio book at <[www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)>; she narrates the book, with the assistance of Simon Prebble. And she has an interesting web-site at <[www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com](http://www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com)>

Geoffrey Crawley died on Oct. 29. He was for many years editor-in-chief of the British Journal of Photography, and wrote a ten-part series of articles in 1982 and 1983 that exposed the photographs of the Cottingley fairies as fakes. It is an interesting coincidence that Conan Doyle wrote a series of articles about photography that were published in the magazine from 1881 to 1885.

TWITTERATURE: THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKS IN TWENTY TWEETS OR LESS, by Alexander Aciman and Emmett Rensin (New York: Penguin, 2009; 224 pp., \$12.00), the contents include "Sherlock Holmes". The book was published in Britain as TWITTERATURE: THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOOKS RETOLD THROUGH TWITTER. Thanks to John Baesch for spotting the latest version of the Canon.

Nov 10 #2 Mystery Scene Magazine (Mar 10 #4) is informative and colorful; the fall issue has Cheryl Solimini's interesting interview with Nancy Springer about her Enola Holmes young-adult mystery series (which is ending with the sixth book this year), Laurence Block's column (intriguing but non-Sherlockian) about Charles Willeford, and a great deal more. The magazine is edited by Kate Stine and is published five times a year (\$32.00 a year to the U.S.); you can subscribe by mail (331 West 57th Street #148, New York, NY 10019, or on-line <[www.mysteryscenemag.com](http://www.mysteryscenemag.com)>. The web-site has links to articles from the current and past issues, and to all of the book reviews published in the magazine.

Further to the death of David F. Musto (Oct 10 #4), the 27th annual Sherlock Holmes Lecture at Yale was given by Dr. Thomas Duffy on June 12, 2008, on "Sherlock Holmes' Syringe"; there's a 23 minute video of the lecture at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYsuQbo3FM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYsuQbo3FM)>.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at Dixon's Downtown Grill in Denver on Nov. 3, and the visiting geologists were welcomed by Bill Dorn and other members of the local Sherlockian society (Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients). Our next dinners will be in Houston on Apr. 13 and in Minneapolis on Oct. 12.

Jill Lepore's "A Critic at Large" essay in The New Yorker (Oct. 18) can be read at their web-site <[www.newyorker.com](http://www.newyorker.com)>: it's titled "Too Much Information: Books about the Birds and Bees" and opens with an amusing (and quite appropriate) quotation from the Canon.

"Research papers and essays for all" is the motto at <[www.oppapers.com](http://www.oppapers.com)>, a paid-access data-base at <[www.oppapers.com](http://www.oppapers.com)>, spotted by Francine Kitts. At the moment they have more than 200,000 papers, including some of interest to Sherlockians or would-be Sherlockians. "Submitting papers to a website

and reviewing other users' papers is not plagiarism," the company explains, adding that "submitting another's work as your own is plagiarism. Please never turn in any articles from this web-site as your own."

Apologies to all those who reported (and some quite a while back) amusing T-shirts available at <[www.snorgtees.com](http://www.snorgtees.com)>; they're available for \$15.16 and in various sizes, and you can search for [velociholmes] or [sedimentary].

Nov 10 #3 Phil Bergem has found an amusing "Literary Pets" calendar for 2011 at Half Price Books; it's written and illustrated by Chet Phillips, and the page for September features Sir Arthur Canine Doyle (author of THE WHINE OF FOUR and THE HOUND OF THE BASSETVILLES) and the famed detective Curlock Holmes. The calendar is available only in stores and is free with a purchase of \$30.00 or more.

Reported: a 2011 Sherlockian calendar that features Sherlockian pets (photographs of pets of Sherlockians, that is), available from Classic Specialties <[www.cafepress.com/sherlockholmes2.478406128](http://www.cafepress.com/sherlockholmes2.478406128)>; \$19.95.

Hemlock Holmes was one of the character on the animated series "The Dick Tracy Show"; there were 130 five-minute episodes produced by UPA from 1961 to 1963, and they're all available on a set of four DVDs that was issued in 2006 (\$14.97 at Amazon). Hemlock Holmes (voice by Jerry Hausner) was a canine assistant to Tracy, and is non-Sherlockian except for his name.

Aziz Bin Adam reports that "Elementary, My Dear View" (a documentary presented by Richard E. Grant) is available at YouTube in four parts (46 minutes total); the documentary is nicely done, and was broadcast in the U.K. by ITV3 on Nov. 17, 2007.

"I know what I loved about Conan Doyle's work was he made his characters so real. I mean not only me, but the people that read Sherlock Holmes felt that they knew him." Comic industry legend Stan Lee, in an interview with L. Vincent Poupard at FanFare in Detroit (thanks to Jon Lellenberg for the report). To read more of the interview, go to <[www.associatedcontent.com](http://www.associatedcontent.com)> and search for [stan lee interview with associated content].

The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has much about the recent conference that was devoted to "The Spirits of Sherlock Holmes" (including Jon Lellenberg's reminiscences about Allen Mackler); 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](mailto:sveum001@tc.umn.edu)>.

Bill Dorn's "Sherlock Holmes Calendar" for 2011 is devoted to "Dr. John H. Watson, M.D., on Film and Television" (with photographs of many Watsons and a few Holmeses); the postpaid price is \$12.95 to the U.S., \$13.95 to Canada, and \$17.95 elsewhere. You can see the calendar, and take an interesting trivia quiz, at <[web.me.com/billdorn/2011\\_Holmes\\_Calendar/Home.html](http://web.me.com/billdorn/2011_Holmes_Calendar/Home.html)>.

"Watson" (subtitled "The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes")

is a new play written and directed by Jaime Robledo, running at the Sacred Fools Theater through Dec. 11 (600 North Heliotrope Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90004) (310-281-8337) <www.sacredfools.org>.

CONAN DOYLE AND THE DIVORCE LAW REFORM UNION is a well-researched monograph that Dana Richards has written about a relatively-unknown aspect of Sir Arthur's life; he served as president of the Union from 1909 to 1920, and the 62-page pamphlet offers interesting coverage of a campaign to which he devoted a great deal of effort and enthusiasm. It costs \$10.00 postpaid from the author (10814 Rippon Lodge Drive, Fairfax, VA 23032).

Nov 10 #4 If you collect Sherlockian records, you may want to extend your search to include wax cylinders: it would appear that the earliest known audio recording to mention Sherlock Holmes was issued in 1910. The song is "The Jingle of Jungle Joe" (words by Jack Mahoney and music by Theodore Morse); the sheet music was published by the Theodore Morse Music Co. in 1910, and there were at least two recordings, one performed by Collins & Harlan in 1910 (Columbia 967) and the other by the American Quartet in 1911 (Edison Amberol 638). You can listen to and download the song from the Internet: the mention of Sherlock Holmes is in the second verse. And if you have trouble understanding the song, I can provide the lyrics, copied from the sheet music.

Halloween pumpkins can be quite artistic: Debbie Belchis of Ellicott City celebrated this year with a Sherlockian jack-o-lantern.

THE CASE FILES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Dr. John Watson (New York: Fall River Press, 2009; 62 pp., \$22.50), is done with imagination (and without identifying the author); a scrapbook of six of the cases, accompanied by actual artefacts that include interesting items such as a love letter written by Stapleton to Laura Lyons. It was published in Britain (as THE CASE NOTES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES) by Andre Deutsch (L19.99), and the American edition has been seen discounted to \$14.98.

Penguin has published THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES in their Penguin Hardcover Classics Series with an attractively lepidopterous cover designed by Coralie Bickford-Smith (\$20.00); this is a reissue of the Penguin Classics edition with the informative introduction and notes by Christopher Frayling (Jun 01 #5).

Herbert P. Tinning ("Dr. Leon Sterndale") died on Nov. 7. He worked as an association executive, and was a dedicated deacon in the Episcopal church and an active Sherlockian as a member of societies in the midwest and then in the northeast; his special enthusiasms included the Antarctic (where he believed Dr. Watson visited during the Great Hiatus) and his namesake story "The Devil's Foot". He was awarded his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1974.

The fall issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's discussion of anniversaries celebrated this year of people who had Sherlockian or Doylean connections: Frederic Chopin (200), Sidney Paget (150), J. M. Barrie (150), and Theodor Herzl (150), plus Peggy Perdue's report on manuscript acquisitions, and other news from and about the collection. Copies are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Paul Spiring has reported that Frederick Moy Thomas' FIFTY YEARS OF FLEET STREET: BEING THE LIFE AND RECOLLECTIONS OF SIR JOHN R. ROBINSON (1904) has been reprinted, and you can read it at <books.google.com>; it includes an enthusiastic letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Robinson from Amherst, Mass., in 1894, saying (among other things), "It's a great country, Sir."

Nov 10 #5 Aziz Bin Adam has noted a story on CNN that will be of interest to anyone who wants to see and hear what Mecca was like in 1885 (only a few years before Sherlock Holmes "looked in" there); it was Dutch adventurer Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje who made the photographs and recordings, some of which are now on display in Dubai. The full report, by Barry Neild, is at <[www.tinyurl.com/2ukqkbw](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ukqkbw)>.

Gayle Harris has reported that a catalog from Alberene Royal Mail (Box 902, Harrisville, NH 03450) (800-843-9078) <[www.alberene.com](http://www.alberene.com)> has many Sherlockian items, including pub glasses, a pub chalkboard, a pub-in-a-box, a pub sign from The Sherlock Holmes, a pocket magnifier, a pocket watch, a movie poster, and a wall clock (as well as a Diogenes Club wall clock).

Dynamite Entertainment has announced their new comic book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES: YEAR ONE, with six issues written by Scott Beatty. There's a blog (with art-work) at <[www.comicbookresouces.com/?page=article&id=29431](http://www.comicbookresouces.com/?page=article&id=29431)>, and the publisher's web-site is at <[www.dynamiteentertainment.com](http://www.dynamiteentertainment.com)>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's new Christmas card is titled "The Snow Queen" and has an intriguing photograph from the Victoria and Albert Museum, dated ca. 1890, of a man who's wearing a deerstalker and making a snow sculpture of Queen Victoria; you can see the artwork and order packets of the cards at the Society's web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)>. And the Society's annual dinner will be held on Jan. 15 in the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons; the guest of honor will be Andrew Horowitz, a prolific author and editor, and creator and writer of the television series "Foyle's War".

There's an interesting discount offer at the Deal Table at the Baker Street Journal's web-site at <[www.bakerstreetjournal.com](http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com)>: the International Series volume SCANDINAVIA AND SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 07 #6) is now available at a 25% discount. The book offers English translations of fine scholarship from Denmark, Sweden, and Norway.

Randall Stock has added a new feature to his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <[www.bestofsherlock.com](http://www.bestofsherlock.com)>; "What's New in 2010: Top Holmes Gifts for Long-Time Sherlockians" offers nice choices for Christmas presents, and there's also a list of "Holmes Gifts for New Fans".

Peter Cushing recorded THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES for the Royal National Institute for the Blind in 1971, and his work at long last is available to the general public: Cosmic Hobo Productions is issuing his readings on CDs, with new notes by David Stuart Davies. The first volume, with four stories, is available now (£19.99) at <[www.cosmichobo.com](http://www.cosmichobo.com)>; if you order before Jan. 31 and enter the discount code [moriarty] at check-out, you'll get a 25% discount. They are excellent readings, needless to say, and he demonstrates well the visual imagery at which Conan Doyle was so skilled.

Cosmic Hobo also has a reissue of Cushing's (abridged) reading of his first autobiography PAST FORGETTING (1988) on two CDs (£14.99); 144 minutes, plus a bonus 16-minute documentary featuring some of the people who worked with him, and with new album notes written by Mark Gatiss (co-creator of the BBC mini-series "Sherlock").

Nov 10 #6 The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have issued a new audio recording of William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes", adapted for radio by Roger Johnson and starring Jim Crozier and Dave Hawkes as Holmes and Watson, nicely done indeed. The 110-minute recording can be heard or downloaded free at the Society's web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)> and is available on two CDs from the Society (Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England) for £12.00 or \$32.00 postpaid; sterling checks should be payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks to Jean Upton.

John Baesch notes that the J. Peterman Company (1001 Primrose Court, Lex-

ington, KY 40811) (888-647-2555) <www.jpeterman.com> still offers items of interest to Sherlockians, and so they do: a deerstalker (\$128.00), a Sherlock Holmes pipe (\$295.00), a blackthorn walking stick (\$120.00), a herringbone caped coat (\$750.00), and an Acme Metropolitan whistle (\$19.00).

It's now possible to view at least some of the first known Sherlockian film produced in color: Alexis Barquin has noted a four-minute excerpt available at YouTube. The film is "My Grandfather's Clock", and it's a parody, a 17-minute "musical murder mystery" produced in Technicolor and released by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer on Oct. 27, 1934. The film stars Charles Judels (Philo Holmes) and Franklin Pangborn (Dr. Watkins), and one of the musical numbers has everyone singing "For he's a jolly good Philo." A second (shorter) excerpt also is available; search for [bizarre musical number from 1934].

Dr. William R. Hanson designed a cachet for a first day cover for the Edgar Allan Poe stamp, showing a scene from "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" and a Canonical quote about Dupin. \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. (and \$11.00 elsewhere); payment only in U.S. currency or postal money orders, please, but other arrangements can be made for overseas buyers; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 <drhanson@localnet.com>.

Nov 10 #7 Japanese Sherlockiana: Daniel Stashower's TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE has been translated by Masamichi Higurashi (Tokyo: Hara Shobo, 2010; 568 pp., Y3,600), and Hayakawa's Mystery Magazine (Nov. 2009) honored the 150th anniversary of the birth of Conan Doyle with a selection of pastiches (by Steve Hockensmith, Kim Newman, Len Deighton, Edward D. Hoch, and Peter Lovesey), and essays about Holmes and Conan Doyle. And Hara Shobo has reissued Mitch's translation of Dick Riley and Pam McAllister's THE BEDSIDE, BATHTUB, AND ARMCHAIR COMPANION TO SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published in 2000 (Jul 01 #5).

John Baesch and Evy Herzog have kindly forwarded a first day cover of the postage stamp issued this year by the Vatican in honor of the 200th birthday of Pope Leo XIII, who reigned from 1878 to 1903, and who twice was the client of Sherlock Holmes (see "Black Peter" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles").

J. L. Hazen's SOJOURN: AN ACCOUNT OF THE QUEEN'S BENCH (Bloomington, iUniverse, 2009; 400 pp. \$22.95) is set in 1903, and begins with the murder of Sherlock Holmes; the story involves Mycroft and Watson and secret societies, and offers a complicated mystery.

Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger are editing A STUDY IN SHERLOCK for publication by Bantam in Dec. 2011; it's an anthology of new stories to be written by authors who range (alphabetically) from Alan Bradley to Jackie Winspear, and there's a web-site at <[www.astudyinsherlock.com](http://www.astudyinsherlock.com)>.

Late-breaking news: there will be some interesting Sherlockiana at auction at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 16: a copy of the pre-publication dummy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (estimated at £15,000-20,000) and a copy of the first state of the first American edition (£30,000-40,000), plus the letter from Conan Doyle to Robert Collier (Apr. 3, 1903) announcing the resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes (£15,000-20,000). There's more information on the items at <[www.sothebys.com](http://www.sothebys.com)>.

The Literary Encyclopedia is an interesting on-line reference work launched in 2000 and available by subscription at <[www.litencyc.com](http://www.litencyc.com)>; there are pre-views of the entries, which include Nils Clausson's new discussion of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (and he's now at work on THE LOST WORLD).

Michael Procter has noted an interesting Internet web-site called The Victorian Dictionary <[www.victorianlondon.org](http://www.victorianlondon.org)>, which offers a great deal of information, and much more than a dictionary. One intriguing item is the "Stanford's Map of Central London 1897", which provides large-scale views of a digitized version of the map.

CONVERSATIONS WITH...ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, by Simon Parke (Guildford: White Crow, 2009; 137 pp., £14.99/\$21.99 cloth or £8.99/\$12.99 paper), is an interesting (and imagined) interview with Conan Doyle in 1930; his comments are taken from his published work, and the interview deals mostly with his belief in Spiritualism. White Crow also offers reprints of THE NEW REVELATION, THE VITAL MESSAGE, THE EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN, and D. D. HOME: HIS LIFE AND MISSION (which was edited by Conan Doyle) <[www.whitecrowbooks.com](http://www.whitecrowbooks.com)>.

Nov 10 #8 Edward Hardwicke was on hand for the renaming of a theater in honor of his father, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, according to a story in the Stourbridge News (Nov. 9). The Hardwicke Theatre is at Thorns Community College in Lye, where Sir Cedric was born in 1893. He played Sherlock Holmes in "The Speckled Band" on the BBC Home Service in 1945, and he appeared in the film "I Remember Mama" (1948) as a boarder, reading to the family from THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES and ending his reading with the classic line "Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound."

Les Klinger was interviewed by Mark Coggins in the San Francisco Chronicle (Nov. 29), and you can read the interview on-line at <[www.sfgate.com](http://www.sfgate.com)>. And there's a mention of Coggins' serial pastiche "The Adventure of the Black Bishop", which ran in five weekly parts beginning on Oct. 25; you can read it at the web-site as well (you'll need to adjust your search to include 90 days). The story also is available at <[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)> as a Kindle short for 99c.

Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (New York: Twelve, 2010; 350 pp., \$24.99) has two mysteries: one set in 1900, when Conan Doyle decides to do his own detecting, and the other in 2010, when Harold White, newly made a member of The Baker Street Irregulars, investigates the murder of a Sherlockian who has announced that he has discovered Conan Doyle's missing diary from the last three months of 1900. It's an interesting (and sometimes amusing) story, and you can read more about the book (and other things) at Moore's blog at <[www.thesherlockian.com](http://www.thesherlockian.com)>.

Work on Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock 2" continues. And Joel Silver (producer of the series) was quoted in a story in Variety (Nov. 13) as saying that "I'd like to believe that we could keep going with these stories as long as we can. I know that my 9-year-old has started reading the books now, and he would not have done that had he not seen the movies."

By now many if not most of you have seen the new BBC mini-series "Sherlock"

(starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman), but if you watched the programs on PBS-TV you haven't seen everything: WGBH-TV has edited the programs, and some bits and pieces are missing. If you want the shows as they were broadcast by the BBC, you can see everything on the U.S. DVD set (but you won't see the introductions by Alan Cumming). Another reason for buying the DVD set is the closed captioning, helpful to those who have trouble understanding people who speak quickly in British. There's a Blu-ray version of the mini-series, which of course offers high definition, but it appears not to have any features that are not on the regular DVD

Abbie Bernstein interviewed Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss for Assignment X <[www.assignmentx.com](http://www.assignmentx.com)>, and Gatiss said that their favorite Sherlock Holmes films starred Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; their favorite is "Spider woman", and Moffat added that "it has more plot than any other movie you're ever going to see. It's extraordinary. There's a fantastic friendship at the heart of it, and I think a great time, it's full of ludicrous lurid details."

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Dec 10 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Red Circle of Washington is alive and well and on the world wide web, as many of you already know. We launched our web-site at our dinner meeting on Dec. 10, and the URL is <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>. We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic web-master (Alan Rettig) and a knowledgeable technical guru (Bob Howard).

Karen Murdock spotted news of a new Sherlock Holmes slot machine unveiled at the European iGaming Congress this month. It is described as a 5-reel, 25-line slot game based on the Sherlock Holmes stories; players will get to search for clues and collect prizes for winning combinations, and in a bonus round help Holmes and Watson solve a murder (there's also a progressive jackpot to be won). And there's a brief video at <[www.sherlockholmes.com](http://www.sherlockholmes.com)>; the game is manufactured in Europe, and will in full production next year. And your friendly neighborhood casino can get in touch with GTECH G2; their web-site's at <[www.gtechg2.com](http://www.gtechg2.com)>.

Reported: THE HORROR OF THE HEIGHTS AND OTHER STRANGE TALES (New York: Fall River Press, 2010; 334 pp., \$6.98); fourteen of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories (apparently an exclusive at Barnes & Noble).

"Story Hour in the Library" (at the University of California Berkeley) featured Laurie R. King on Nov. 4, 2010; there's a 51-minute video at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZLHUK5pQVM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZLHUK5pQVM)>, and you can see and hear her read an excerpt from the next Mary Russell novel (THE PIRATE KING).

Forecast: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE LOCATIONS: A VISITOR'S DIRECTORY, by Allan Foster, from McFarland, spring/summer 2011 (\$35.00); more information at <[www.mcfarlandpub.com](http://www.mcfarlandpub.com)>.

Laura Kuhn reports a long interview with Raymond Massey (done in the 1970s) in the summer issue of Films of the Golden Age; Massey was asked about his film "The Speckled Band" (1931) and said that he got the job because he was recommended by Gerald du Maurier, who was the first choice but said, "I'm feeling rather tired, old boy, so you try it on, will you?" According to Massey, he was the "worst ever Holmes."

Robert J. Mangler ("Sir Hugo Baskerville") died on Nov. 29. He was an attorney, and was the first and longest-serving (27 years) corporation counsel of Wilmette, Ill. Bob also was an ardent Sherlockian, and in 1960 he resurrected both The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and Hugo's Companions; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.

Ripperologist is an interesting electronic journal edited by Eduardo Zinna, and almost always has discussion of something Sherlockian; the latest issue (#177) reports that Sony Pictures Home Entertainment has started an on-line service that offers more than 100 classic films from its Columbia Pictures catalog, available for the first time on burn-on-demand DVDs and in high-quality transfers, priced at \$19.94. And one of them is "A Study in Terror" (1965). Go to <[www.columbia-classics.com](http://www.columbia-classics.com)> and search for the title of the film. Contact Zinna at <[editorez@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:editorez@yahoo.co.uk)> for information about subscriptions to Ripperologist.

Dec 10 #2 The Feb. 2011 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be on the newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has imaginative Sherlockian artwork on the cover, Donald A. Yates' pastiche "A Study in Scarlatti", Jon L. Breen's review of recent Sherlockian books, and editor Janet Hutchings' explanation of why THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was so important to Fred Dannay and to EQMM.

Further to the item on plans for an Indian remake of "The Sign of the Four" (Jan 09 #7), Aziz Bin Adam spotted a report in the Calcutta Telegraph (Aug. 27) that "Gumshuda" (directed by Ashoke Viswanathan) stars Rajit Kapur as private detective Prashant Saigal, and former British deputy high commissioner Simon Wilson as a "British gentleman with a hooked pipe, an overcoat, and a tendency to use the word 'elementary' more than once." The film is in Hindi, and Aziz has also has noted a brief trailer at <[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)>; search for [gumshuda (2010)].

Richard Luman died on May 21. He was a professor of religion at Haverford College from 1969 to 1995; he also taught courses on Victorian and Edwardian detective novels, and Icelandic sagas, and his Baker Street Journal article on "The Second Hand in The Second Stain" (Sept. 1978) won the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best contribution to the BSJ that year.

Les Klinger has reported "The Game Is Afoot!: The Significance of Gratuitous Transfers in the Sherlock Holmes Canon", by Stephen R. Alton (professor of law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law); it's a pastiche that discusses the inheritances, wills, and trusts in the stories, and it can be read or downloaded at <[papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1676852](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1676852)>.

Chris Music reports that The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit will celebrate their 65th anniversary at their winter meeting on Jan. 29. More information's available at their web-site <[www.amateurmendicant.blogspot.com](http://www.amateurmendicant.blogspot.com)>

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <[www.sherlock-holmes.com/e\\_times10-12.htm](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times10-12.htm)>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including their Sherlock Holmes 2011 Calendar (featuring Sherlockian pets), pastiches, notecards, and much more.

Further to the report (Aug 10 #5) on a possible judicial review of the waverly Borough Council's decision to approve the application of a developer to convert Undershaw (the house where Conan Doyle lived from 1897 to 1907) into three flats, Paul Spiring has forwarded reports from the BBC News and the Daily Telegraph (Dec. 16), the Undershaw Preservation Trust has filed a formal request with Britain's High Court in hopes of overturning the decision.

Tom Bosley died on Oct. 19. He acted on stage and television, and was best known as Mr. Cunningham on the series "Happy Days". He also played sheriff Amos Tupper on the series "Murder, She Wrote" and Father Dowling in "Father Dowling Mysteries". In 1976 he narrated a 30-minute program "That's Hollywood!: Sherlock Holmes" broadcast by WABC-TV (New York), and in the "Father Dowling Mysteries" episode "The Consulting Detective Mystery" (1991) he was assisted in investigating a murder by his mentor Sherlock Holmes (played by Rupert Frazer), whom only Dowling could see.

Dec 10 #3 Prescott's Press, edited by Warren Randall for The Three Garri-



debs, has (as always) a nice mix of scholarship and whimsy; the September issue (#75) has Susan Rice's affectionate tribute to John Bennett Shaw. Subscriptions cost \$15.00 for four issues (\$20.00 outside the U.S.), and issue #75 is available for \$6.00/\$7.00 postpaid from Warren at 15 Fawm Lane West, South Setauket, NY 11720.

There is a wide variety of Sherlockian web-sites, including Charles Prepollec's colorful "Sherlock Holmes News" <[www.sherlockholmesnews.com](http://www.sherlockholmesnews.com)>, where you will find news, reviews, and what he describes as "unsavory opinions."

The three interesting Sherlockian items at auction at Sotheby's in London on Dec. 16 (Nov 10 #7) went unsold when the bids did not reach the reserves. The pre-publication dummy of the first American edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES was estimated at L15,000-20,000, the first state of the first American edition at L30,000-40,000, and the letter from Conan Doyle to Robert Collier (Apr. 3, 1903) announcing the resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes at L15,000-20,000.

Shakespeare & Company in Lenox, Mass., performed "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (written by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) in 2009, and they're reviving the show from July 21 to Sept. 4; it's the play presented by Peepolykus on tour in England in 2007, and it's a delightful spoof. 70 Kemble Street, Lenox, MA 01240 (413-637-3353) <[www.shakespeare.org](http://www.shakespeare.org)>.

Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet for a first day cover for the Seabiscuit stamped envelope, showing Shoscombe Prince and a Shoscombe spaniel. \$10.00 postpaid to the U.S. (\$11.00 elsewhere); payment only in U.S. currency or postal money orders, please, but other arrangements can be made for overseas buyers; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801 <[drhanson@localnet.com](mailto:drhanson@localnet.com)>.

Dec 10 #4 "Girls with Slingshots" is an on-line comic strip drawn by Danielle Corsetto, available at <[www.girlswithslingshots.com](http://www.girlswithslingshots.com)>; the cast of characters includes cats as well as people of various genders and persuasions, and there are (of course) collections of older strips. GIRLS WITH SLINGSHOTS: VOLUME FIVE (2010) has a sequence with Jamie McJack as a "Romance Detective" in Sherlockian costume (she's also on the cover), and it's available at the web-site (\$19.95).

Robert C. Clyne ("The Opal Tiara") died on Dec. 12. He was an attorney and long interested in history and literature, and was a founder of The Diogenes Club of Brooklyn and co-editor of their newsletter The Growler (which they boasted was published every eight years). He received his Investiture

from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1959.

The Strand Magazine (published by Andrew Gulli) offers a "221B Baker Street Magnifying Glass" (\$19.95) that has a hand-crafted rosewood panel inscribed "Sherlock Holmes/221B Baker Street London" (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <[www.strandmag.com221b.htm](http://www.strandmag.com221b.htm)>.

Quite a few Christmas shoppers have reported a new Sherlockian nutcracker, at Target stores and at <[www.target.com](http://www.target.com)> (\$12.99); search for [holiday nutcracker detective].

The 2010 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 57 pages of scholarship, quizzes, and pastiches; the scholarship includes John Longenbaugh's "The Curious Case of Jack the Ripper: An Unsolvable Sherlock Holmes Mystery", Allen Nelson's "To Joseph, without whom?--The Story of an American Publisher and the Future of Sherlock Holmes", and Stu Shiffman's "Holmes, Agatha, and Jeeves". The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (\$18.00 outside the U.S.), with checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles, from Terri Haugen, 3606 Harborcrest Court NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332. The 2007 annual also is available, with 290 pages celebrating the society's 25th anniversary with a compilation of the best material published in earlier issues; \$24.95 postpaid to the U.S. (\$27.95 to Canada, \$35.95 elsewhere); other details as above.

Dynamite Entertainment's new comic book mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES: YEAR ONE (Nov 10 #5) will launch in January, and Michael Bershada has reported an interesting preview by Cliff Biggers, with artwork by Daniel Indro, in the weekly Comic Shop News <[www.cnsider.com/1222.htm](http://www.cnsider.com/1222.htm)>.

Steve Hockensmith's WORLD'S GREATEST SLEUTH (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 324 pp., \$24.99) is the fifth in his series about Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer, who are summoned to the world's Columbian Exposition in Chicago for a contest with some of the world's most famous detective, and are confronted with a real mystery when the contest organizer is found murdered, face down in the Mammoth Cheese from Canada; it's interesting and amusing. He has another series for non-Sherlockians: PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND ZOMBIES; DAWN OF THE DREADFULS was published in 2009, and DREADFULLY EVER AFTER is due in 2011, and his web-site's at <[www.stevhockensmith.com](http://www.stevhockensmith.com)>.

Dec 10 #5 Michael Dirda delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture at the Toronto Public Library last year, and his remarks (titled "Arthur Conan Doyle as Essayist and Journalist") were published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. A limited number of copies are available if you join the Friends now <[www.acdfriends.org](http://www.acdfriends.org)>; you can also contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>, and the minimum donation (which includes three issues of the Friends' newsletter "Through the Magic Door) is \$25.00. This year's lecture by Peter Calamai ("The Real world of Sherlock Holmes: How Does Historical London of 1895 Compare with the London Described by Arthur Conan Doyle in the Sherlockian Canon?") will be sent to members of the Friends next year.

Michael H. McCoy has noted the "Sherlock Holmes Drinking Game", devised by Jill Brumer and published at <[www.examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com)> <[www.tinyurl.com/2uopbpz](http://www.tinyurl.com/2uopbpz)>; she has more on the game, and a recipe for a "Blue Carbuncle" cocktail, at <[www.tinyurl.com/2ekx4kb](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ekx4kb)>.

The wildstorm comic book mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS ZOMBIES has been followed by the one-issue story SHERLOCK HOLMES VS JEKYLL/HYDE, written by Jim Edginton and with artwork by Horacio Domingues (Dec., \$4.99) and the first issue of a five-issue mini-series SHERLOCK HOLMES VS DRACULA with story by Edginton and artwork by Davide Fabbri (Jan., \$3.99);

the publisher's web-site is at <[www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics](http://www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics)>.

It's no secret that pirated copies of movies are now available on web-sites such as BitTorrent, and it's not surprising that someone keeps track of how people use the web-site. Another web-site, TorrentFreak, has reported that the most frequently downloaded film this year was "Avatar" (with 16,580,000 downloads), with "Kick-Ass" (11,400,000) and "Inception" (9,720,000) next; "Sherlock Holmes" ranked 8th (7,160,000 downloads).

Dave Itzkoff blogs about "The Culture at Large" for the N.Y. Times, and reported (Dec. 20) on an interview with Steven Moffat (who is co-creator of the mini-series "Sherlock") about the latest Doctor who special "A Christmas Carol"; responding to Itzkoff's question "Are you being asked all the time when the Doctor and your Sherlock Holmes will meet up?", Moffat said "I think everyone who's passing me in the streets is suggesting that at the moment. I think there are problems of doing that, because then you would say that Sherlock Holmes lives in the same world as the Doctor, and there are Daleks and all sorts of things. If a Sherlock Holmes story depends on time travel being impossible, it's quite hard if he's a personal friend of the Doctor, isn't it?"

I seldom run full-page illustrations, but this captioned photograph of Benedict Cumberbatch in "Sherlock" is well worth it; the photograph (see next page) was submitted by "Greg" to <[www.roflrazzi.com](http://www.roflrazzi.com)>, which is a sub-set of <[www.icanhascheezburger.com](http://www.icanhascheezburger.com)>, and was spotted by Samantha Wolov. For those who aren't reading this issue ink-on-paper, go to <[www.tinyurl.com/26c642n](http://www.tinyurl.com/26c642n)> to see the photograph.

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