

Jan 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York for the celebration of the Great Detective's 157th birthday during the long weekend around Jan. 7, enjoyed nice weather as well as new venues that meant the walk from hotels to most functions were short and easy. People who had rooms on the eighth floor of the Yale Club were pleased to observe that the decorations in the corridor near the elevator included a color photograph of last year's annual dinner at the Club.

The festivities were launched with the Adventuresses' 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 Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Michael Sims, who edited *THE DEAD WITNESS: A CONNOISSEUR'S COLLECTION OF VICTORIAN DETECTIVE STORIES* and other anthologies; you will be able to read his amusing paper in *The Baker Street Journal's* next issue.

The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and featured the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) in an entertaining new "Holmesian Guide to the Internet" that involved Holmes and Watson in social networking. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan WHIMSEY award (in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) for the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year; the winners (Elaine and Joe Coppola, authors of "The Fayetteville Fairies") 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 Susan Rice offering the first toast to Gail Postal as The Woman. The dinner featured the usual toasts and traditions, John Linsmeyer's learned discussion of Ronald Knox (this year being the centenary of his landmark paper on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes"), contest winner James Zych's new look at Moriarty, and Andrew Joffe, Sarah Montague, and Paul Singleton in dramatic portrayals of Arthur Conan Doyle, Dorothy L. Sayers, Sherlock Holmes, and Lord Peter Wimsey. Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") announced the Birthday Honours, awarding Irregular Shillings and Investitures to Vinnie Brosnan ("That Gap on That Second Shelf"), Terence Faherty ("Sir Charles Baskerville"), Lyndsay Faye ("Kitty Winter"), Frank Ferry ("Dr. Leon Sterndale"), David W. Houle ("The British Museum"), and Peggy Perdue ("Violet Westbury"). And Andrew Fusco, Steve Rothman, and Les Klinger presented Mike with the first-ever "Wiggie" (a handsome medal designed and executed by Maggie Schpak honoring him as the "benign dictator of the BSI."

Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club has "Stately Homes in the Canon" as its theme and featured toasts, songs, and skits that included "States Homes of the Dead and Fictitious" and "A Little Problem: A Three Dimensional Tragedy in Three Acts and Five Prologues".

Jan 11 #2 On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, and authors and editors delighted to inscribe or sign their books. And The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing someone who introduces young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Peggy Perdue; the society has a fine web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>.

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Association of the Bar of the City of New York offered entertainment in the Meeting Room and wining, dining, and conversation in the Great Hall; the entertainment included the usual traditions, and a performance of the song "Let Yourself Fall" from the

work-in-progress musical "Dust and Shadow" (based on Lyndsay Faye's book).

Michael Pollak was announced as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate and a check for \$1000) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year: his article on "The Spies Who Never Were: with Some Observations on Holmes' Retirement". And the Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets (designed by Scott Bond) by June Kinnee, Sue Vizoskie, Elaine Coppola, and Carol Cavaluzzi for Maggie Schpak's replica of the King of Bohemia's flaming beryl brooch, and an auction of literary and artistic donations to the Fund.

The principal Saturday-evening event was the "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at Kennedy's Irish Pub, attended by diners from far (New Zealand) and near (New York's five boroughs), and a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant on Sunday morning.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@earthlink.net> offers (by e-mail only) his 2011 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).

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 13, 2012. And the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 7, 2012.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere); checks can be sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077), and credit-card payments are welcome from foreign subscribers. You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <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. And in the meantime, you can also read Scott Monty's report at his blog at <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.

The BSI's other publications include three new books, and if you don't have access to the Internet, more information is available from The Baker Street Irregulars, c/o Michael H. Kean, 3040 Sloat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93953.

Jan 11 #3 The Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series continues with BOHEMIAN SOULS, edited by Otto Penzler and with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia" and a careful transcript, annotations, commentary, and artwork. All of the Canonical manuscripts are interesting, of course, because they are as close as you can get to the moment of creation when an author writes a story, and this one particularly interesting, because it is written in two different hands (and the "mystery of the second hand" is still unsolved). 199 pp., \$35.00 plus shipping to the U.S. and elsewhere.

ITALY AND SHERLOCK HOLMES is the new volume in the BSI's International Series; edited by Enrico Solito and Gianluca Salvatori, the book has translations of a wide variety of Italian scholarship, from Alessandra Calanchi's "Notes on the Italian Sherlockscape" to Luca Martinelli's "The Great Hiatus: Five Hypotheses for Five Mysteries" to Stefano Guerra's "Between Antigone and Creon: Holmes, Law, and Justice". 208 pp., \$39.95 plus shipping to the U.S. and elsewhere.

And THE GRAND GAME: A CELEBRATION OF SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP: VOLUME ONE: 1902-1959, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger, is just what the subtitle implies, offering reprints of Ronald A. Knox's cornerstone "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", earlier and later criticism, and

King's new introduction "The Grand Game: Textual, Higher, Radical, and Mid-rashic Criticism". The book is dedicated to the late Bernard Davies, who once wrote, "How wonderful to discover that, even if you are slightly mad, you are not alone," and it demonstrates well just how interesting it can be to play the Grand Game. 437 pp., \$39.95 (to the U.S.)/\$49.95 (elsewhere) plus shipping.

WNYC-FM offers listeners interesting reports on Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians, mainly thanks to Sarah Montague, who interviewed Laurie R. King and Les Klinger about THE GRAND GAME during the birthday festivities; go to <www.culture.wnyc.org/articles/features/2011/jan/13/study-sherlock> to hear what they had to say. And earlier WNYC-FM material still is available on the Internet: <www.wnyc.org/news/articles/120760> aired on Jan. 11, 2009; <www.studio360.org/episodes/2009/12/25> is a one-hour "Studio 360" program; and <www.culture.wnyc.org/articles/features/2010/jan/26/sherlock-love> has audio and video from last year's Gillette Luncheon.

RONALD KNOX AND SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ORIGIN OF SHERLOCKIAN STUDIES, edited by Michael J. Crowe (Indianapolis: Gasogene Press, 2011; 126 pp., \$32.95), adds to the celebration of Knox's work: there's an interesting introduction by the editor, reprints of five pieces of Sherlockiana written by Knox (including "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes" with annotations by the editor), and (reprinted in full) the letter that Conan Doyle wrote to Knox in 1912. The publisher's address: Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46256 <www.wessexpress.com>.

"I hate to see you leave/with tears all over your face/Just like Sherlock Holmes/The whole world is on my case" is from a song performed by Johnnie Taylor in 1973 (written by Frank Lee Johnson and Donald Davies), and discovered by Peter Ashman. You can hear Johnnie Taylor performing the song on YouTube at <www.youtube.com>.

Jan 11 #4 Tyke Niver has reported a story about Gillette Castle, written by Ben Amato and posted at SalemPatch (a web-site on Long Island) <www.sachem.patch.com/articles/gillette-castle-state-park>; click on the "video" link to view Amato's narrated 7-minute video tour of the Castle (and if you watch to the end you'll see Tyke and Teddie impersonating Gillette and his wife).

Sorry about that: I praised Charles Prepolec's colorful web-site "Sherlock Holmes News" (Dec 10 #1); the correct URL is <www.sherlocknews.com>.

Edward R. Hamilton, who specializes in remaindered books, offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean books, DVDs, and CDs at nicely discounted prices; you can request a catalog (Falls Village, CT 06031) or visit his web-site <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.

Tim Johnson, curator of special collections as well as curator of the Sherlock Holmes collections at the University of Minnesota, maintains an interesting blog called "Special & Rare on a Stick", and his new entry "Sherlock Holmes on U Media" <www.tinyurl.com/2cbujx5> offers an interesting look at what can be done now with digital media: there are two audio files featuring John Bennett Shaw, and scans of three-dimensional objects from his collection.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Toronto also has some nice publicity on the Internet at blogTO <www.tinyurl.com/45mmm32>, with excellent photographs of some of the interesting items in the collection.

Does anyone know what happened to Father Francis Hertzberg? He was based in Bebington, Wirral, and active as a dealer in Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the 1970s and 1980s; he also had a letter in the Sunday Telegraph that he signed as coordinator of Backlash: The Man's Movement for True Equality.

The Serpentine Muse continues to offer news from, about, and by The Adven-

turesses of Sherlock Holmes; the winter issue has the second part of Evelyn Herzog's presentation ("Boys and Girls Together") at last year's conference in Minneapolis (her reminiscences about the history of ASH), and the first part of Brad Keefauver's dinner speech ("Changing History"), and much more. It's published quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

Robert DeFreest reports on his campaign to get Paul-Felix Montez' new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Edwin Drood Mystery" produced: you can see a short trailer at <www.sherlockproject.blogspot.com>, and support the project by purchasing their merchandise at <www.zazzle.com>; search for [sherlock project].

Charles E. Henry ("The Lion's Mane") died on Dec. 29. He was a researcher, an educator, and a pioneer in electroencephalography, in 1990 honored with an invitation to be the patron of the Charles E. Henry Society of Electro-neurodiagnostic Technologists (which includes a Sherlockian silhouette in its logo). He was highly regarded for his spectacular mustache, his ever-present pipe, and his enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes, and he received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.

Jan 11 #5 Gerry Rafferty died on Jan. 4. A Scottish singer and songwriter, he wrote the best-selling hit "Baker Street" (1978), which is not Sherlockian other than the mention of Baker Street; Christopher Roden reported in 2000 that he had heard from Rafferty that he had titled the song in reference to the street in London. You can see him performing the "Baker Street" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wks169P_Eeo> (Mike McCoy kindly reported the link).

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-1.htm>, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, and a report on the visit by The Sherlock Holmes and All That Jazz Society to Clarendon, Iowa (the birthplace of Glenn Miller).

The theme of the Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2010" is "Heroism, Courage, and Valor", and the essays range from "Canonical Heroism" (by Pasquale Accardo) to "Holmes Gets a 'C' in Courage" (by Michael Eckman), with nice artwork by Soren Everson (a fourth-grader who is an active member of the society). The 46-page booklet is available from Tim Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423) for \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

The Calabash Press has published many interesting Sherlockian and Doylean book over the years, and Chris Roden reports that he is having a New Year Warehouse Clearance Sale with deeply discounted prices on selected titles. The catalog's available at <[www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash Sale.pdf](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash%20Sale.pdf)> [and yes, there's a space in that URL] or from the Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada).

Forecast: a new (as yet unnamed) pastiche by Anthony Horowitz (from Orion in September); he's the creator of the television series "Foyle's War" and the author of the best-selling "Alex Rider" children's series, and was the keynote speaker at the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. His web-site's at <www.anthonyhowitz.com>; the pastiche has the approval of the Conan Doyle Estate.

And "Anthony Horowitz Is a Self-Confessed Literary Serial Killer--and the Perfect Choice to Take on Sherlock Holmes" is the headline (presumably not written by Horowitz) on a piece he wrote for The Times (Jan. 22) in which he explains the ten rules he devised "to help avoid the most obvious pitfalls." It's likely still available at <www.thetimes.co.uk>.

Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: Final Adventure" will be performed by the Circle Players from Feb. 25, to Mar. 13. 416 Victoria Avenue, Piscata-

way, NJ 08854 (732-968-7555) <www.circleplayers.com>.

The campaign to "Give Jeremy Brett a Posthumous BAFTA Award" continues online at <www.bafta4jb.com>. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film & Television Arts, and you're invited to click on "The Petition" to sign one of the three versions: one for actors, directors, producers, and the world of the theater; one for Sherlock Holmes societies and associations, and the third for the general public. Sally Hastings-Thomas reports that they have 3,500 signatures so far, and they hope to have 5,000 soon.

Jan 11 #6 Anne Francis died on Jan. 2. She was a child model, and then an actress, best known as Altaira in the film "Forbidden Planet" (1956) and as the star of the television series "Honey West" (1965); in 1978 she made an appearance disguised as Sherlock Holmes on "Masquerade Party" on channel 2 in New York.

WHEELS OF ANARCHY by Max Pemberton (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 397 pp., £14.99/£17.99/\$24.95), is a thriller written by a friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Bertram Fletcher Robinson and first published in 1908; it was Fletcher Robinson who suggested the story to Pemberton, and Hugh Cooke and Paul Spiring, who edited this reprint, have added a preface and introductory notes that discuss both the book and the connections between the three men. There's a nice web-site at <www.mxpublishing.com> with a nice discount offer for readers of this newsletter; the promo code is [scuttlebutt] (25% off on all books, and a surprise bonus book if you buy two or more books).

The Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. is a British-registered company run by descendants of the Doyle family, and beneficiaries of the estate of his daughter, the late Dame Jean Conan Doyle, and there's more information about the company at their web-site <www.conandoyleestate.co.uk>. The three directors of the company of Richard Doyle and his sister Cathy Doyle Beggs, children of Sir Arthur's nephew the late Brigadier John Doyle, and Richard Pooley, a step-grandchild of Dame Jean. And among the family members party to it are Charles Foley, grandson of Sir Arthur's sister Ida, and Georgina Doyle, the Brigadier's widow. The agents of CDE Ltd. are Jon Lellenberg in the U.S. and Robert Kirby of United Agents in London.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for Edgars (the winners will be announced at the MWA banquet in New York on Apr. 26. Steve Doyle's SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES has been nominated for best critical/biographical. And the Robert L. Fish Memorial Award (for best first short story by an American author) has been won by Evan Lewis for "Skylar Hobbs and the Rabbit Man" (a nice comic mystery about a modern would-be Sherlock Holmes that appeared in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine).

There's a nice article about the University of Minnesota's Sherlock Holmes Collections, and their curator Tim Johnson, in the Chronicle of Higher Education (Jan. 16) <www.chronicle.com/article/article-content/125958>.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Julie McKuras' article about Richard Caplan (who corresponded with Sherlock Holmes in the 1990s), Jon Lellenberg's "50 Years Ago" tribute to Julian Wolff (describing his parody "Still Waters" and his work as the Baker Street Irregulars' Commissioner), and 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>.

"Holmes & Watson Save the Empire: A Musical Mystery" will be performed at the Oregon Cabaret Theatre from Apr. 6 through June 5. Written by Jahnna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner, the play premiered (as "Holmes & Watson: A Musical Mystery") in Milwaukee in 2009. The theater's address is Hargadine Street, Ashland, OR 97520 (541-488-2902) <www.oregoncabaret.com>.

Jan 11 #7 Jason Rouby ("Vanderbilt and the Yeggman") died on Jan. 15. He

was a journalist, a regional planner, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, contributing to the literature in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a member of the Maiwand Jezails in Omaha and then founded The Arkansas Valley Investors, Ltd., in Little Rock, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968. An interesting memorial to him, prepared by his grandson David Aaron Rouby, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGC7DPUvb5Y>.

Forecast: THE MAGIC BULLET: A LOCKED ROOM MYSTERY FEATURING SHADWELL RAFFERTY AND SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Larry Millett (from the University of Minnesota Press in April).

Some years ago (Nov 94 #2) Gibraltar issued eight one-crown coins honoring "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (six of the designs with Canonical scenes, the seventh showing Watson and Holmes meeting Conan Doyle in Baker Street, and the eighth the Mary Celeste, which is noted as "Gibraltar's own story of the great detective"). Stan Hill is offering a complete set of the cupro-nickel coins for \$80.00 (rather less than you'll pay at eBay); you can send him an e-mail message <stanhill@richerassociates.com> or call him at (845-518-9093) to confirm that someone else hasn't already taken advantage of the offer.

"Cold Hearted Murder" is a new pastiche written by Stephen Gaspar, available chapter by chapter on the Internet at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com> (the first chapter was posted on Jan. 22, and others will follow).

Tweet, tweet. "Twitter is a rich source of instantly updated information," according to the web-site at <www.twitter.com>. I'm not sure who the first Sherlockian to tweet was (Scott Monty, Laurie R. King, and Les Klinger have been tweeting for a while), but there are now tweets from The Baker Street Journal, thanks to editor Steve Rothman <www.twitter.com/BakerStJournal>.

Further to the item about the miniature of 221B Baker Street in the Samie Jane Keith Collection at the World Museum of Mining (Jul 10 #7), Mike Berdan has visited the museum, and was thoroughly impressed; there's more information about the collection at <www.miningmuseum.org/samiekeith.html>.

Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (Jun 09 #3) has been reissued in a trade paperback edition (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 277 pp., \$13.99). The second book in the series, THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET, will be published by Minotaur in March (\$24.99) "the letters to Sherlock Holmes are piling up--including one from someone who claims to be the descendant of Professor James Moriarty".

THE GALACTIC SHERLOCK HOLMES (Don Hobbs' electronic bibliography of translations) has been updated, and edition 11.01 includes Mando'a, making the bibliography truly galactic. Mando'a (which also is known as Mandalorian) is the language of Mandalore, which can be found in the Star Trek "expanded universe" novels written by Karen Traviss. You can read "Te Ge'Tal-Headed League" at <www.tinyurl.com/2d12saj>. The bibliography on CD costs \$15.00 (to the U.S.)/\$20.00 (elsewhere), from Don at 2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028 <221b@verizon.net>; Don offers a free CD to those who contribute information on something not already in the bibliography.

Jan 11 #8 It's always interesting when Sherlockians bring their own knowledge and experience to bear on Canonical research: Walter W. Jaffee is a captain in the merchant marine and he has written THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ILLUSTRATED CYCLOPEDIA OF NAUTICAL KNOWLEDGE (Palo Alto: Glencannon Books, 2009; 242 pp., \$39.95 hardcover and signed, \$24.95 paper). He offers informed definitions and descriptions of relevant aspects of the Canon, and he casts his net widely, covering waters both salt and fresh; the book has a bonus appendix with Michael H. Kean's "Who Was Bruce-Partington?"

"Big Nate" is a comic strip written and drawn by Lincoln Peirce, and there was a Sherlockian story arc from Jan. 14 through Jan. 22. you can see the comic strip at <www.comics.com/big_nate>.

WATSON'S AFGHAN ADVENTURE, by Kieran McMullen (London: MX Publishing, 2010; 216 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), is a Watsonian pastiche that offers his own account of his adventures in Afghanistan, which were far more colorful than his brief report in the Canon; it's a story of romance and treasure and the battles of the Afghan war.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ZOMBIE PROBLEM, by Nick S. Thomas (Newport: Sword-works, 2010; 254 pp., \$9.99), is a retelling of "The Final Problem". Except for the zombies, and the guns, swords, wholesale slaughter, and narrow escapes.

The official opening ceremony for the new research room at the Conan Doyle Archive in Portsmouth will be held on Feb. 21, with Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett, academic expert Neil McCaw, and other local experts on hand, launching a week of events that will show the breadth of Richard Lancelyn Green's bequest of his collection to Portsmouth. There's more information available at www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=179482045406255&index=1, and soon at www.conandoylcollection.co.uk.

As (as usual, nowadays) there is more news from the world of film and television. Warner Bros. is hard at work getting publicity for its sequel to "Sherlock Holmes": "Entertainment Tonight" visited the set, and footage of Downey in disguise as a woman went viral on the Internet; www.youtube.com has it, if you search for [Robert Downey Jr in drag].

The electronic universe continues to make life interesting, and easier for people who have access to the Internet, and for people who know other people who volunteer to do the technical work required to make things easier. New from and about The Red Circle of Washington is available at the society's web-site www.redcircledc.org. And Scott Monty kindly is making this newsletter available at his blog, where you will be able to click on links rather than laboriously type or cut-and-paste URLs into your browser; go to www.bakerstreetblog.com/search/label/scuttlebutt to see how much fun this can be (for readers, and for me, since Scott is doing almost all the work). Searchable text of all the issues of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press since March 1985 continues to be available at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" www.members.cox.net/sherlock1/scuttle.htm.

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

Feb 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8) has been published in Britain as THE HOLMES AFFAIR (London: Century, 2011; 368 pp., £12.99), perhaps because the publisher thought British book-buyers may not be sure just what a Sherlockian is. The late John Bennett Shaw liked to explain the difference: in the U.S. the Holmesians are called Sherlockians, and in the U.K. the Sherlockians are called Holmesians. I'm not aware of any definitive pronunciation for "Holmesian".

Graham continues to update his web-site www.thesherlockian.com, where you can watch an interview that ran on the BBC, and listen to an interview by John Rabe (son of the late Bill Rabe) on KPCC-FM (Los Angeles).

Flo Gibson died on Jan. 7. After working as an actress on radio, she recorded talking books for the blind for the Library of Congress in the mid-1970s and went on to found Audio Book Contractors, which specializes in unabridged readings of the classics. She narrated more than 1,100 books, including many of Conan Doyle's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian works, and 95 of her recordings are available at www.audible.com.

Paul Spiring continues to update his Bertram Fletcher Robinson web-site at www.bfronline.biz, where you can listen to a recent interview on BBC Ra-

dio wales.

Carl Heifetz and Mary Ellen Rich spotted 19-year-old Richard Dornbush, who competed (and placed second) in the U.S. Figure Skating Championships last month, skating to Hans Zimmer's music for Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). You can see him perform at <www.youtube.com>; seach for [dornbush 2011].

"Holmes, Watson, Move Forward" was the headline on an AP story in the Albany Times Union (Feb. 26) about the Match Play Championship in Marana, Ariz. J. B. Holmes and Bubba Watson are golfers; they made it to the quarter-finals (competing against each other). Watson won, but lost the semi-finals.

"Murder at Mount Hope Mansion" is an interactive dinner-theater performance (with Holmes and Watson in the cast) on weekends at the Mount Hope Estate & Winery from Mar. 4 through Apr. 9 during the Pennsylvania Renaissance Fair; the menu will feature items from Julie Rosenblatt and Fritz Sonnenschmidt's DINING WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES. 2775 Lebanon Road, Mannheim, PA 17545 (717-665-7021) <www.parenfaire.com>.

"Enticement from the Adventures" is the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 8-10; their mailing list is maintained by Kent Ross (721 Hartford Road, Springfield, OH 45503) (678-464-8321) <kenthross@gmail.com>.

Paul Spiring spotted a report in the Guardian (Feb. 1) on "The U.K.'s Crime Hotspots" that includes statistics on London's "crime and antisocial behavior" from a web-site at <www.police.uk>, where you can see how your street or neighborhood is doing. In Dec. 2010, "Baker Street, residence of Sherlock Holmes, recorded 22 offenses--plenty for the sleuth to work on."

Feb 11 #2 Lybrary.com, founded in 2000 by Chris Wasshuber, with the idea of making hard-to-get magic books available in electronic form, also has fiction and non-fiction available, but of particular interest to magicians is Stephen Tucker's SHERLOCK (\$15.00), which offers instructions for five "self-working Holmes-related mysteries to baffle the cleverest of minds." You can order at <www.lybrary.com/sherlock-p-94740.html>. But you aren't going to be able to use the instructions unless you know how to do a false shuffle. Thanks to Dan Stashower for discovering the book.

John Barry died on Jan. 30. He described himself as a "musical dramatist" and composed and conducted music for more than 100 films, winning five Oscars and composing what he called "million-dollar Mickey Mouse music" for many of the James Bond films; his credits include writing and supervising the music for the film "They Might Be Giants" (1971), which starred George C. Scott as a psychotic judge who thinks he's Sherlock Holmes.

The late Laverne Sullivan was an accomplished miniaturist, and you can go to <www.home-and-garden.webshots.com/album/207383548yfjQV?start=24> to see two photographs of her Sherlock Holmes room-box, Kelly Blau reports.

"The Man Who Murdered Sherlock Holmes" (Jul 10 #3), an interesting one-hour video with interviews with Roger Johnson, Catherine Cooke, Owen Dudley Edwards, and others, was issued earlier this year in Britain; it's now available on a region 1 DVD (\$19.99) from Kultur International Films (800-573-3782) <www.kultur.com>. Kultur also offers a region 1 DVD (\$14.99) of "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" (1977), the amusing and weird British television program that starred John Cleese (Arthur Sherlock-Holmes) and Arthur Lowe (Dr. William Watson).

David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" (1992) is being performed by the Central Alberta Theatre at the Black Knight Inn Dinner Theatre in Red Deer through Mar. 26; 2929 50th Avenue, Red Deer, AB T4R 1H1, Canada (800-661-8793) <www.centralalbertatheatre.ca>.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's *The Sherlockian E-Times* will be found at www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-2.htm, with offers of interesting Sherlockiana, old and new, including some attractive lapel pins, and photographs from a meeting of *The Fresh Rashers of Estero Island* (yes, that's a Sherlockian society).

Paul Giovanni's *"The Crucifer of Blood"* (1978) will be performed by Theatre Three from Aug. 5 through Sept. 5; 2800 Routh Street #168, Dallas, TX 75201 (214-871-3300) www.theatre3dallas.com.

Synergy Entertainment's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION: VOLUME TWO* is a three-DVD set (\$24.95) that's a worthy companion to the first volume (Nov 09 #7). Produced by Ronnie James, one of the earliest and most energetic collectors of old and not-so-old films, the new set also offers some unusual items, some of them available for the first time on commercial DVD; the more unusual items include the Our Gang comedy *"The Mysterious Mystery!"* (1924), *"Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon"* (1942) and its Spanish version *"Sherlock Holmes y La Mira Secreta"*, and a (non-Sherlockian) screen test with Nigel Bruce and Leslie Banks (1934).

Feb 11 #3 You can add Brazil to the list of countries with Sherlockians, and a Sherlockian society: Carlos Orsi Martinho and two friends have founded the *Isadora Klein Amateur Mendicant Society*. His address is r. Zacarias de Goes, 404, ap. 92, Jundiai-SP 13201-800, Brazil; his essay on *"The Brazilian Villainesses of the Canon"* is in the winter 2010 issue of *The Baker Street Journal*.

Eugen Sandow became famous as a champion of "physical culture" and in 1901 he arranged a competition at the Royal Albert Hall to find the man with the world's best physique; Conan Doyle was one of the judges, and wrote a foreword to Sandow's book *THE CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE HUMAN BODY* (1907). Ann Marlowe has reported that there's an interesting discussion of Sandow at www.thehumanmarvels.com/?p=138, with a link to YouTube video of a short film made of Sandow by the Edison Studios in 1894 (and YouTube has a second film of Sandow made in 1903). And there's much more about Sandow at www.sandowplus.co.uk/sandowindex.htm.

Ines Hall died on Oct. 29, 2010. She was the widow of Christopher Morley's colleague (and early Irregular) William S. Hall, and she was honored by *The Baker Street Irregulars* as *"The Woman"* in 1973.

Philip K. Jones has compiled (and continues to compile) an excellent data base for Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction; he had entries for 5,520 different items some years ago (Apr 06 #6), and his count now stands at more than 8,500. The data base is interesting and informative, and available on-line at www.michael-procter.com/holmes.

Tim Johnson continues to add digitized images and audio to the University of Minnesota's new UMedia Archive's section for their Sherlock Holmes Collections www.umedialib.mn.edu/taxonomy/term/740; if you search for [sherlock holmes] you will find a nicely indexed display of (at the moment) 484 entries.

There has been quite a bit of publicity this month about the appearance of Watson on "Jeopardy" (that's I.B.M.'s computer, rather than the doctor, although some writers don't know that the computer wasn't named for the doctor). Doug Elliott notes an interesting article in the *N.Y. Times Magazine* www.nytimes.com/2010/06/20/magazine/20computer-t.html?pagewanted=all back in June that explains how the computer might respond to "The name of this hat is elementary, my dear contestant." Watson won handily, defeating two reigning (human) champions.

Kieran McMullan, author of *WATSON'S AFGHAN ADVENTURE* (Jan 11 #6) has some interesting posts at www.kieranmcmullen.wordpress.com, including (in December) the results of his research into *"The Weapons of Maiwand"*.

If you missed the "Bloch Sherlock Holmes Camera" at auction some months ago (Nov 09 #6), Cliff Goldfarb has spotted another one (well, perhaps the same one) offered by Auction Team Breker in Cologne on Mar. 26; it's a magazine-style camera disguised as a small briefcase (dated c.1912). There are photographs at <www.breker.com/english/index.htm>; click on "New Highlights" at the right and then on "Photographica & Film". It's estimated at E10,000 to E15,000, with a reserve of E6,500.

Feb 11 #4 THE BROTHERS OF BAKER STREET, by Michael Robertson (New York: Minotaur, 2011; 274 pp., \$24.99), is an imaginative sequel to his THE BAKER STREET LETTERS (Jun 09 #3): Reggie Heath, a London barrister who has offices at 221B Baker Street, is pursuing another murderer, and the author of a letter to Holmes from someone who claims to be a descendant of Professor Moriarty, and the mystery offers interesting twists and turns.

Anthony Trongone's TRADING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: BALANCING PROBABILITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL INVESTING (Cedar Falls: Traders Press, 2010; 186 pp., \$24.95) uses quotations from the Canon to describe both the market and market forces, and to illustrate his approach to investing: analysis and discipline. The publisher's at <www.traderspress.com>.

Randall Stock has reported some important and useful additions to The Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>: downloadable PDF files of Donald A. Redmond's Cumulated Indexes to the BSJ for 1946-1969 and 1970-1993, Randall's tips on searching the indexes on the CD-ROM version of the BSJ for 1946-2000, and Adrian Nebbett's indexes to eight of the books published by The Baker Street Irregulars in recent years.

Henry Zecher reports a new 30-minute television series "Portlandia" broadcast by IFC cable; the first episode ("Farm") had a four-minute "Hide and Seek" segment showing the Sherlock Holmes in a game of hide and seek. You watch the segment at <www.ifc.com/videos/portlandia-hide-and-seek>.

Crowborough, which for some years has had a handsome statue of Conan Doyle (Apr 01 #3), now has additional honors for him in a local housing estate: the town council has approved the names of Sherlock Shaw and Watson Way for two roads in the Antler Homes development. Crowborough also has a block of flats known as Conan Doyle Court, and in Whitehall Road a Windlesham Close (named after his home on Hurtis Hill).

Ken Lanza spotted a report that Christopher Lee received a Fellowship Award from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts this month; it's the highest award that BAFTA bestows. Lee is credited by the Guinness Book of Movie Facts and Feats as the international star with the most screen credits (including Sherlock Holmes, Mycroft Holmes, and Sir Henry Baskerville).

"Two Great Capitals--Two Great Detectives" is an exhibition that opened at the Russian State Library for the Arts in Moscow on Feb. 15 and will close on Mar. 5; the capitals are London and Moscow, and the detectives are Sherlock Holmes and Boris Akunin's Erast Fandorin. The Voice of Russia had an interesting article on Feb. 15 <english.ruvr.ru/_print/44488963.html>, and there's a web-site for the exhibition <www.liart.ru/site/index.php?id=1330> (the web-site's in Russian, but Google Translate will give you a good idea of what it has to say in English, and in other languages).

Byook is a French company that has created a new version of "The Speckled Band" in which the text is enhanced with sound and visual effects; it plays on iPods and iPads, and you can see a brief teaser at <www.byook.com>. The cost is \$1.99/L1.91, but (according to an analysis in the Scotsman on Feb. 18) you don't get the whole story; a third of the way through have to pay again to find out what happens next.

Feb 11 #5 Reported: Michael Foster and Barbara Foster, in their A DANGEROUS WOMAN: THE LIFE, LOVES, AND SCANDALS OF ADAH ISAACS MENKEN,

1836-1968, AMERICA'S ORIGINAL SUPERSTAR (Guilford: Lyons Press, 2011; 368 pp., \$24.95), say that "Her memory has captivated Arthur Conan Doyle, Jerome Kern, Billy Rose, and George Cukor, and she has been played in movies by Sophia Loren, Charlotte Rampling, and almost by Marilyn Monroe." They suggest that Irene Adler was a "miniature portrait" by Conan Doyle, but do not mention William D. Jenkins, who proposed in the Mar. 1986 issue of The Baker Street Journal that Menken was the prototype for Irene Adler; Charlotte Rampling never played Menken on the screen, but did play Irene in the television film "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1979).

OTHER PEOPLE'S BOOKS: ASSOCIATION COPIES AND THE STORIES THEY TELL (Chicago: The Caxton Club, 2011; 214 pp., \$75.00) will be published next month; it's a collection of essays, including Jon Lellenberg's "The Hound upon My Bookshelf", which is Vincent Starrett's own (and extra illustrated) copy of the first edition. The book's available at <www.oakknoll.com>, where there links to an excerpt from the book, and to the table of contents.

The Caxton Club and the Newberry Library will hold a symposium on the book at the Newberry (60 West Walton Street in Chicago) on Mar. 19; it's open to the public, and details are available at <www.caxtonclub.org>. You can also click on "Meetings and Speakers Schedule" for a catalog of DVDs of Caxton Club presentations available for purchase, including "Sherlock Holmes, Vincent Starrett, and Literary Memory" (Jon Lellenberg in 1998), "Spitons and Spiritualism: Conan Doyle in America" (Daniel Stashower in 2001), and "Mothers, Don't Let Your Sons Grow Up to Be Biographers" (Jon Lellenberg in 2008).

Stephen Gaspar is continuing the chapter-by-chapter posting of his pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder" (Jan 11 #1) at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, and there's a promo video for the book at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydPh44KG1I>.

Detective Chimp wore Sherlockian costume in the first issue of the comic-book mini-series THE HELMET OF FATE (Feb 07 #6), and there's now a hand-painted 4-inch lead figurine, accompanied by a magazine detailing the history of the character (spotted by Mitch Higurashi); it's available at eBay <www.ebay.com> and elsewhere.

Scott Monty has launched an effort to catalog the "Sherlockian Entities on Facebook", where you can find a list (with links) and a form you can use to report additions <www.bakerstreetblog.com/p/holmes-on-facebook.html>. It is fascinating to see the Sherlockian aspects of social networking.

Greg Darak notes that the world-famous detective Merlock Jones appeared (in Sherlockian costume) in E. C. Segar's "Popeye" 1930s comic strip, and that the strips have been reprinted in POPEYE, VOL. 3: LET'S YOU AND HIM FIGHT! (Seattle: Fantagraphic, 2008; 168 pp. \$29.99). Greg also reports that the book is available for \$9.95 from Edward R. Hamilton (Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031) <www.edwardrhamilton.com>.

Feb 11 #6 Laurie King reports that her schedule's now set for four years: 2011 will see Mary Russell in THE PIRATE KING, with another Mary Russell in 2012, a sequel to the non-Russell TOUCHSTONE in 2013, and another Mary Russell in 2014. Her web-site at <www.laurierking.com> always is interesting; one of the features is A MARY RUSSELL COMPANION, a 58-page booklet you can download free.

A new set of miniature versions of the Canon, created by Lee Ann Borgia, is available at <www.picturetrail.com/leeann1948>, where she offers miniatures of a long list of authors; her Sherlockian miniatures (priced from \$11.75 to \$19.50) are shown at <www.picturetrail.com/sfx/album/view/3194486>.

The stick figure of Sherlock Holmes on the note cards from Bas Bleu (Aug 10

#3) first appeared in Jeffrey Metzner's book *STICK: GREAT MOMENTS IN ART, HISTORY, FILM, AND MORE* (Clarkson Potter, 2006) (and published in Britain by Aurum Press, 2007) it's out of print, but readily available from on-line booksellers.

"Harry Houdini and Arthur Conan Doyle get drawn into investigating a series of brutal murders in 1920s Los Angeles" in a graphic novel *EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN* written by Jon Vinson and illustrated by Marco Roblin and published by Dub Comics in 2010; H. P. Lovecraft appears. It's available as a four-issue comic-book mini-series and as a collected edition (\$18.00) from IndyPlanet <www.indyplanet.com>. "Charles Fort will be a big part of *EDGE OF THE UNKNOWN VOL. 2*," Vinson promises.

Forecast: *THE BASKERVILLE LEGACY: A CONFESSION*, by John O'Connell (due from Short Books in Sept.); "a thrilling exploration of friendship and rivalry, love and lust, ambition and the limits of talent" (the story of how Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson collaborated to write "The Hound of the Baskervilles").

"Her planned novel is inspired by Sherlock Holmes and American crime writer Mickey Spillane," according the Guardian (Jan. 27) in a story about Patti Smith, who is a singer, song-writer, poet, and author of more than a dozen books; this will be her first detective story.

Oh for the days when Britain invented the penny post: their postage rates will increase in April. At the moment a one-ounce letter inside the country costs £0.41/\$0.65, and to the U.S. £1.46/\$2.35 (by airmail) or £1.00/\$1.61 (by surface). In the U.S. a one-ounce letter costs \$0.44 inside the country, and \$0.98 to Britain.

Further to the various celebrations this year of the centenary of his paper "Studies on the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", Michael Procter reports that there's a Ronald Knox Society of North America, with a nice discussion of his contributions to detective literature <www.ronaldknoxsociety.com>.

IDW Publishing has now published three volumes of its *SHERLOCK HOLMES* series, with striking artwork by Kelley Jones; they're sometimes described as graphic novels, but in reality they present the text (handsomely designed), with full-color illustrations. They're priced at \$16.99 or \$17.99, and you can see Jones' art at the publisher's web-site <www.idwpublishing.com>.

Feb 11 #7 "From 1984 to 1994, a perfect storm of people and circumstances changed the face of animation forever," is Disney's description of a 86-minute documentary "waking Sleeping Beauty" (2009), which includes footage from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1984); the film premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on Sept. 5, 2009, and was released by Walt Disney Home Entertainment on a DVD (\$29.99) last November (the trailer can be seen at the Internet Movie Data Base).

Neil Hunt and Stephen Harvey Johnson have launched an Internet-only comedy series called "The Blog of Dr. Watson" at <www.drwatsonsblog.com>, with a brief video teaser.

Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: Final Adventure" is being performed at the Grand Theatre through Mar. 5; Chris Redmond has seen the production, and recommends it. 471 Richmond Street, London, ON N6A 3E4, Canada (800-265-1593) <www.grandtheatre.com>.

Entertainment news: Variety reported (Feb. 9) that Dreamworks purchased a script for "Voices from the Dead" from J. Michael Straczynski (who created and wrote the television series "Babylon 5" and "Jeremiah"). The project "centers on a fictional story of magician Harry Houdini and Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle using a psychic to solve a set of murders in New York during the 1920s."

And there's more: according to the web-site Deadline Hollywood (Feb. 11), the Syfy television channel is at work on a dramatic series "Among the Spirits" based on a self-published graphic novel by Steve Valentine and Paul Chart; the series was described as a turn-of-the-century "Fringe" in which Houdini and Conan Doyle, "with the help of a female cop, try to solve bizarre murders and strange occurrences that look like hauntings and other supernatural events using steampunk technology."

And yet still more: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 18), Summit Entertainment has hired Noah Oppenheim to write a script based on William Kalush and Larry Sloman's THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO (Mar 07 #5); the book suggested that Houdini acted as a spy for Britain, and that Houdini's death was not accidental, but rather deliberate murder, by a spiritualist organization that sought revenge for his unmasking of fraudulent mediums (with, of course Conan Doyle involved). The paper added that "the studio is not looking to make a biopic but rather an action thriller featuring a character who is part Indiana Jones and part Sherlock Holmes, documenting his rise as a magician along with his covert involvement with the Secret Service."

Finally, Warner Bros. has announced that "Sherlock Holmes 2" (the working title for the sequel to Guy Ritchie's "Sherlock Holmes") will be released as "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" on Dec. 16. One assumes they are not worried about confusing people who recall the book written by Mark Fairanuwada and Lance Williams: GAME OF SHADOWS: BARRY BONDS, BALCO, AND THE STEROIDS SCANDAL THAT ROCKED PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (2007).

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Mar 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The number of Sherlockian societies with web-sites continues to grow, and The Pleasant Places of Florida have done well at capturing and presenting their history and their archives <www.ppf1.net>. If you'd like to browse web-sites of other societies, Chris Redmond has an excellent set of links at his "Web Portal about the Great Detective" <www.sherlockian.net>; click on [Societies and events].

"Ha Ha Holmes! The Beast of the Blistervilles" opened at the Croydon Warehouse Theatre on Mar. 11 and will run through Apr. 3, then going on tour in Britain; it's a "gripping comedic thriller" from London-based Jamie Wilson Productions, and there's more information (including tour dates) at their web-site <www.jamiewilsonproductions.com> (reported by Phil Attwell).

Further to the discussion of miniature versions of the Canon (Feb 11 #6), Don Pollock reports a miniature THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES from Miniaturbuchverlag Leipzig (2007), bound in leather and in two sizes: 18x25 mm (\$69.00 in a gilt box) and 38x53 mm (\$29.00 in a slipcase and \$44.80 gilt-edged). You can see both sizes in color at <www.minibook.de>; their mailing address is Isarweg 2 c, D-85375 Neufarn bei Freising, Germany.

Jane Russell died on Feb 28. She made her movie debut and achieved instant stardom in "The Outlaw" (1943), and was once introduced by Bob Hope on radio as "the two and only Jane Russell." She made many more films, including "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953), in which she told Elliott Reed (who played Detective Malone), "Go away, Sherlock! You're a wrong guy!"

Andrew Lane was interviewed in the e-mail newsletter of Andrew Gulli's The Strand Magazine, and said that A STUDY IN SCARLET was one of the first two books he ever bought with his own pocked money, around 1974, when he was 11 or 12 years old; it was a second-hand 1930s reprint without a cover. Lane has completed the third book in his YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, and has signed a contract for a total of six books. The magazine's web-site is at <www.strandmag.com>.

Karen Murdock offers e-mail copies of her paper on "Figures of Speech Found in the Sherlock Holmes Canon", giving definitions and examples of 35 figures of speech such as alliteration, aposiopesis, hendiadys, polysyndeton, simile, and zeugma. Her e-mail address is <murdock1212@gmail.com>.

Karen also notes the GrammarDog Guides, on-line exercises that can be used to teach grammar, style, and proof-reading, available on CDs or as Internet downloads (\$14.95 each); go to <www.grammardog.com/samples.php> to see samples of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "Sherlock Holmes Stories".

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COLLECTED EDITION was published by John Murray and Jonathan Cape in 1974 in nine volumes with introductions by noted authors, and is well-known to Sherlockian collectors; the publishers extended their uniform set from 1975 to 1979 to include non-Sherlockian titles, and they are worth pursuing: SIR NIGEL (introduction by Mary Renault), THE WHITE COMPANY (Anthony Burgess), THE EXPLOITS OF GERARD (Fitzroy MacLean), ADVENTURES OF GERARD (Elizabeth Longford), and THE LOST WORLD (Alistair Maclean).

Mar 11 #2 Jane Royle died on Dec. 13. She was a highly-regarded film and television make-up artist who specialized in prosthetics she called "the stickies". Her long list of film credits included "Who Framed Roger Rabbit", "Harry Potter", "Batman Begins", and "Young Sherlock Holmes"; the Guardian said in her obituary (Mar. 7) that for "Murder by Decree" (1979) she simulated "the wrenched-out innards of prostitutes killed by Jack the Ripper."

The Livestock Players Youtheatre will present Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the City Arts Studio Theatre in Greensboro on May 19-22. 200 North Davis Street, Greensboro, NC 27401 (336-335-6426) <www.thedramacenter.com>.

MPI Home Video has issued "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection" on DVDs (Apr 03 #4) with high-quality restorations of all 14 Rathbone/Bruce films, and with additional features that include new commentary by Patricia Morrison on "Dressed to Kill"; this month MPI released the collection as a high-definition set of five Blu-ray disks (\$129.98).

Ev Herzog spotted an advertisement for "Peeking Duck", one of a series of "Figures of Speech" sculptures by Marsha Tosk; it is hand-painted polyresin (with monocle) and 19 inches high, and costs \$950.00. It's also far more attractive in full color at <www.mashatosk-figuresofspeech.com>, where you can see other sculptures in her series.

The late Ian Richardson's ashes were buried last year at the new Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon, in the foundations in front of the stage, at the bottom of the central aisle, according to a story in The Times (Nov. 22), noted by John Baesch; his son Miles, also an actor, said "My father will be in the front row for every performance and just where I liked to be, center stage." Richardson was Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983), and Dr. Joseph Bell in "Murder Rooms: The Dark Beginnings of Sherlock Holmes" (2000); he died in 2007.

Did anyone know or know of Nicholas Francis Sardone? He was born in 1948, and died last month in Branchville, N.J., and he was an energetic collector of Sherlockiana, old and new (and was just as enthusiastic about "Snoopy" collectibles).

Ken Lanza has discovered Street Jewelry Place at <www.jewelrystreet.com>; it's a clearing house for people who sell more than jewelry, but their offerings include "Baker Street Irregulars custom jewelry". You can also search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle].

Reported: THE QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE, by Lucinda Lambton (The Royal Collection, 2010, L12.95); in an excerpt in the Telegraph Magazine (Oct. 16), she notes that Ursula Ridley, daughter of the house's designer Edwin Lutyens, remembered Conan Doyle arriving at the Lutyens' home in Mansfield Street to hand-deliver the manuscript of the pastiche "How Watson Learned the Trick" (which is still in the library of the dolls' house at Windsor).

Mar 11 #3 The first time that Peter Cook and Dudley Moore played Holmes and Watson was in a six-minute skit "Sherlock Holmes Investigates" in their ATV television series "Goodbye Again" in 1968, well before their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978); the script for the skit was published in GOODBYE AGAIN: THE DEFINITIVE PETER COOK AND DUDLEY MOORE (Dec 06 #7), and the skit itself is available in the British DVD "The Very Best of Goodbye Again" (region 2 only). The skit is no more serious than the later film.

Lloyd Rose discovered a web-site with some interesting Sherlockian artwork <www.spicysteweddemon.deviant.art.com/gallery/23656984> (sorry: black-and-white won't do justice to the full-color art at the web-site).

"You are the stormy petrel of crime, Watson," Sherlock Holmes exclaimed (in "The Naval Treaty"). Sonia Fetherston has reported a story in the Portland Oregonian about two Portland birders who discovered a new species of stormy petrel during a visit to Chile. To read the story (and see a photograph), go to <www.oregonlive.com> and search for [storm petrel].

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs through Apr. 17 at the Pacifica Spindrift Players Theatre (1050 Crespi Drive, Pacifica, CA 94044) (650-359-8002) <www.pacificaspindriftplayers.org>.

Laurie King is continuing to post at <www.astudyinsherlock.com> about the new anthology that she and Les Klinger are editing for Bantam Books. You can see the cover, and a list of contributors, and late-breaking news: the book will include Les' Twitterview (that's an interview in 140 characters) with Mary Russell.

Carl Heifetz notes that Brian Crane's "Pickles" (Mar. 8) was almost Canonical: Sherlock Holmes said (in "A Study in Scarlet") that "I consider that a man's brain originally is like a little empty attic, and you have to stock it with such furniture as you choose."

Ken Ludwig's new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, on Holmes for the Holidays" was performed at a staged reading in Washington (Sep 10 #1), and it's nice news indeed that the play will have its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House, Nov. 25 to Dec. 18; 8500 Euclid Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44105 (216-795-7000) <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>. It's a murder mystery set in William Gillette's home, and it's wonderfully hilarious.

Mar 11 #4 The 9th annual STUD-watsonian weekend will be held in and near Chicago on Apr. 15-17; there will be a dinner at the Sheraton Four Points in Schiller Park, the 52nd annual running of The Silver Blaze

at Hawthorne Race Course, and a Fortescue Honours brunch. The registration form is available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106) <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

Danielle Corsetto's web-comic (that's an on-line comic strip) "Girls with Slingshots" featured Jamie McJack in Sherlockian costume as a "Romance Detective" (Dec 10 #4); Tina Rhea notes that a necklace pendant's available in antique silver (\$25.00) from the Girls with Slingshots Shop at <www.etsy.com/listing/70660207/girls-with-slingshots-necklace-jamie>.

The chapter "On Dress and Other Matters" in Michael Harrison's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1972) offered an excellent summary of the clothes that Holmes and others wore, and now Jason MacLochlainn provides a detailed and discussion of how men's clothing actually was made in THE VICTORIAN TAILOR: AN INTRODUCTION TO PERIOD TAILORING (New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2011; 160 pp., \$29.99); the British edition, from Batsford, is VICTORIAN TAILORING: TECHNIQUES AND PATTERNS. MacLochlainn studied period training manuals and examined surviving garments to learn what tailors did, and explains in detail how costumers can create appropriately Victorian clothing reflecting a time when suits, vests, and coats were made to measure.

The Arizona Theatre Company has commissioned a new play by Jeffrey Hatcher: "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is based on Robert Louis Stevenson's story "The Suicide Club" and involves the club's new member, Sherlock Holmes. The play will be performed in Tucson (Sept. 17-Oct. 8) and Phoenix (Oct. 13-30); there's more information available at the ATC web-site <www.arizonatheatre.org>.

Allan Foster's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE LOCATIONS: A VISITOR'S GUIDE (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2011; 156 pp., \$35.00) offers a delightful exploration of Scotland and England; the author is a writer and tour operator in Edinburgh, where there's much to be found that relates to Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell, and others. And there's a lot to be learned from the coverage of England (both the counties and London). Foster would be a fine guide to it all, and his book is well-researched, written, and illustrated.

Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is at being performed at the Chautauqua Playhouse through Apr. 17; 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael, CA 95608 (916-489-7529) <www.cplayhouse.org>. And then at the Nevada Theatre from Apr. 22 through May 15; 401 Broad Street, Nevada City, CA 95959 (530-265-6161) <www.nevadatheatre.com>.

Paul W. Nash's pastiche "The Adventure of the Scarlet Thorn" was featured in the Feb. 2010 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (the annual tribute to the birthday of Sherlock Holmes), and it's one of seven pastiches in his collection THE REMAINS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Moreton-in-the-Marsh: Strawberry Books, 2011; 229 pp., £12.00); there's more adventure than mystery in some of the stories, and one might infer from the author's "editor's note" that there may be more tales to be told.

Mar 11 #5 Michael Gough died on Mar. 17. He made his acting debut at the Old Vic School in 1936, and went on to a long career on stage, screen, and television as a supporting actor. He was best known as Alfred the butler in four of the "Batman" films (1989-1997), and he played Russel Partridge in "The Case of the Perfect Husband" (1955) in the Ronald Howard television series, and the Governor in "Cell 13" (1973) in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".

George John ("Sir Jasper Meek") died on Feb. 6. He had a long career as a doctor, in South Dakota, Nebraska (where he encountered the world of Sherlockians in The Maiwand Jezails), and Texas. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.

Barnes & Noble continues to issue inexpensive reprints, including THE HERR-

OR OF THE HEIGHTS AND OTHER STRANGE TALES (hardbound, \$6.98) has 14 of Conan Doyle's tales of the macabre.

Margaret Newman Turner's ARTHUR, LOUISE, AND THE TRUE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Almeley: Logaston Press, 2010; 98 pp., £10.00) tells the story of the Hound of the Vaughans of Hergest Court, and much more. The author is the daughter of Cecil P. Turner, who wrote to Conan Doyle enquiring if the family legend had inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; Conan Doyle replied that "My story was really based on nothing save a remark of my friend Fletcher Robinson's that there was a legend about a dog on the Moor connected with some old family. I had no place in my eye." The letter was sold at auction in 2008 for £3,700 (plus premium and tax), and the new book explores some additional connections: Hergest Court is in Herefordshire (on the border with Wales), and Mrs. Turner believes that Conan Doyle's first wife, Louise Hawkins, whose family owned land in the area, told the story of the spectral hound to her husband, and that her support also was important when he wrote the early Sherlock Holmes stories. Mrs. Turner relies on Georgina Doyle's OUT OF THE SHADOWS for family history, but tells interesting stories of her own about the Hawkins and Vaughan families. There's a BBC television news story at www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxm1zgZl6i0 with an interview about Mrs. Turner and her book.

Derham Groves, the first Australian to become a member of The Baker Street Irregulars (in 1985, as "Black Jack of Ballarat"), has had a long career as architect, artist, and writer, and (thanks to the Internet) you can see his interest work at www.derhamgroves.com/category/sherlock-holmes, special.lib.umn.edu/rare/exhibit/holmesgardens.html, and www.youtube.com; search for [murderous melbourne] at YouTube.

Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztkwKwBi2bQ to see "The Adventures of Sherlock Hounds", an imaginative and amusing promotional video for the "Catch a Clue" summer reading program in the library system of King County, Wash.

The Byook version of "The Speckled Band" (created by a French company that enhances the text with sound and visual effects) is an interesting demonstration of how modern technology can be used by people who have iPods and iPads. You can see a brief teaser at www.byook.com, and the app can be downloaded for \$1.99/£1.91; the first half of the story is available now, and the second half in April (no additional charge).

Mar 11 #6 Al Gregory reports that Sutton Foster and Joel Grey are starring in a revival of Porter's classic musical "Anything Goes" (1934) at the Stephen Sondheim Theatre in New York; at one point the hero, trying to escape capture aboard ship, appears on deck in disguise with Inverness, deerstalker, calabash pipe, and an absurd beard. There's a brief glimpse in a video montage at www.anythinggostonbroadway.com.

Matthew Ward and Jimmy Black became famous when they solved the 'Jack the Ripper' murders in WR.Park's FATAL INCISION (2010), and PHANTOM HOUNDS: THE CURSE OF THE BASKERVILLES RETURNS (Castroville: Black Rose Writing, 2011; 236 pp., \$16.95) is the next adventure, bringing them to Dartmoor to solve a new mystery that involves a brief meeting with Sherlock Holmes, renewed danger to Sir Henry Baskerville, and (more than half the book) a perilous excursion to Egypt. The author's web-site is at www.wrparkbooks.com.

The 30th annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 13-16, has the theme "Holmes: Then, Now, & Forever"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) chirpsworth@fuse.net.

The wildstorm comic-book five-issue mini-series VICTORIAN UNDEAD: SHERLOCK HOLMES VS DRACULA, written by Jim Edginton and with artwork by Horacio Domingues is complete with the May issue; presumably a graphic novel will appear soon. www.dccomics.com/wildstorm/comics is the URL for the publisher's web-site.

In other comic-book news, Image Comics will begin a MORIARTY mini-series, written by Daniel Corey and drawn by Anthony Diecidue, scheduled in stores in May; there's more information, and cover art, at Charles Prepolec's web-site at <www.sherlocknews.com>.

H.R.F. Keating died on Mar. 27. He was a fine writer, best known for his "Inspector Ghoti" stories, and an expert commentator on mystery and crime fiction. He also wrote Sherlockian pastiches, and co-wrote the Christopher Lee television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1991), and his THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1979) was a splendid piece of scholarship.

Mitch Higurashi and Yuichi Hirayama report that Sherlockians in Japan all seem to have survived the earthquake and tsunami. There's still great concern about the reactors and fuel-rod pools, of course, and much to be done to assist refugees from the area directly affected.

Darlene Cypser's THE CRACK IN THE LENS (Morrison: Foolscap & Quill, 2010; 286 pp., \$14.95) is a well-written story of Sherlock Holmes' early life in Yorkshire, with his father Siger Holmes, his brothers Sherrinford and Mycroft, his tutor Prof. James Moriarty, and a local girl named Violet Rushdale. There's romance and adventure, nice local flavor, and a good look at what set young Sherlock on the path to becoming what he is in the Canonical tales. Cypser has an excellent web-site at <www.crackinthelens.com>, with excerpts and easy access to various ways to buy the book.

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Apr 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Karen Ellery reports that WGBH-TV has a splendid web-site for various Sherlockian programs that have aired on "Masterpiece Theatre": "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Silk Stocking" (2005), "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2002), and "Murder Rooms" (1999 and 2001). Visit the over-all web-site at <www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/silkstocking/retro.html> to find all sorts of useful content, including a comparison of three versions of a scene in "The Hound of the Baskervilles": the text from the story, the script, and video of the scene as broadcast.

Al Gregory notes that the Undershaw Preservation Trust is selling items on eBay to benefit their campaign: a badge (lapel pin) for £7.99 and a set of postcards (one signed by their patron Mark Gatiss) for £51.00. You can go to <www.ebay.com> or <www.ebay.co.uk> and search for [undershaw].

Eric Simonson's play "Fake" premiered at a reading in New York in 2008 and was performed in Chicago in 2009, and tells the story of the Piltdown hoax ("it's a time-traveling mystery drama revolving around a house party held by Sir Arthur Conan"); it was recorded by L.A. Theatre Works and released in their Audio Theatre Collection last year as a 2-CD set (\$25.95); Francis Guinan played Conan Doyle. Their recording of "The Lost world" (adapted by John de Lancie and Nat Segalof) was issued as a single CD in 2009 (\$13.22) The company's web-site is at <www.latw.org>.

<www.zavvi.com> is an excellent British source for discounted DVDs, including some older Sherlockian and Doylean DVDs not often seen at American web-sites.

THE MUPPET SHOW: SEASON ONE (SPECIAL EDITION) is a four-DVD set issued in 2005 (\$39.99) with the original pitch reel, the original pilot, and all of the season's programs, including the one with Joel Grey as the guest star, which is of interest because it included "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues" (starring Rowlf as Holmes, Baskerville the Hound as Watson, Miss Piggy as the maid, and Gorgon Heap as the butler). And if you don't remember it, the reason is that it was cut from the program when it

aired in the U.S. on Oct. 18, 1976. But the segment did air in Britain and fortunately is included in the set of DVDs.

YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES: RED LEECH (London: Macmillan Children's Books, 2011; 339 pp., £6.99) is the second book in Andrew Lane's well-written series for young adults; Sherlock Holmes is 14 years old and involved in desperate adventures. The series has an excellent web-site at <www.youngsherlock.com>, with features such as the original proposal and author's notes, and (if you sign up for their newsletter) deleted scenes and other items of interest. An American edition is due later this year. And the next book in the series will be BLACK ICE.

Anthony D. P. Mann's film "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" (Jun 10 #1) had its premiere at the Empire Theatre in Kingston on Apr. 6; the film is scheduled for release on DVD later this year. You can see a six-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxqN3tfdIp8&feature=player_embedded>. Mann's web-site is at <www.anthonypmann.com>.

Apr 11 #2 "The writing of my Autograph/Makes me nearly frantic/But all is well today. We're half/Way over the Atlantic!!" That's a bit of verse that Conan Doyle wrote to accompany his autograph on Apr. 5, 1922 (aboard the *Baltic*, en route to the United States for the lecture tour he described in OUR AMERICAN ADVENTURE). Framed and glazed, and with a photograph of Sir Arthur, it was offered at auction by William J. Jenack on Apr. 17, estimated at \$800-\$1200.

"As Sherlock Holmes would have no doubt said to his sidekick, 'Baker Street Recordings are mighty spiffing, it's elementary, my dear Watson,'" is the motto of a company spotted by Jerry Margolin. It's based in Leeds, and was founded in 2006 by Paul Hardy and Jacob Kelly; they specialize in "house music" (a style of electronic dance music), and you can go to <www.bakerstreetrecordings.com> to listen to some of their musicians. Downloads can be purchased at <www.amazon.com> and other web-sites (where they use a different version of the silhouette).

"Set in a Victorian world where Sherlock Holmes is king, four lesser-known detectives are pitted against one another," is the premise of "The Rivals", a BBC radio drama written by Chris Harrald and due in October (spotted by Phil Attwell).

Information for people who don't have e-readers but want to read e-books: Darlene Cypser reports that Amazon is happy to let you download free software so that you can read Kindle editions of books on your desk-top or laptop or just about any hand-held device. Barnes & Noble does the same for their Nook editions.

"H2G2: The Guide to Life, the Universe, and Everything" is an interesting BBC on-line collaborative encyclopedia project (similar to a wiki), and one of entries is an informative discussion of the film "The Lost World" (1925) <www.bbc.co.uk/h2g2/entry/A83345132>. The web-site was founded in 1999 by Douglas Adams (author of THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY), and if you would like to buy it, it's for sale: the BBC announced in January that the BBC Online budget will be cut by £34 million, and they plan to dispose of H2G2. The BBC is funded by license fees that no longer increase to match the inflation rate (a license for a color television set now is £145.50 a year, and a black-and-white set costs £49.00 a year).

Ask Jeeves (the British version of the web-search Ask.com) commissioned a survey after noticing an increase in the number of queries received asking for biographies and other personal details such as a family tree for fictional characters, according to an article in the Daily Mail (Apr. 5); the survey polled 1,000 adults discovered that 21% thought Sherlock Holmes was a real person. One third of those surveyed believed that Long John Silver was real, and Robin Hood won the support of two thirds.

Additional thanks to Gary for news of Conan Doyle's amusing appearance on "A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor" on American Public Media (Oct. 16, 2010), in a six-minute segment from "the adventures of Ruth Harrison, reference librarian" You can read the script (and listen to the segment) at <www.prairiehome.publicradio.org/2010/10/16/scripts/ruth.shtml>.

Apr 11 #3 Larry Millett's pastiches set in Minnesota began with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (Sep 96 #5) and went on through four more books, eventually involving colorful Saint Paul saloon keeper Shadwell Rafferty, who also is an ingenious detective. THE MAGIC BULLET (University of Minnesota Press, 2011; 347 pp., \$24.95) offers a complicated locked-room murder mystery investigated and eventually solved by Rafferty, with a bit of assistance from Holmes from London.

The University of Minnesota Press also is reissuing Millett's earlier pastiches, starting with SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE RED DEMON (319 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ICE PALACE MURDERS (320 pp.); \$14.95 each. Holmes and Watson travel to Minnesota to solve both mysteries.

Kelly Blau has discovered Watson, who is a cute little raccoon as well as an "interactive story buddy" designed to help young people learn to read: you read the book aloud and whenever he hears certain phrases he responds. For \$34.89 you get Watson and the first book (WATSON AND THE CASE OF THE SNEAKY STEALER), and he will interact with two more books (THE MISSING ACORN and THE LITTLE LOST CATERPILLAR). You can see Watson in action in a three-minute video available from Hallmark at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=65QVYEfr2uI>.

THE HOUSE OF SILK is the title of the new pastiche by Anthony Horowitz (Jan 11 #5), due from Orion Books (in the UK) and from Mulholland Books (in the US) in November; Horowitz has a three-minute teaser video at <www.amazon.co.uk>.

WILLIAM GILLETTE, AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Henry Zecher (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2011; 733 pp., \$23.95), is a splendid biography of the actor/playwright who did so much to make Sherlock Holmes so popular. There was much more to Gillette's life and career than Sherlock Holmes, and the author has told the story well, with careful research and readable style; recommended. The author's web-site is at <www.henryzecher.com>.

BuzzerBeater is an "on-line basketball simulation game" discovered by Karen Murdock, who reports that one of them teams is the Baker Street Irregulars, managed by Sherlock Holmes <www.buzzerbeater.com/team/28544/overview.aspx>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHAKESPEARE LETTER, by Barry Grant (Sutton: Severn House, 2011; 185 pp., \$27.95), is a sequel to THE STRANGE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 10 #4); Sherlock Holmes, revived after having been frozen in a Swiss glacier for 90 years, is again detecting in London, assisted by James Wilson, a correspondent invalidated home after an assignment in Afghanistan, and this time they're attempting to recover a letter that may or may not have been written by Shakespeare, and that involves them in an intricate international conspiracy.

Apr 11 #4 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 the Sherlockian and Doylean aspects of the new UMedia Archive, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" discussion of the cartoonist

TAD (Thomas Aloysius Dorgan), Dick Sveum's "50 Years Ago" review of Peter A. Ruber and William Swift Dalliba's THE DETECTIVE SHORT STORY (A BIBLIOGRAPHY), and 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>.

Samantha Wolov has reported that Les Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES will be found at Dan Wilbur's amusing web-site at <www.betterbooktitles.com>; according to Wilbur, his blog provides assistance to "people who do not have thousands of hours to read book reviews of blurbs or first sentences. I will cut through all the cryptic crap, and give you the meat of the story in one condensed image. Now you can read the greatest literary works of all time in mere seconds!"

"This film is frequently hampered by the fact that it's horrible," according to James Lileks' review of Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933); Lloyd Rose discovered Lileks' blog at <www.lileks.com/institute/100mysteries>, where he comments on eight Sherlock Holmes films. Lileks also provides a link to Brian Taves' much longer and more knowledgeable user review of "A Study in Scarlet" at the Internet Movie Data Base.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror" (an imaginative two-act play dramatized by Hal Glatzer from "The Devil's Foot") was first performed in Honolulu in 1978; a revised version, performed in Hilo last year, is now available for \$20.00 as a 95-minute DVD (\$20.00) that can be bought at his web-site <www.halglatzer.com>, where he also has information about the play and a video trailer.

There are many interesting and useful aspects of Chris Redmond's web-site at <www.sherlockian.net>: click on "The original Sherlock Holmes stories" at the top of the list at the left to explore what people have had to say about the tales, such as "Redmond's Delicate Question" for each story. And his links can be weird and wonderful: if you explore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" you'll find a link to Laura Lyons as Playmate of the Month.

Gary Thaden discovered a truly unusual edition of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, commissioned by Penguin Books in Malaysia to publicize the "unput-downable" nature of classic literature; an image of the new edition can be seen at <www.theinspirationroom.co/daily/2009/penguin-books-unputdownable>.

Karen Murdock discovered Fancy That of London, a firm that sells all sorts of Sherlockiana, including a colorful Sherlock Holmes Tea Towel (L1.03); go to <www.fancythatoflondon.co.uk> and then click on "Sherlock Holmes Gifts" in the list at the left. And there are William and Kate wedding Gifts that include a Royal Wedding Condom (for novelty purposes only). But apparently no Sherlockian William and Kate Wedding Gifts.

Apr 11 #5 The Sherlock Holmes Society of London will celebrate its diamond jubilee with a long weekend of events that's scheduled for May 19-22; you can read all about it at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>. One of the events is "The Sound of the Baskervilles" (Laurence Owen's "Cinema for the Ears" presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles") at the Trafalgar Tavern in Greenwich, and the web-site has a link to a three-minute video trailer for what Owen calls a "radio film".

One of the more attractive souvenirs of the Society's jubilee is The Agra Treasure Brooch: just go to the web-site, click on [shop] and then on the brooch to see it in full color. The brooches are hand-crafted by Kim Wood-Byers. The web-site also has a link to The Newsletter, where you can read all 310 issues of The District Messenger, which Roger Johnson launched on Dec. 1, 1982; it's the excellent British equivalent of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press (which is a bit older, and written in American rather

than British).

"Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" is a proposed exhibition for science museums whose plan will be unveiled at the annual meeting of the American Association of Museums in Houston, May 22-25. Created by principle designer Geoffrey M. Curley and the Exhibits Development Group of St. Paul, Minn., and licensed by the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., the family's new business entity now that the Estate of Dame Jean Conan Doyle has been closed, the interactive exhibition will focus on Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the forensic science of both the Sherlockian and modern eras, and is expected to go on tour beginning in 2013.

One of the more colorful detectives in pre-Sherlockian England was Francis "Tanky" Smith, who was one of the first detective appointed to the city of Leicester's police force in 1836; he was a master of disguise, and after he retired in 1864 he set himself up as a private detective. He died in 1888, and of course there have been suggestions that his exploits were known to Conan Doyle, who in part modeled Holmes after Smith. He's commemorated in Leicester with a blue plaque and sixteen carved heads showing him in various disguises; go to <www.leicester.gov.uk> and search for [francis smith] to see the plaque and the disguises.

Further to the report (Oct 10 #7) on Steven Moffat's hinting about the next Benedict Cumberbatch "Sherlock" series ("The critical words, I'd say, would be--Adler, Hound, Reichenbach"), Mark Gatiss has announced at a media event in London that he will update "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Moffat will do "A Scandal in Bohemia", and Steve Thompson (who wrote "The Blind Banker" in the first series) will take care of "The Final Problem".

And Moffat, interviewed by Garth Johnston for www.gothamist.com on Apr. 21 (search for [moffat]), said that "There are genre similarities in 'Doctor Who' and 'Sherlock Holmes', no question about it. The Doctor is Sherlock in space, and Sherlock Holmes is the Doctor on Baker Street. But then you look at it a bit more closely, and Sherlock Holmes is cruel, lonely, loveless, and the Doctor is lovely and flopsy and embraces all the things that Sherlock runs away from." And that "Sherlock Holmes should never be a nice guy. And we're also doing a young Sherlock Holmes. This is before, twenty years before he becomes Basil Rathbone."

Apr 11 #6 Ted Riccardi's BETWEEN THE THAMES AND THE TIBER (New York: Pegasus, 2011; 317 pp., \$25.00), subtitled "the further adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Britain and the Italian Peninsula", is the sequel to his THE ORIENTAL CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Sep 03 #3); Holmes and Watson are as comfortable in Italy as they are in Britain (although Holmes is much more fluent in Italian than Watson), and the echoes from the Canon include their involvement with Pope Leo XIII, and with Isadora Persano (who turns out to be female medium rather than a male journalist and duellist, without a trace of a remarkable worm).

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-3.htm>, with a report (with photographs) on the December meeting of The Torists International, offers of books and other merchandise, and links to interesting web-sites.

Bill Scott's new play "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed on tour in western England and southern Wales by the Miracle Theatre, opening in Porthtowan on June 1 and closing in Falmouth on Aug. 29. More information is available at the company web-site at <www.miracletheatre.co.uk>.

Cocktails are making a comeback, and Mike Kean notes a recipe for a "Hound of the Baskervilles" created by Gary Regan (author of THE JOY OF MIXOLOGY and other books) and reported in the San Francisco Chronicle (Feb. 27). Mike reports the result as interesting, though perhaps lethal if taken

in quantity.

Theatre Aquarius will perform Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" from Sept. 23 to Oct. 8. 190 King William Street, Hamilton, ON L8R 1A8, Canada (905-522-7529) <www.theatreaquarius.org>.

Catherine Cooke is helping sell some of Anna Smyth's Sherlockiana (and at reasonable prices); you request an e-mail sales list from Catherine <c.cooke@dsl.pipex.com>.

The British Academy of Film & Television Arts has announced the nominees for its television BAFTAs; they include nominators for "Sherlock" (drama series) Benedict Cumberbatch (leading actor), and Martin Freeman (supporting actor); the awards will be announced on May 22.

"Sherlock" also has been nominated for the YouTube Audience Award, the only BAFTA voted on by the public. The British public, that is; Brits can vote at <www.youtube.com/baftaonline> until May 20.

And yes, there was something Sherlockian about the Royal wedding: the guest list at Westminster Abbey included Guy Ritchie, the director of the films "Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows".

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May 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

I recently had an opportunity to watch an episode of "The \$64,000 Question" (1956) on which Air Force Captain Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Bobbye each won \$32,000 on concealment of identity in the Sherlock Holmes stories: they were each given seven names and asked to give the name of the story and another name by which the character was known. Test your own knowledge: Waldron; Signora Victor Dorando; Henry Peters; Jack McMurdo; James Armitage; Vandeleur the schoolmaster; James Winter; Arthur Harry Pinner; Sutton; Mrs. Norlett; Don Juan Murillo; Hosmer Angel; Sergius, the nihilist; Mr. Cornelius. Note: they had only 30 seconds to think about their answers.

When and where did Sherlock Holmes wear an Inverness cape? There's no mention of an Inverness in the Canon, but many actors have worn one when playing Holmes; nowadays it seems to be worn mainly by members of pipe bands as a raincape, in nylon, polyester, or cotton, rather than tweed. Karen Murdoch has found a source for the modern version at <www.misterantony.com>.

An unusual print of a blueprint inscribed "Bruce Partington Submarine, Issued by The Royal Navy Research Department" is scheduled for auction by Adam Partridge in England on June 23, estimated at L30-L50; the catalog description states that the print may have been used as a prop during filming of a Sherlock Holmes television program. Go to <www.adampartridge.co.uk/lots/> and search for [bruce].

"How Sherlock Kept Me Out of the Gulag" is the title of an article by Bohdan Kachmar posted at the web-site of the Ukrainian Bible Translation Project on May 30, 2009; go to <www.ukrainianbible.org> and search for [sherlock]. Kachmar's recollection of a Sherlock Holmes story did just that.

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 discussion ("A Letter from Bosie") of the correspondence between Lord Alfred Douglas and Sir Arthur (whose wife Jean noted that his response was "a splendid answer from my darling to that rat"), plus other news from and about the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C,

1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>. And there's still time to register for "A Study in Scandal" in Toronto on Oct. 13-16 <www.acdfriends.org>.

More cocktails: Al and Julie Rosenblatt stopped by the Hotel Pierre in New York and visited the Two-E Bar/Lounge, which had a "Movie Cocktail Festival" that included the "Sherlock Holmes" (Laphroig Scotch, chilled Lapsang Souchong tea, honey simple syrup, and fresh lemon juice).

Mystery Scene magazine has reached its 118th issue (winter 2011), which has Cheryl Solimini's "Steve Hockensmith: Holmes on the Range" and Stephen J. Gertz's (non-Sherlockian) "Bawdy Bibliophiles" and much more. Their website <www.mysteryscenemag.com> also has many interesting articles, including "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Jon L. Breen's review of the series of reprints from Titan Books), "Two Authors for Teenage Girls" (Oline H. Cogdill's discussion of Laurie R. King and Alan Bradley), and a samples from the spring issue.

May 11 #2 Bill Blackbeard died on Mar. 10. He spent a lifetime collecting newspaper comic strips, rescuing old newspapers from people's basements and attics, and from the Library of Congress, and other libraries, and wrote and edited many books about the classic comic-strip artists and their work. Bill presided over what he called the San Francisco Academy of Comic Art in his home, and by the 1990s he estimated that he had clipped and organized more than 2.5 million Sunday and daily comic strips. In 1998 most of his collection was transferred (in six semi-trailer trucks) to Ohio State University's Cartoon Library & Museum. His cornerstone contribution to our literature was his book SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA (1981), which contained his essay on "The Image of Sherlock Holmes in Popular Art and Literature" and a wide variety of comic strips and cartoons, story illustrations, advertising, and reviews extracted from his collection.

And why was Guy Ritchie invited to the Royal wedding? There have been reports that Will and Harry had been invited to the set while work on "Sherlock Holmes" was underway, and they attended the premiere in London on Dec. 14, 2009, arriving at the theater with Kate Middleton, as shown in a photograph that was published in the Daily Mail.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael...without knowing it?" Holmes asked (in "The Three Gables"). Having a Vernet would be almost as nice: Joan Moore spotted a report in the Wall Street Journal (Apr 29) that Claude-Joseph Vernet's painting "A Grand View of the Sea-Shore Enriched with Buildings, Shipping and Figures" went to auction at Sotheby's in New York on Jan. 27, estimated at \$1.5 million-\$2 million, and it sold for more than \$7 million; the article reported that 20 bidders duelled for the painting, which went to a private American buyer. Claude-Joseph Vernet was Holmes' great-great-grandfather. If you would settle for Holmes' grand-uncle Emile-Jean-Horace Vernet, his "Portrait of Colonel Auguste-Frederic-Bon-Amour, marquis de Talhouet" sold for only \$50,000.

Further to the item on the poetic accompaniment to Conan Doyle's autograph at auction at William J. Jenack on Apr. 17 (Apr 11 #2), bidding didn't make the reserve, and the lot didn't sell.

Henry Becton has been made an Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE), receiving the honor from Prince Charles at the British Embassy in Washington on May 5. Becton joined WGBH (Boston) as a producer in 1970 and served as its president from 1984 to 2007, presiding over the co-production of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series and many other "Mystery!" and "Masterpiece Theatre" favorites.

And "Masterpiece" executive producer Rebecca Eaton has been named to Time magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world; she received an honorary OBE on Dec. 10, 2003, for "her services to Anglo-American film and television."

May 11 #3 Ken Lanza spotted a reference to "the Sherlock Holmes of America," who was Ellis Parker, the first chief detective in Burlington County, N.J. Parker had an illustrious career, until he decided he knew who had kidnapped the Lindbergh baby, and was in turn tried and convicted of kidnapping his alternative suspect. And there's a book: MASTER DETECTIVE: THE LIFE AND CRIMES OF ELLIS PARKER--AMERICA'S REAL-LIFE SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Jim Reisinger (2006). Parker died in prison in 1940, and his grandson Andrew Sahl now is seeking a posthumous presidential pardon for his grandfather.

Jeremy Paul died on May 3. He was a skillful dramatist and playwright who wrote the "Conan Doyle" episode for the BBC's "The Edwardians" television series (1972), dramatized many of the tales for Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series (his version of "The Musgrave Ritual" won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America), and wrote the script for the play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" for Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke (1988).

The Postal Service has honored Helen Hayes as "The First Lady of the American Theater" on a new postage stamp. While she is not known to have acted in anything Sherlockian or Doylean, she did appear with William Gillette in the Broadway production of J. M. Barrie's play "Dear Brutus" in 1918, when she was only 18 years old, winning praise in reviews of the play. She greatly admired Gillette; you can read what she said about him in her memoirs in Henry Zecher's WILLIAM GILLETTE: AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (Apr 11 #3).

The nominees for this year's Anthony Awards have been announced, and they include Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN (best first novel) and Steve Doyle's SHERLOCK HOLMES FOR DUMMIES (best critical/non-fiction). The voters will be those who attend Bouchercon 2011 in Saint Louis, and the winners will be announced on Sept. 18.

The Undershaw Preservation Trust is continuing its campaign to rescue Conan Doyle's home from a developer who plans to convert the house into flats (Dec 10 #2). The BBC reported that the Trust handed out 500 deerstalkers in Hindhead and asked locals to wear something inspired by Sherlock Holmes on May 14 to show their support for keeping the house as a single building or turning it into a museum. The Waverley Borough Council has approved the developer's plans, and the Council's head of planning, Matthew Evans said, "If Undershaw was to be bought by campaigners or another purchaser with a view to an alternative use for the building and promoting it to tourists, we would be happy to discuss the proposals with them," and added that "it would be a substantial burden on the taxpayer for Waverley Borough Council to make a compulsory purchase of the property, with no assurance that any scheme would be financially viable."

Scott Monty's "Baker Street Blog" continues to expand its reach, which now includes Steve Doyle's "From the Dummy's Chair". A recent installment is "Sherlockian Myth-Busters: Thor Bridge", a five-minute video in which Steve and fellow Sherlockians conduct a test to see whether the disappearing-gun trick in "Thor Bridge" actually works. Go to <www.bakerstreetblog.com> to see the solution.

May 11 #4 Nicholas Selby died in on Sept. 14, 2010. He had a long career as a supporting actor on stage, screen, radio, and television; he appeared in the cast of the Hobbs/Shelley radio version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on the BBC in 1958, and played James Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in

London, Washington, and New York in 1974.

Image Comics has launched a new MORIARTY comic-book mini-series, written by Daniel Corey and drawn by Anthony Diecidue. Charles Prepolec has a colorful report on the new comic (and as usual on other interesting things) at <www.sherlocknews.com>.

"So I wrote another of my first books and sent it off to the publishers," Conan Doyle wrote in "My First Book" (in *The Idler*, Jan. 1893). The book was THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH, and the manuscript was lost in the post. "But I must in all honesty confess that my shock at its disappearance would be as nothing to my horror if it were suddenly to appear again--in print," he added. And, more than a hundred years later, it was a surprise to find the manuscript of the story in the Conan Doyle papers at auction at Christie's in London in 2004. It wasn't the original manuscript, it turns out, but rather a second version that he rewrote from memory, as he wrote to his mother in Feb. 1884 in a letter published in *ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: HIS LIFE AND LETTERS* (2007).

That manuscript was purchased by the British Library, which will publish it later this year, with an introduction by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Rachel Foss (144 pp., £9.95) <publishing.bl.uk> (there also will be an audiobook, and both versions will be distributed in the U.S. by the University of Chicago Press). "Through John Smith," the British Library notes, "Conan Doyle sets down his thoughts and opinions on a range of subjects--including literature, science, religion, war, and education--with no detectable insecurity or diffidence."

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS HORROR, by David Ruffle (Peterborough: FastPrint Publishing, 2009; 168 pp., £8.99); Holmes and Watson are in Lyme Regis pitted against the vampire Count Olana in 1896 (Bram Stoker's DRACULA was published in 1897).

The Library of Congress and Sony have launched a new web-site that allows listeners to stream an archive of more than 10,000 pre-1925 recordings of music, speeches, poetry, and comedy. It's called the National Jukebox, and it's at <www.loc.gov/jukebox>, and it's well worth a visit. And a search for [sherlock] quickly turned up "Mrs. Holmes taught Sherlock all he knew" on a recording made by the Victor Military Band on Apr. 26, 1917. It's a sprightly tune, and a mystery: the title of the record is "When It's Circus Day Back Home--Medley One-Step" and the Sherlockian title is listed only as one of the four tunes in the medley; one would think it's a song, but there are no results from a Google search other than the record.

Marvin Cheiten's new play "The Golden Spy & The World at War" opened at the Off-Broadstreet Theatre on May 13 and is running through June 3. The theater is at 5 South Greenwood Avenue, Hopewell, NJ 08525 (609-466-2766), and the web-site's at <www.off-broadstreet.com>.

May 11 #5 The manuscript of "The Story of Pedegue's Dropper" went to auction at Bloomsbury Auctions in London on May 25, estimated at £4,000-£6,000. The title of the manuscript's not a misprint: the story was published as "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper" in *The Strand Magazine* (Oct. 1928), and Randall Stock has much more information about the manuscript at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/spedegues-dropper-bloomsbury.htm>. The hammer price was £15,000 (before buyer's premium and taxes).

The BBC has announced that filming has started on the second season of its "Sherlock" mini-series (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman), and Steven Moffat has revealed that the three new programs will be "A Scandal in Belgravia", "The Hounds of Baskerville", and "The Reichenbach Fall".

And the British Academy of Film & Television announced its BAFTA awards on May 22: "Sherlock" won for best drama series, Martin Freeman for best supporting actor, and "A Study in Pink" for best fiction editing.

Edward Hardwicke died on May 16. He began his acting career in a film at the age of 10, and performed as well on stage, radio, and television. His first Canonical role was Davenport in the Peter Cushing/Nigel Stock version of "The Greek Interpreter" (1968), and he was a splendid Watson in the Granada series (1986-1994) and in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes" (1988). He also read many of the tales for CSA Telltapes and other companies, and he played Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in the film "Photographing Fairies" (1997); there's an interesting ten-minute interview with Hardwicke at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>.

"Sheer-Luck Holmes: Clueless Again" is a new parody that opened at the Desert Star Playhouse on Apr. 28, and it will run through June 11. 4861 South State Street, Murray, UT 84107 (801-266-2600) <www.desertstar.biz>. There is a one-minute trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSAFF273-8k>.

There was nothing particularly Sherlockian at Malice Domestic in Bethesda at the end of last month, except for Carole Nelson Douglas being the guest of honor, and Steve Doyle and Dan Stashower participating on non-Sherlockian panels, but it was interesting to see a trend in book titles such as A HARD DAY'S FRIGHT, TOMB WITH A VIEW, NIGHT OF THE LOVING DEAD, TOMBS OF ENDEARMENT, and DEAD MAN TALKING, all part of Casey Daniels' "Pepper Martin" series; Pepper is an heiress turned cemetery tour guide who assists ghosts who need a private investigator. Many other authors like amusing puns in their book titles, including Donna Andrews; her latest is STORK RAVING MAD, and you can find more at <www.donnandrews.com>. The next Malice Domestic will be held Apr. 27-29, 2012, at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Md.; Jan Burke will be guest of honor, Simon Brett will receive a lifetime achievement award, and there's more information at <www.malicedomestic.org>.

OSCAR WILDE AND THE VAMPIRE MURDERS (New York: Touchstone/Simon & Schuster, 2011; 366 pp., \$24.00) is the fourth title in Gyles Brandreth's excellent series featuring Oscar Wilde as the detective and Arthur Conan Doyle as his friend and sometimes student; this time they're involved with royalty and murder, and their story's full of twists and turns. The British edition is titled OSCAR WILDE AND THE NEXT OF VIPERS (from John Murray), and Brandreth has an interesting web-site at <www.oscarwildemurdermysteries.com>.

May 11 #6 Cinema St. Louis held a ten-day "Vincentennial" this month, in honor of Vincent Price (who was born there in 1911), with interviews, screenings, discussions, and special events; there's a web-site at <www.vincentennial.com>. The films shown include "Champagne for Caesar" (1950), which has a Sherlockian connection: for Disney's "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), their artists modeled Ratigan after Price's performance in the earlier film, and Price provided the voice for Ratigan. Price also hosted the PBS-TV "Mystery!" series from 1981 to 1989, offering interesting comments on the Granada series; he won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1988 for his "contributions to the world of mystery."

The German Sherlock Holmes Society has reported that the first issue of The Baker Street Chronicle will appear in June; there will be 32 pages, and the Chronicle will be a quarterly, all in German. And (of course) there is a web-site at <www.baker-street-chronicle.de>.

John and Connie Cullen have come up with a way to combine real books with e-readers: their inBOOK is a hardback case that looks like a book and protects your Kindle or Nook. One of the inBOOKS comes with a Sherlock Holmes cover, 16 pages with "The Musgrave Ritual", and a custom-made case for your e-reader (\$49.95). There's more information at <www.goinbook.com>.

Anthony D. P. Mann's film "Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow Watchers" (Apr 11 #1) has been issued on DVD; it's a 62-minute Canadian production, filmed in Kingston, Ont. (which has some appropriately Victorian locations), written by Mann, who also performs as Holmes. The DVD costs CA\$15.00 plus shipping (613-767-2776) <www.sherlockholmesadventures.ca>, and Mann has his own web-

site at <www.anthonypmann.com>.

Al Gregory notes that Thucydides is mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes stories (in "The Three Students"), and now Sherlock Holmes is mentioned in Thucydides. Well, an appendix in Robert B. Strassler's THE LANDMARK THUCYDIDES (2001): "Greek religion in Thucydides is much like the dog in the famous Sherlock Holmes tale who provided a clue because he did *not* bark in the night: Thucydides' comparative silence on Greek religious practices and institutions dramatically illustrates the rationalizing and secular nature of his work."

More auction news: Australian Book Auctions' sale on May 30 included a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual that's a new addition to Randall Stock's census. The copy lacks the covers, and has been rebound, and was estimated at AU\$40,000-AU\$80,000. There's much more information about this new copy of Beeton's at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/australia-2011-beetons.htm>.

Rochester Row, The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse, and An Irish Secret Society at Buffalo will hold their second annual summer conference on Aug. 6 in Rochester, highlighted by a tour of the George Eastman International House of Photography (which preserved John Barrymore's 1922 film "Sherlock Holmes"). More information's available from Lewis Neisner (501 Rivers Run, Rochester, NY 14623 (585-360-4715) <lewisneisner@yahoo.com>.

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

Jun 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Roger Johnson reports that Memorial Auctioneers (104 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE, England) <www.msgb.co.uk> will offer the Lordship of the Manor of Manaton in Devon at auction in London in July. Roger Smith, chairman of the Manorial Society of Great Britain, believes that Manaton was the inspiration for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and notes that Conan Doyle was a regular visitor in the neighborhood, and that Heatree House (now an "adventure centre") "receives thousands of visitors a year who are looking for the literary roots of Sherlock Holmes."

Faithful readers of this newsletter may recall that a few years ago Manorial Auctioneers offered for sale the barony of Pencelli Castle, which was said to have inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (Jun 03 #6), and that the Memorial Society had been described as "one of the most ruthless, vindictive, arrogant, and dangerous of all business enterprises related to titles in the world."

Catherine's Cooke's article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Festival of Britain" (celebrating the 60th anniversary of that landmark exhibition) is one of the featured articles in the spring issue of Canadian Holmes, which is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto for its members; it's a lively journal (\$35.00 a year); TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers>.

The Easton Press is publishing a deluxe edition of LONDON: A PILGRIMAGE, by Gustave Dore and Blanchard Jerrold, first published by Grant & Co. in London in 1872. Dore provided 180 engravings for Jerrold's portrait of London that was published only a few years before Conan Doyle's first visit to the city at the end of 1874. It's a leather-bound limited edition that costs \$496.00 postpaid; 47 Richards Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06857 (800-367-4534).

Registration is now open for "Gillette to Brett III", the conference scheduled by the Wessex Press in Bloomington on Nov. 11-13. They'll celebrate the 35th anniversary of "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (with Nicholas Meyer on hand), and there will be many other interesting speakers. You can register at the web-site <www.wessexpress.com>, or request information by mail (Box 68308, Indianapolis, IN 46077).

Karen Murdock has found a web-site for the Sherlock Holmes Outpost in Fort Texas. The Outpost claims that Holmes visited Fort Davis during the Great Hiatus <www.teamyellow.net/SherlockHolmesOutpost/index.html>. Fort Davis is described as "only 220 miles east of El Paso or 175 miles southwest of Midland, and the Outpost offers food in Mrs. Hudson's Dining Room and drink in Dr. Watson's Club.

The electronic journal Ripperologist continues Tim Mosley's multi-part article "House That Jack Built" (Sep 10 #6) with an appendix in issue #120 on "A Look Inside the Chamber Pot" in which Mosley suggests that "One may have difficulty visualizing the suave detective using a chamber pot, but that is likely how it would have been even in the 1880s." The issue also includes a tribute to the late Edward Hardwicke; contact the editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.

Jun 11 #2 The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Old Court Radio Theatre Company have issued a CD with recordings of "The Long Man" (a story written by Rafe McGregor and dramatized by M. J. Elliott) and "The Grace Chalice" (written and adapted by Roger Johnson); Jim Crozier and Dave Hawkes return as Holmes and Watson, and the productions and acting are excellent. The programs can be heard or downloaded free at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk> and the CD is available from the Society (Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, England) for £5.00 postpaid to the UK, £6.00 or €9.00 to Europe, and £9.00/\$12.00 elsewhere; sterling checks payable to Roger Johnson and dollar checks to Jean Upton.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-5.htm>, with tributes to the late Edward Hardwicke and Jeremy Paul, and offers of books, other merchandise, and links to interesting web-sites.

Sherlock Holmes never appeared in Oz, at least in the official series written by L. Frank Baum and annointed successors, but Toto was drawn with the Sherlockian icons by Frank Kramer in Jack Snow's THE MAGICAL MIMICS OF OZ (1946). Atticus Gannaway's "Frank Kramer: The Lost Illustrator of Oz" in the spring issue of The Baum Bugle. He illustrated only two Oz books, but he has a long list

of credits for work in magazines and books, including illustrations for "A Scandal in Bohemia" and other non-Sherlockian stories in Rosamund Morris' anthology GREAT DETECTIVE STORIES (1965) and dust-jacket art for Mary Hoehling's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (1965). The Baum Bugle is published three times a year by The International Wizard of Oz Club (Box 2657, Alameda, CA 94501) (<www.ozclub.org>; \$25.00 a year.

The print of a blueprint inscribed "Bruce Partington Submarine, Issued by The Royal Navy Research Department" (May 11 #1) was sold at auction on May 12 for £180, well above the estimate of £30-£50. You see a different plan in Granada's version of "The Bruce-Partington Plans".

The East Haddam Stage Company's production of William Gillette's "All the Comforts of Home" opened at Gillette Castle on June 18, and it runs through Aug. 6. The play is a 30-minute condensation of a Victorian drawing room comedy that Gillette debuted in 1890, and it will be performed outdoors on the Castle grounds. and indoors at the East Haddam Historical Society. Box 176, East Haddam, CT 06423 (960-873-3521) <www.ehsco.org>.

The company's also planning to perform a new play about the first time that Gillette adapted Conan Doyle's tales for the stage; "Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Stage" is a scheduled at the East Haddam Historical Society, July 29 to Aug. 7.

Paul Spiring has reported that there is a three-bedroom apartment for sale

in Park House in Ipplepen in Devon. Park House was the residence of Bartram Fletcher Robinson (Conan Doyle wrote to his mother from Princetown in 1901 that he intended to visit Park House), and there is much more information at <www.tinyurl.com/3ulh43x>. The asking price is £189,950.

Jun 11 #3 The Sherlock Holmes Gazette was launched in 1991, became Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine in 1997, and in 2003 simply Sherlock, reaching a total of 68 issues before ending its run in 2006. It offered excellent content, Sherlockian and otherwise, and all 68 issues are now available as a digitized CD-ROM archive for £49.95. The disk has useful navigation features, and it's easily searchable; you can buy it at the magazine's colorful web-site <www.sherlockmagazine.co.uk> or from the publisher: Atlas Publishing Ltd., Jordan House, Old Milton Green, New Milton, Hants. BH25 6QJ, England.

Christer Holmqvist (a member of the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) notes that Out of Print Clothing offers a HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES T-shirt for \$28.00; the company "celebrates the world's great stories through fashion," selling T-shirts decorated with vintage book covers; for every shirt sold, one book is sent to a child in Africa through their charity partner Books for Africa. Their web-site's at <www.outofprintclothing.com>.

HOUND, John Patrick Bray's dramatization of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, has been performed in Louisiana (Sep 07 #2) and New York (May 09 #3), and the script is now available from Next Stage Press (9810 Westcliff Parkway #927, Westminster, CO 80021) <www.shop.nextstagepress.net>; \$8.00 printed or digital (no shipping charge for digital copies).

Laurie R. King launched her Mary Russell series in 1994 with THE BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE, which opened with Russell's account of her first meeting with Holmes. BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS, an e-novella available on July 6, is an imaginative look at that meeting, from Holmes' point of view, which is quite different from Russell's. The Kindle and Nook editions cost 99¢, and there will be others; check for details at <www.laurierking.com>. And Laurie says there later will be an ink-on-paper print version, and on June 6 she posted an excerpt on her blog <www.laurierking.com/blogs>, along with publicity for the next Mary Russell novel (PIRATE KING), which will be published Sept. 6. Gilbert & Sullivan fans may wish to try singing her "The Major-Criminal's Song" (she has kindly supplied some karaoke music to help you out).

Sept. 19 is "Talk Like a Pirate Day" (an event that began in 1995, and is now international); they don't seem to be aware of Conan Doyle's "Captain Sharkey", but there's an interesting web-site at <www.talklikeapirate.com>.

Waterlogg Productions has announced their reissue of Joe Bevilacqua's parody radio series "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (Dec 07 #6) as "The Best of the Comedy-O-Rama Radio Hour, Season One" as a download (\$9.95) at <www.amazon.com>. There's more information about Bevilacqua's many other productions at <www.comedyorama.com> and <www.joebev.com>.

Tryon, N.C., has in the past honored local resident William Gillette with Sherlock Holmes Festivals, and this year there will be a gathering on July 23, with a breakfast featuring Henry Zecher, author of the recent WILLIAM GILLETTE: AMERICA'S SHERLOCK HOLMES (Apr 11 #3), and afterwards an opportunity to tour the Polk County Historical Museum, which has a large collection of Gillette material; you can make reservations for the breakfast with Robert Reynolds (828-859-9388) <bob101@windstream.net>.

Jun 11 #4 The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes) always has interesting content: the spring issue offers Benoit Guilielmo's "Prolegomena to a Basic Invisible Holmesian Library" (on the authorities cited by Ronald Knox in his classic essay), and the summer issue has Susan Rice's "By Way of Introduction" (about how a solitary Sherlockian found and joined the wider world of Sherlockians). It's published

quarterly and costs \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

Further to the item about plans to publish Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (May 11 #5), Randall Stock has prepared an excellent report on the manuscript and its history, and on the book, at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/narrative-john-smith-ms.htm>.

From time to time one makes accidental discoveries at <www.wikipedia.org>, such as the "List of authors of new Sherlock Holmes", which in turn has a link to "Non-canonical Sherlock Holmes works", where you'll find a link to "Popular culture references to Sherlock Holmes" (all less than complete, so you can help Wikipedia with additions, and for that matter corrections).

Stephen Gaspar's THE CANADIAN ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES was published by George Vanderburg in 2004; it's a 224-page collection of nine pastiches set during Holmes and Watson's visit to Canada in 1897, and the tales have quite a bit of Canadian history and geography as well as mysteries. Auto-graphed copies are available from the author (9805 Holly Crescent, Windsor, ON N8R 1Y6, Canada) CA\$23.50 postpaid to Canada, US\$27.50 to the US). He has some promotional videos at <www.youtube.com/user/stephengaspar58> and an interesting blog at <stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, where you can read his continuing Sherlockian serial pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder".

Paul Spiring has reported (and will soon publish) "The Grave Accusation", an amusing pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating Rodger Garrick Steele's story that Bertram Fletcher Robinson was poisoned by his wife And Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Dicky Neely's pastiche was published in the Coastal Bend Sun, and that at Neely's blog in 2007.

The Ocular Helmsman <www.jadedcompass.com/ocular_helmsman> is Virginia Aldrich's "Vade Mecum Upon the Personal Effects & Environs of Messrs. Sherlock Holmes & John H. Watson of 221B Baker Street for the Victorian Layman", and it's nicely done.

Richard R. Nagy's Datamancer web-site at <www.datamancer.net> is well worth exploring: his imaginative steampunk computer keyboard was offered at eBay last year, described as "a keyboard to make Sherlock Holmes proud" (Jul 10 #2), and Ken Lanza has reported that Nagy is now accepting pre-orders (at \$5,500) for his spectacular Victorian/Steampunk Laptop.

Paul Spiring has reported another example of how useful the Internet can be for researchers: the National Library of New Zealand has now digitized more than one million pages of the country's newspapers covering the years 1839 to 1945 (and they're still adding to the data base). The Papers Past web-site's <www.paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>; a search for [conan doyle] turned up 8016 hits, and there were 6801 hits for [sherlock holmes].

Jun 11 #5 Otto Penzler, proprietor of the Mysterious Press and the Mysterious Bookshop, has teamed with digital publisher Open Road Integrated Media <www.openroadmedia.com> to launch MysteriousPress.com to move Mysterious Press into electronic publishing, with both classic and original mystery and crime titles as ebooks. Otto also publishes The Mysterious Bookshop Newsletter monthly, always with a "Sherlock Holmes" section that offers new, used, and rare Sherlockiana; go to <www.mysteriousbookshop.com> and click on "Newsletter" at the left.

Andrew Lycett's biography of Conan Doyle has an Italian translation: CONAN DOYLE: L'UOMO CHE CREO SHERLOCK HOLMES (from Excelsior 1881, E26.50); it's available at <www.amazon.it> and elsewhere.

Heritage Auctions offered some interesting fossils in their Natural History auction on June 12 in Dallas, including "The Fighting Pair--Allosaurus vs. Stegosaurus", a pair of fossils discovered in 2007 in Wyoming and estimated at \$2,240,000-\$3,360,000; the description of the Allosaurus noted that "it

bears the distinction of being one of the first dinosaurs to be depicted on the silver screen, the apex predator of the 1912 novel and 1925 cinema adaptation of Conan Doyle's THE LOST WORLD." And the lot sold for \$2,748,500 (including the buyer's premium) to an unidentified museum outside the U.S. There's a full description, and a four-minute video, at <www.ha.com>.

David Schulson Autographs (973-379-3800) <www.schulsonautographs.com> has advertised an interesting medical bill in Conan Doyle's hand for one "first night visit" 7/6 and "two subsequent visits" 7/0 for a total of 14/6, noted "received with thanks" on Aug. 2, 1887.

Esri Allbritten's CHIHUAHUA OF THE BASKERVILLES (New York: Minotaur Books, 2011; 274 pp., \$23.99) is an amusing homage to the Sherlock Holmes story, with a spectral dog (in Manitou Springs, Colo.), and a Baskerville family (some them involved in the Emma Crawford Memorial Coffin Race); the author's web-site is at <www.esriallbritten.wordpress.com/author/elvesamongus>, where she describes the crime as "kind of like Scooby Doo for grown-ups."

Les and Carol Moskowitz, vacationing in Europe, visited Bordeaux and discovered a Sherlock Holmes Pub <www.sherlockholmespub.fr> that offers British beer and ale, jacket potatoes, darts, pool, and a pleasant atmosphere. They also found a Sherlock Holmes Pub in Hellesylt in Norway; alas: it was closed, and doesn't have a web-site, but a photograph at Wikimedia Commons shows a rural Scandinavian exterior.

And Oscar Ross spotted a report in The Guardian (June 8) on "10 of the Best Barrio Bars in Barcelona", one of them being the Barcelona Pipa Club, described as being dedicated to pipe smoking and as having a Sherlock Holmes theme <www.bpipaclub.com/gourmet.htm>.

Greg Darak reports that Marvel Comics has revived Ruse, which was published by Crossgen from 2001 to 2004; there's a new mini-series, apparently with four issues. It's not directly Sherlockian, but there's lots of good Victorian flavor, and some nice artwork. Mark Waid is again the writer, and Mirco Pierfederici is the new illustrator; there's more information about the comic at <www.marvel.com/comic_books/series/13555/ruse_2010_1_present>.

Jun 11 #6 More auction news: two of Basil Rathbone's costumes as Sherlock Holmes in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" were sold by Profiles in History in Beverly Hills on June 18, as part of Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia; his tan and black square-checked wool cape overcoat (estimated at \$20,000-\$30,000) sold for \$61,500 (including the buyer's premium), and his tweed wool herringbone double-breasted jacket (estimated at \$8,000-\$12,000) brought \$11,685. The star of the sale was Marilyn Monroe's "subway" dress from "The Seven Year Itch" (estimated at \$1,000,000-\$2,000,000); it sold for \$5,658,000.

Al Gregory spotted Adam Whyte's review at <www.obsessedwithfilm.com> of the new British film "Albatross" that was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival this month. The film stars Jessica Brown Findlay as Emilia, whose surname is Conan Doyle and introduces herself as the great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Conan Doyle.

"Learn to fight like Sherlock Holmes!" The New York Historical Society is presenting "A Study in Scarlet: An Evening of Sherlockian Splendor" on July 23 as part of an Antagonistics weekend that's billed as Bartitsu's New York City debut. Misspelled "baritsu" by Watson, Bartitsu was the Victorian art of self-defense. There's more information at <www.nycsteampunk.com>.

Dr. William R. Hanson designed a colorful cachet for last year's "Holiday Evergreen"; the door and doorway are modeled after the set for the Ronald Howard television series (1954). The cost is \$10.00 postpaid (in the U.S.)

and you're requested to make payment in currency or with U.S. postal money orders; his address is 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801.

MRS. HUDSON AND THE IRISH INVINCIBLES, by Barry S. Brown (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2011; 236 pp., \$22.95), is the second book in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series; as in the first book THE UNPLEASANTNESS AT PARKERTON MANOR (Jul 10 #5), Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving Irish revolutionaries and imaginative plotting. Omnimystery News offers an interesting interview view with Brown at <www.tinyurl.com/5t34m2t>.

Jason Lethcoe's NO PLACE LIKE HOLMES (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011; 207 pp., \$9.99) is the first in a new series of books about Griffin Sharpe, a young American who arrives in London expecting to spend the summer of 1903 with his uncle, who lives at 221 Baker Street. Only to discover that his uncle is Rupert Snodgrass, who is a would-be consulting detective who lives at 221A, much in the shadow of the more famous detective who lives at 221B. There's plenty of adventure involved in a battle with the Moriartys (yes, there are two of them). And there's more to come. The author has a web-site at <www.jasonlethcoe.com>, with a link to his Griffin Sharpe blog.

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Jul 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

This year still is the centenary of Ronald Knox's landmark paper on "Studies in the Literature of Sherlock Holmes", and it was nice to find Robert Speaight long essay on "Ronald Knox the Writer" in RONALD KNOX (published by Sheed and Ward in 1965. In a discussion of Knox's "Satire and Fantasy" Speaight makes an interesting point: "The humorist is out to make a lot of people laugh; the satirist is out to make certain people squirm . . . "Humour sought identity with the victim; it ran with the hare whereas the satirist hunted with the hounds."

Oliver Mundy posed an interesting challenge: what Canonical character first appeared outside the Canon, in a work by an author other than Conan Doyle? The character actually participates in a story (as opposed to merely being mentioned by name), and has something to say.

Frank Billerbeck died on June 29. He served in France during WWII, and began his show business career there in 1948 using the name Billy Beck. He returned to the U.S. in 1960 and went on to a long acting career on screen and in television. His first credited part in the Ronald Howard "Sherlock Holmes" television series, as Cookson in "The Mother Hubbard Case" (1954); he also played a hansom driver in "The Case of the Tyrant's Daughter" and Coco/station manager in "The Night Train Riddle" (1955).

Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series (May 11 #4) has strong artwork and an interesting story; his media company is DangerKatt, and he has a web-site at <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.

It's a long-standing urban legend that the Mormon Church has banned A STUDY IN SCARLET because of its unflattering portrayal of the Mormons. Actually, he was welcomed to Salt Lake City in 1923, and lectured on spiritualism in the Mormon Tabernacle, and the book still is easily available at the public library in Salt Lake City. But things seem to be rather different in Albemarle County, Virginia, where a parent complained that she did not want her sixth grader, or any other student, to read "the terrible connotations made in the novel," according to a story at Newsplex.Com (June 28). She asked the county to remove the book from its approved reading list, and a committee created by the county school board recommended that the book be removed from the list.

"I did feel that there was some obvious bias or misrepresentation of Mormon history," school board chair Steve Koleszar said, adding that "I felt that I could easily see how sixth graders might not understand that it was fiction, that it was from a particular point of view." When the school board met on July 14 they had a long discussion on the issue, and decided to keep the book on the approved reading list.

Those who recall the days when the phrase "Banned in Boston" was so helpful in making Kathleen Winsor's *Forever Amber* a best-seller are aware that the people who attempt to ban things just make them more attractive. One wise Sherlockian father carefully told his son that he wasn't old enough to appreciate the Sherlock Holmes stories, thus guaranteeing that he would begin reading them immediately.

Jul 11 #2 Laurie R. King's e-novella *BEEKEEPING FOR BEGINNERS* (Jun 11 #3) is now available, and her latest newsletter has information on how to buy it <www.laurierking.com/author/lrk-newsletter>, plus some fine Howard Pyle-ish artwork and a link to an amusing book trailer at YouTube. There's also a nice book trailer for the upcoming Mary Russell novel *PIRATE KING* at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2L7s7ZDJDQ>.

Mark Twain is the latest author to be honored by the U.S. Postal Service in its on-going "Literary Arts" series of commemoratives. His parody "A Double-Barrelled Detective Story" is Sherlockian, and he was a good friend of Will-Gillette.

Ken Lanza discovered the web-site of The Baker Street Irregular Astronomers <www.bakerstreetastro.org.uk>, which have a Sherlockian logo and occasional quotes from the Canon. Co-organizer Tom Keress has explained that the name was chosen because they meet monthly in Regents Park and because the organizers work at London's only telescope showroom (the Widescreen Centre) just off Baker Street.

What Canonical character first appeared outside the Canon, in a work by an author other than Conan Doyle? Billy the page, who appears for the first time in William Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" (long before he plays a part in three of the tales).

Peter Falk died on June 23. He began his acting career on the stage in the 1950s, appeared in many films, and became most famous for his performance as Lt. Columbo (many of his obituaries mentioned him as saying "I've always said that Columbo was an ass-backwards Sherlock Holmes"). He also played Reverend Theo Kerr in the television film "The Lost World" (2001) that featured Bob Hoskins as Challenger.

"Crime-fighting vultures? What could go wrong?" was the headline on a story spotted by Tina Rhea in *The Independent* (July 1): the police commissioner in Hanover (Germany) decided to use turkey vultures to find missing corpses, but the vultures proved less than proficient at the task; you can read the story at <www.tinyurl.com/628vatb> with a photograph of Sherlock, one of the vultures who was too frightened to leave the bird park where he had been raised.

The newly-reported copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual was offered at auction in Australia in May (estimated at AU\$40,000-AU\$80,000) didn't sell, and has been "returned to vendor." Randall Stock has more information about this Beeton's at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/australia-2011-beetons.htm>.

Ken Lanza spotted a story in the *Sunday Mirror* (July 10) about the impact of British budget problems on the nation's police, who are targeted for 20-percent cuts over the next four years: further work on *Holmes 2020* has been canceled. The new massive computer system, on which £3 million has already been spent, was intended to replace *Holmes 2* (Dec 00 #4), which stores fin-

gerprints, photographs, and even the recorded voices of suspects; the first HOLMES was a backronym for the "Home Office (Large) Major Enquiry System", which was created in 1985.

Jul 11 #3 This month's demise of the News of the World resulted in a story in the Guardian that offers a (remote) Canonical connection spotted by Oscar Ross. "The Sunday newspaper has thrived on a formula of crime, sex, and sensation since its first edition in 1843," Esther Addley wrote. Shortly into the 20th century, Frederick Greenwood, editor of the Pall Mall Gazette, is reputed to said that he had looked at the paper "and then I put it into the waste paper basket. And then I thought, 'If I leave it there the cook may read it'--so I burned it." The Pall Mall Gazette is mentioned in the Canon (in "The Blue Carbuncle").

Another trivia question, this one from J.P. Van Gordon: name the actor who has played Moriarty and Lestrade?

shirt.woot! is an interesting web-site at (naturally) <www.shirt.woot.com>; they offer a daily \$10.00 special, and this month one was Sherlockian. It's still available (for \$15.00); go to the web-site and click on "reckoning" and then on the image to read all about "Ruff Justice" (aka "Olfactory, my dear Watson").

The "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" had a total of 1,399 episodes from 1974 to 1982; it was a delightful series created by Himan Brown. E. G. Marshall was the host for most of the series, succeeded by Tammy Grimes in the final year. And of course there were many Sherlockian and Doylean stories. <www.cbsrmt.org> is devoted to the series, and offers information about and downloads of the programs.

One of the more interesting programs was "The Silver Mirror" (1981), which is credited to James Agate Jr. as writer, but actually is based on the story by Conan Doyle with additional characters: Arthur Conan Doyle (played by Gordon Gould) and Louise Doyle (Marian Seldes).

Stan Buchholtz has sculpted an attractive plaster bust of Sherlock Holmes, and is offering a few copies for \$110.00 postpaid; he'll be glad to send a picture of the bust to anyone interested <sbuchholtz1@earthlink.com>.

Merrily Taylor noted Clare Toohey's post on CriminalElement.com about "The Plushest 'Sherlock' Ever" <www.tinyurl.com/6ffzahnj>; Malanie Fletcher has created plush dolls for Mycroft Holmes, Sherlock Holmes, and Dr. Watson (in the BBC's "Sherlock" mini-series. Click on [melanie fletcher] to see more photographs of her Sherlockian plushies, and one of the artist.

Les Moskowitz reports that Conan Doyle is included in Tim Foley's LITERARY GREATS PAPER DOLLS (New York: Dover Publications, 2011; 128 pp., \$9.99), as Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and one of the Cottingley fairies.

"The Sherlock Holmes Daily" is one of the many interesting features found at Scott Monty's Baker Street Blog <www.bakerstreetblog.com>; it's a summary of what's being said about Sherlock Holmes on Twitter in the style of a daily newspaper. Well, some things aren't strictly Sherlockian, including "Tweet Naked with Jessie Northey" <www.fingercandymedia.com/?s=naked>.

Jul 11 #4 Lo Jui-ching was minister of Public Security and chief of the Army General Staff until he was purged in 1966, the first victim of Mao Tse-Tung's Cultural Revolution; the reason being his suggestion that public-security personnel should emulate "exceptional" men like Sherlock Holmes, who was called by Lo's superiors a "watch-dog of the British bourgeoisie." Things are quite different now: Al Gregory and Aziz bin Adam both reported a story in the China Daily (July 6) that described the coun-

try's top forensic expert Wu Guoqing as "China's Sherlock Holmes".

The actor who has played both Moriarty and Lestrade is Colin Jeavons; who was Moriarty in "The winged Scarab" (1983), one of the episodes in the television series "The Baker Street Boys" and Lestrade in the Granada series.

Some on-line publicity for "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" has Jared Harris playing a cameo role in Guy Ritchie's first film, but don't watch it again looking for him. According to the Internet Movie Data Base, the actor who played Moriarty in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) was Ed Tolpuitt.

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Tim Johnson's report ("To the Success of Our Little Expedition") on a visit to the collections by local middle school students, offering a good demonstration of attracting young readers to Sherlock Holmes; Dick Sveum's "100 Years Ago" tribute to O. Henry, Julie Mckuras' "50 Years Ago" discussion of address on "Sherlock Holmes" delivered by Lord Paul Gore-Booth in Delhi, and 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>.

It's likely that most Sherlockians enjoy reading books. Some Sherlockians may occasionally think about what might happen when there aren't any books. Jennie Paton found Johann Hari's interesting comments about this in The Independent (June 24) <www.tinyurl.com/6j7fyhw>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES & KOLCHAK: THE NIGHT STALKER was a three-issue comic-book series (Apr 09 #6); the story was written by Joe Gentile, with artwork by Andy Bennett and Carlos Magno, and is a spin-off from the television series that starred Darren McGavin (1974) and Stuart Townsend (2005). And there's a graphic novel (\$11.95) that includes all three issues and the alternate covers, published by Moonstone <www.moonstonebooks.com>. It's an interesting story, with imaginative artwork.

Sculptor David Cornell has accused the Crowborough town council of ruining his statue of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with sloppy cleaning methods, according to a story in the Sussex Courier (July 22), spotted by Al Gregory. The statue, unveiled ten years ago with members of Conan Doyle's extended family on hand for the ceremony (Apr 01 #3). "I think they have used an industrial cleaner," Cornell said, adding "All it needed was a wash with soapy water, then waxed and polished up the following day." Council operations manager David Foot told the paper that "It doesn't look brand new but then anything bronze left outside for ten years wouldn't and, to be honest, some people like things that look weathered." The council plans to decide soon whether to spend L450 to restore the statue, which originally cost L48,000.

Jul 11 #5 The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and the Oscar Wilde Society installed a plaque at the Langham Hotel last year honoring the dinner that led to Lippincott's commissioning of "The Sign of Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (Mar 10 #3); Nicholas Utechin wrote a delightful account of the meeting and its aftermath, with an introduction by Gyles Brandreth, and copies of the 26-page pamphlet 'A GOLDEN DAY' are available (L5.00/E6.50/\$12.00) at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk>.

Sherlock Holmes said that he had paid 55 shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it would be worth more now. The "Lady Blunt" Stradivarius, one of the best-preserved in existence, set a new world's record of L9.8 million when it was sold at auction last month. It also set a record when it sold for L84,000 at Sotheby's in 1971.

Dicky Neely's THE CASE OF THE GRAVE ACCUSATION (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 87 pp., L7.99/E8.99/\$10.95) is an amusing pastiche that has Holmes and Watson investigating Rodger Garrick-Steele's claim that Bertram Fletcher Robinson was poisoned by his wife and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Paul Spiring has

added a detailed and up-to-date rebuttal. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.

Al Gregory spotted Spies Online, a web-site with links to investigative resources, with some feline Sherlockian artwork <www.spiesonline.net>.

A story on Benedict Cumberbatch's new "Sherlock" mini-series in the Daily Mail attracted some comments from readers: Felix, in Worthing, noted that "these shows have elements of several plots in each episode so maybe this is the Offenbach falls(?) revisited." And (spotted by Lloyd Rose) Nick M., in Birmingham, wrote that "Felix Offenbach was a composer, I think you mean Reichenbach Falls, falling off a medium-sized composer is rarely, if ever fatal."

"Did you ever hear a bittern booming?" Stapleton asked Dr. Watson (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Judith Freeman has reported a story that BBC One television broadcast last year <www.tinyurl.com/3phearp> with what experts believed was the first footage of a male bittern booming in daylight in the UK.

Suvudu is an interesting web-site for fantasy and science fiction fans that was launched in 2008; last year there as an on-line "Cage Match: Villains!" that started off with a match between Sauron and Professor James Moriarty in the Slytherin Division. Moriarty was quickly eliminated, and eventually so was Sauron; the winner was The Mountain That Rides (Ser Gregor Clegane). Details at <www.suvudu.com/cage-match-villains-2010-bracket>.

There's now a finding aid for the Archives of The Baker Street Irregulars Trust, prepared by the Houghton Library at Harvard, where the Archives are housed. The finding aid is now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/44vvrg8>, where scholars can see what's available at the Houghton. The Trust continues to add to the BSI Archives, of course, and there's more information about the Trust at <www.bsitrust.org>.

Jul 11 #6 Dick Olken has noted the Baker Street Babes, who describe themselves as "sexy fans of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his lovely creation, Mr. Sherlock Holmes." Visit <www.bakerstreetbabes.blogspot.com> to listen to their podcasts and their theme song. "Older than teenagers, but not yet taking herbal soothers for our hips, we're an intelligent bunch who fangirl by writing essays on the Canon while also giggling crazily at cracky fan comics."

Chris and Barbara Roden's New Year Warehouse Clearance Sale of books published by the Calabash Press (Jan 11 #5) is still on; the catalog's available at <[www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash Sale.pdf](http://www.ash-tree.bc.ca/Calabash%20Sale.pdf)> [and yes, there's a space in that URL] or from the Press (Box 1360, Ashcroft, BC V0K 1A0, Canada).

Ken Ludwig's play "Postmortem" (involving a mystery at William Gillette's home in Hadlyme, Conn.) will be performed by the Licking County Players on Aug. 4-14 at their theater at 131 West Main Street, Newark, OH 43055 (740-349-2287) <www.lickingcountyplayers.org>. His new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will have its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House, Nov. 25 to Dec. 18 (Mar 11 #4).

Alfred Burke died on Feb. 16. Born in London, he began his acting career on the stage in the 1930s, appearing also in films and on television, and his last role was in "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" (2002); in March 1952 he played the lead in Birmingham Repertory Theatre's production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".

There are occasional Sherlockian references in the films of The Three Stooges, and Laura Kuhn has discovered shopknuckleheads.com, where you'll find a Three Stooges CSI T-shirt <www.tinyurl.com/3b4uz21> and a Miracle Detec-

tive Agency magnet <www.tinyurl.com/3eece9n>.

News for Sherlockian racing fans: there's a new running of The Silver Blaze coming up, on Sept. 17 at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, N.J.; it's sponsored by The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and Kate Karlson (organizer of The Turf Builders of Baker Street), and more information on the event is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE GHOSTS OF BLY (New York: Pegasus Books, 2010; 364 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in Donald Thomas' series of collections of pastiches; there are three stories in the new volume, nicely plotted and well executed.

Greg Darak has reported Franz Lidz's article about ransom notes in the N.Y. Times (July 1), honoring the centennial of the comic short film "The Ransom of Red Chief" (based on O. Henry's story), "which may have started it all." Lidz also cites Arden Stern, a doctoral candidate at the University of California, Irvine, who has said that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES features the first popular example of a cut-and-paste note. Stern's thesis, not yet completed, is titled "The Ransom Note Effect: Cut-and-Paste Typography in American Visual Culture".

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Aug 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Laurie R. King's new novel about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes is PIRATE KING (New York: Bantam Books, 2011; 204 pp., \$25.00); it's set in 1924, and has Russell undercover investigating a British movie company that's making a movie about a movie company that's making a movie of Gilbert & Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance". There are visits to Portugal and Morocco, real pirates, plenty of surprises, and a truly splendid set of opening paragraphs. Laurie's web-site is at <www.laurierking.com>, where she has details on her book tour, which begins on Sept. 6 and takes her as far east as Chicago. A British edition (with a different cover) is due on Sept. 12.

Romance detective Jamie McJack returns (in Sherlockian costume) in Danielle Corsetto's on-line comic strip available at <www.girlswithslingshots.com> (Dec 10 #4). The cast of characters includes cat as well as people of various genders and persuasions; check the archive for July 25-28.

John Baesch spotted an article in the N.Y. Times (June 9) with quotes from Jacki Mari, also known as Sherlockjacki; she and her husband are "intuitive information specialists, free-lance psychic profilers, and corporate intuitives," and her web-site at <www.sherlockjacki.com> more information about their services, as well as Sherlockian artwork.

What actor played Dr. Watson in 35 "Sherlock Holmes" programs on American radio in the 1940s, but isn't mentioned in any of the Sherlockian reference books? This isn't really a trivia question, of course, since it isn't easy to find him.

Roger Johnson reports "The Legacy of Sherlock Holmes", a 55-minute documentary written and produced by James Hodder and broadcast by the British radio station Resonance104.4fm on July 26. The program includes interviews with Sherlockians, actors, and authors, and can be heard at and downloaded from <www.soundcloud.com/radiohodder/the-legacy-of-sherlock-holmes>.

Anglofile, offering detailed coverage of British entertainment and formerly available by mail, now is a blog by Leslie King, and you can read her latest news at <anglofileplus.livejournal.com>; she offers early news of programs to come on PBS-TV and on BBC America.

Tina Rhea spotted an amusing basset hound in Sherlockian costume in a ten-

minute video ("The Mysterious Adventures of Sherlock Hounds") that was created by Charlie Foley to promote the King County (Washington) Library System's "Catch a Clue at the Library!" summer reading program in 2007. Monty stars as Sherlock Hounds at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztKwKwBi2bQ>

Robert A. Moss' "Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes: A Philatelic Celebration" is the cover story in the August issue of *The American Philatelist* (the journal of the American Philatelic Society); Moss, a member of The Baker Street Irregulars as well as a philatelist, has done an excellent job of surveying the many stamps that have honored Conan Doyle and Holmes, and the article is profusely illustrated in full color. \$4.95; 100 Match Factory Place, Bellefonte, PA 16823 <www.stamps.org>. Bob has kindly made the article available on-line at <www.box.net/shared/f607ed808skv5egbo1m6>.

Aug 11 #2 A STUDY IN SHERLOCK: STORIES INSPIRED BY THE HOLMES CANON, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Bantam Books, 2011; 385 pp., \$15.00), is an excellent and interesting anthology of new stories, with authors ranging from Alan Bradley to Jacqueline Winspear; some of the stories are pastiches, but many others are indeed, and in various ways, inspired by the Canon.

Peter H. Wood ("The Second Stain") died on July 31. He was originally from the Isle of Man, and was a teacher there, and after he emigrated to Canada, in Saskatchewan and Alberta, where he founded The Edmonton Deerstalker and The C.P.R. Stockholder's Society; when he retired he moved to Vancouver and was an energetic member of The Stormy Petrels. The Bootmakers of Toronto made him a Master Bootmaker in 1983, and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.

What actor played Dr. Watson in 35 "Sherlock Holmes" programs on American radio in the 1940s, but isn't mentioned in any of the Sherlockian reference books? Wendell Holmes. The "Sherlock Holmes" series broadcast by WOR-MBS in 1948-49 is widely listed as starring John Stanley as Sherlock Holmes and Ian Martin as Dr. Watson, but the story's quite different if one listens to the series (and they're widely available now). Watson was played by Martin in only the first four of the 39 episodes, and in the remaining episodes by George Spelvin, who really was Wendell Holmes. "George Spelvin" has been used as a theatrical alias for many years, and the producers of the series seem to have decided that listeners would be confused if Watson was played by someone named Holmes.

As far as I know, Daniel J. Morrow was the first to confirm (from Stanley) that the series used "George Spelvin" as an alias. There doesn't appear to be much information about Wendell Holmes: the Internet Movie Data Base notes that he was born in 1914 (as Oliver Wendell Holmes) and died in 1962, and appeared often in films and on television. Here's what he looked like in 1949, when he had a supporting role in the film "Lost Boundaries".

The electronic journal *Ripperologist* casts its net widely: the July issue (#121) reprints "Lot No. 249" with an interesting introduction and annotations by the journal's editor Eduardo Zinna. There is also an article by Jeff Mudgett with the intriguing title "Jack Is Holmes"; but it's not our Holmes: Mudgett's new book *BLOODSTAINS* tells the story of his great-great-grandfather Herman Webster Mudgett, better known as H. H. Holmes, who admitted to killing 27 people in Chicago in 1893. You can contact the editor at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk> for information about subscriptions.

P. D. James wrote *TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION* (2009) at the request of the Bodleian Library, which benefits from sales of the book, and there is an interesting chapter on "The Tenant of 221B Baker Street and the Parish Priest from Cobhole in Essex". The limited edition, signed and slipcased, is now out of print, but the British edition is still available (Bodleian Library, £12.99); the American edition from Knopf is out of print, but there

is a trade paperback published this year (Vintage, \$14.00). Fans of G. K. Chesterton will know that the parish priest is Father Brown.

Aug 11 #3 The Kennedy Center's Mark Twain Prize for American Humor will be awarded to Will Ferrell on Oct. 23. He is noted for his appearances on "Saturday Night Live" and in films and his one-man comedy show on Broadway, but (so far) not for playing Dr. Watson with Sasha Baron Cohen as Holmes in a film announced by Columbia Pictures (Jul 08 #3); that film's in what's politely described as "development hell".

Brit Movie Tours offers Sherlock Holmes tours in London that include locations featured in film and television adaptations, with public walks, private group walking tours, and car and coach tours; you can visit their website at <www.britmovietours.com/bookings/sherlock-holmes-london-tour>.

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

Holmes and Watson (costumed actors Stewart Quentin Holmes and John Barrett-Watson); there's more about that in a story in the Sherlock Holmes Gazette (spring 1993).

"Even Sherlock Holmes would have been perplexed by this mystery," an advertisement by GovMint.com proclaimed in the Washington Post (Aug. 5). It's "a real-life mystery Sir Arthur Conan Doyle couldn't write. And Sherlock Holmes couldn't solve," the advertisement promised, but the only connection seems to be that Conan Doyle killed off Holmes in a book published in 1894, and a hoard of Roman bronze coins was found in England in 1895. 1,661 of the coins were sold at auction last year for L46,694 [\$76,251], and they're now being offered at \$179 (if you buy five or more); the calculation is a simple one, as someone once said: anyone who acted quickly could have had them all for a mere \$279,319.

The Internet Archive is a fine resource for researchers: Virginia Aldrich reports that they have links to scans of the first 64 volumes of The Strand Magazine (from bound volumes); some scans are faster to open than others, but <www.archive.org/details/TheStrandMagazineAnIllustratedMonthly> gives you slow-speed access to all 64 volumes.

Forecast: WINTER AT DEATH'S HOTEL, by Kenneth Cameron (from Orion in November, L12.95); Arthur Conan Doyle and his wife Louisa arrive in New York in January 1896 to begin his first American tour and there is a series of brutal murders, and with the help of a hard-bitten detective and an ambitious female news reporter, "Louisa starts to piece together a story of madness, murder, and depravity."

The auction for the Lordship of the Manor of Manaton in Devon (Jun 11 #1) is underway, and details are available at the web-site of Manorial Auctioneers <www.msgb.co.uk>; they believe that Manaton inspired THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and estimate the Lordship at L20,000 to L30,000 (and if you intend to bid, you'll need to pay L25 for a "Baskerville Pack").

Aug 11 #4 The school board of Albemarle County, Va., has reached a final decision on whether A STUDY IN SCARLET should be dropped from the approved reading list for sixth graders (Jul 11 #1): the book has been removed from the list. A local parent complained that the book was unfair to Mormons, but the board decided that the book was not "age appropriate" for the sixth grade. The parent has suggested that THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES ("a better introduction to mystery") could be substituted for A STUDY IN SCARLET. The board's decision has been widely reported, more of-

ten than not in stories and blogs that said (incorrectly) that A STUDY IN SCARLET has been banned from school library shelves. As might be expected, there was a quick increase in the number of downloads of A STUDY IN SCARLET from Project Gutenberg.

John Wood died on Aug. 6. He began his acting career in the mid-1950s with the Old Vic Company in London, and went on to perform often with the Royal Shakespeare Company in London and New York, and in films and on television. He won a well-deserved Tony nomination for his title role in their revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974.

The Pleasant Places of Florida show what can be done with a society's website <www.ppoofl.net>: they have made available PDF files of all 306 issues of their newsletter Communications (from Mar. 1972 onward) as well as their other publications.

Further to the report (Jul 11 #5) about sculptor David Cornell's complaints that his statue of Conan Doyle had been ruined by sloppy cleaning methods, Brian Pugh reports that the Crowborough town council has decided to pay a specialist £450 to clean up the statue this year, and £300 a year in future to maintain it.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Unraveling Strand" is the title of a mystery weekend scheduled in Cambridge, Ohio, on Jan. 6-7. More information is available at <www.visitguernseycounty.com>; click on "What To Do" and then on "Sherlock Holmes weekend".

Another (non-Sherlockian) Murder Mystery Weekend is scheduled at Madden's at Gull Lake in Brainerd, Minn., Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Details are available at <www.maddens.com/?page=112390>.

"How to Make Phosphorus Out of Pee" is an intriguing (and amusing) blog-post by Ether Inglis-Arkell, who says that her first introduction to phosphorus was reading THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES; I haven't experimented to determine whether it works, but will be happy to hear from anyone who gives it a try <www.io9.com/5832776/how-to-make-phosphorus-using-pee>.

CBS News conducts a monthly "60 Minutes/Vanity Fair Poll" (of 1,045 adults nationwide, interviewed by telephone), and one of the questions, reported in the Sept. issue was "which of these fictional character would you most like to go on adventures with?". Sherlock Holmes came in second overall, and for men and for people older than 45; James Bond ranked first, and Captain Jack Sparrow third (except for women and people younger than 45, with whom he outranked Holmes). Harry Potter came in fourth for everyone, and Lara Croft fifth.

Aug 11 #5 Stephen R. Alton's impressive article "The Game Is Afoot!: The Significance of Donative Transfers in the Sherlock Holmes Canon in the spring issue of the Real Property, Trust and Estate Law Journal is a fine example of what happens when someone with specialized knowledge brings it to bear on the Sherlock Holmes stories. It's a long article (47 pages) because the author assumes his readers may not have read the Canon and reviews events in some details, but he has discovered a few twists and turns that appear to be new to Sherlockian scholarship. Sonia Fetherston's husband Ben noted the article, and she reports that the best way for Sherlockians to read it will be to find someone who's a member of the American Bar Association and can download it from <www.americanbar.org>; search for [rpte journal].

The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) are co-sponsoring The Fourth Newberry Library Sir Arthur Conan Doyle-Sherlock Holmes Symposium on Oct. 1; 60 West Walton Street in Chicago, from 9:30 am to noon. The event is open to the public without charge, and the speakers will be Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower (on Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH), Jacquelynn Morris (on the continuing campaign to save Undershaw), and Henry Zecher (on will-

iam Gillette).

The British Library will mount a small exhibition showcasing the manuscript THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH and other material from their extensive Conan Doyle, exploring "the context of his literary apprenticeship and his early struggles to gain professional recognition," Sept. 9 through Jan. 5. in the Sir John Ritblat Gallery <www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/acdoyle/index.htm>.

Jim Ballinger has spotted a bone china Baker Street Mug with an imaginatively stylized Sherlockian design (with "221B Baker Street NW" imprinted on the other side) available from Whittard of Chelsea <www.whittard.co.uk> for £8.00.

Lara Bergen's SOPHIE THE SNOOP (New York: Scholastic, 2011; 102 pp., \$4.99) is part of a series for readers ages 9-12; the cover and illustrations (by Laury Tallardy) show Sophie in Sherlockian costume; the text has Sophie hoping to be Sherlock Holmes. Megan McDonald's JUDY MOODY, GIRL DETECTIVE (Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2010; 170 pp., \$15.99) is Sherlockian only for Peter H. Reynolds' cover and title-page artwork, but it's an amusing story for readers in grades 1-3.

People who want to watch DVDs recorded in other regions, and who don't have multi-region software installed on their computers, should download the VLC freeware from <www.videolan.org>; it's useful and efficient.

A movie trivia challenge: Julie McKuras recently watched the film "Friends of Mr. Sweeney" (1934), which was based on a novel by Elmer Davis, and she notes that Berton Churchill, one of the actors in the film, also appeared in "Danger on the Air" (1938), which was based on the novel DEATH CATCHES UP WITH MR. KLUCK, by Xantippe (a pen name used by Edith Meiser); Jon Lellenberg adds that Berton Churchill also appeared in "The Spanish Cape Mystery" (1935), based on the novel by Ellery Queen (Fred Dannay and Manfred Lee). Are there other actors who have appeared in films that were based on novels written by different members of The Baker Street Irregulars?

Aug 11 #6 Les Klinger reports an interesting, and perhaps useful data base at <www.oldbaileyonline.org>, where "The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913" are easily searchable. On Nov. 21, 1887, James Moriarty (aged 17) was one of three defendants tried for violent theft and robbery, but "the prosecutor, a sailor, did not answer when called upon his recognisances." With no evidence entered for the prosecution, the defendants were found not guilty. And there's much more to the web-site, including an excellent discussion of "Currency, Coinage, and the Cost of Living"; click on "Research and Study Guides" and then on "London and its Hinterlands".

Sandy Kozinn notes that <www.smithsonian.com/taj> has information about and a fine photograph of the "old fort at Agra" (as in "The Sign of the Four").

William R. Cochran's THINKING OUTSIDE THE TIN-DISPATCH BOX: THE POST REICHENBACH SHERLOCK HOLMES is a collection of his essays about the chronology and many other aspects of the Canon; Bill was a co-founder of The Occupants of the Empty House and has enthusiastically pursued Sherlockian scholarship for more than 30 years. The 168-page book costs \$20.00 from George A. Vanderburgh (Box 122, Sauk City, WI 53583 and Box 50, R.R. 4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E1, Canada) <www.batteredbox.com>.

It's well worth checking sales offers at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> once in a while: four books in the Baker Street Irregulars International Series have been available as a set at half price, and there's one set remaining; click on [items for sale] and then on [deal table].

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-7.htm>, with offers of Sherlockiana, old and new, books and more, and a report (with photographs) of the annual summer picnic of the Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Prob-

tem.

Yuri Rasovsky notes that AudioFile's web-site <www.audiofilemagazine.com> has a "Listener's Guide to Sherlock Holmes" with samples, reviews, interviews, and an excellent audiography of recordings of Conan Dole's Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian stories.

Peggy Perdue's "Letters from Lomax" is a continuing series of reports from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of the Toronto Reference Library, and in the summer issue she offers an interesting discussion of Doylean and Sherlockian music and musicals; the quarterly journal is published by The Bootmakers of Toronto (TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers> (\$35.00 a year).

It has always been a bit embarrassing, as a geologist, not ever having been in an earthquake, and although it has taken a while to achieve that goal, I'm happy to report that on the afternoon of Aug. 23 the earth moved, and the house shook, thanks to a magnitude 5.8 earthquake epicentered in Virginia about 87 miles southwest of Washington. And there were a few crooked pictures to prove to doubters that there really had been a quake.

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

Sep 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Jennie Paton reports that all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999) can be viewed using Amazon Instant Video (streaming on-line); \$1.99 per episode, \$13.99 for all 26, and at no charge if you're a member of Amazon Prime (which also gets you unlimited fast shipping and costs \$79.00 a year). They also offer all 26 episodes of the animated children's series "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983); \$1.99 per episode, \$28.99 for all 26. And Maurice Sendak's "Little Bear" series, which includes "Little Sherlock Bear" (a segment in episode 18); \$1.99.

YouTube continues to offer a fertile field for distribution of amateur videos, Sherlockian and otherwise: Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin's niece Melissa Kelley has reported an amusing animation by Beth Milgate, which can be seen at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=icsNeG-kurE> it's well worth taking a look at other Sherlockian videos posted by yr0121.

The Postal Service has issued a set of stamps with images from various Disney-Pixar films, among them the animation "Up" (2009) which offers an nice visual homage to "The Lost World" (Carl Frederickson's goal is Paradise Falls, which flows down the side of a plateau that has an isolated separate pinnacle, just as in the book and the films based on it). Other stamps in the set honor "Cars", "Ratatouille", "Toy Story", and "Wall-E".

Joe Cooper died on Aug. 16. He was an enthusiastic promoter of astrology and psychic investigation, and his sympathetic approach to Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths persuaded them to describe to him how they had faked the famous photographs that he discussed in detail in THE CASE OF THE COTTINGLEY FAIRIES (1990).

Harry Stephen Keeler, according to Google Books, is to some an overlooked genius, and to others the Ed wood of detective fiction. And his novel THE RIDDLE OF THE TRAVELING SKULL (1934) features Milo Payne, who appears with a "long-beaked Sherlockholmsian cap" (noted by Paul Williams in Ineffable Twaddle, the monthly newsletter of The Sound of the Baskervilles). Keller seems to have invented the word (with that spelling).

The Byook (Feb 11 #4) isn't the only opportunity to have an enhanced read-

ing experience on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch. Booktrack now offers sound effects and soundtracks for stories that include "The Speckled Band" (their web-site <www.booktrack.com> has previews of their "soundtracks for books").

Lenny Picker notes that Publishers Weekly held an on-line "Sherlock Holmes Best Narrator Poll" that was won by David Timson (38.81%); Edward Hardwicke came in second (25.37%), and Simon Prebble was third (8.96%). The runners-up were John Gielgud, Ralph Richardson, and Orson Welles (as a trio), Ralph Cosham, Charlton Griffin, and Edward Raleigh. Charles Griffin, a new discovery, has recorded the entire Canon for Audio Connoisseur; you can listen to samples and download the recordings at <www.audiofile.com>.

Sep 11 #2 "Wanted: A Home for Holmes So Portsmouth Can Cash in on Sherlock" was the headline on a story Al Gregory discovered in the Portsmouth News (Aug. 23). Councillor Lee Hunt, who's in charge of cultural issues, has asked the public to suggest permanent venues for an exhibition called "Sherlock Holmes: Made in Portsmouth"; according to Hunt, "221b Baker Street attracted two million visits in its first few years, so if we were to charge £10 per head that would be £20 million coming into the city from the exhibition alone, forgetting the money which will come from hotels and restaurant visits." Of course the arithmetic is interesting: 1000 people a day for 365 days makes 365,000 people a year, and it would take more than five years to get to two million. And a skeptic might wonder whether the Sherlock Holmes Museum ever had 1,000 visits in a single day.

The Postal Service has commemorated the 150th anniversary of statehood for Kansas, where John Garrideb was a counsellor at law in Moorville.

You can visit <www.cracked.com> and search for [mental illnesses] to see their discussion of "6 Beloved Characters That Had Undiagnosed Mental Illnesses"; it leads with Sherlock Holmes (Asperger's Syndrome), and includes Ariel (disposophobia), Belle (schizoid personality disorder), Holden Caulfield (post-traumatic stress disorder), and Glinda the Good Witch (sadistic personality disorder). Kindly reported by Ann Lewis.

Town Head, on the southern tip of Windermere, is for sale for £5.25 million (Telegraph, Aug. 27, 2011); the article mentions that the Grade II listed house allegedly inspired "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (no further information seems to be available). Carter Jonas <www.carterjonas.co.uk> is the realtor; search for [ulverston].

N. F. Simpson died on Aug. 31. Kenneth Tynan said he was "the most gifted comic writer the English stage had discovered since the war," and Simpson had great success as a writer from the 1950s to the 1980s, widely praised an absurdist playwright. He wrote the script for "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program broadcast by the BBC in its "Comedy Playhouse in 1973 starring John Cleese and William Rushton as Holmes and Watson).

Anthony Horowitz's THE HOUSE OF SILK, due in November, is going to be widely read: Jon Lellenberg reports that translations rights have been sold to publishers in Brazil, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, Korea, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia, Serbia, and Spain.

There's an unusual event, open to the public, scheduled at Harvard University in Cambridge on Nov. 3, thanks to the Houghton Library and The Speckled Band. The festivities start pm a sherry reception at the Houghton at 5:30 pm, with a viewing of an exhibition from the Band's H. W. Bell Collection, followed by a gourmet dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club and a presentation by Dan Posnansky on Bell and his classic SHERLOCK HOLMES AND DOCTOR WATSON: THE CHRONOLOGY OF THEIR ADVENTURES. The evening's cost is \$100 per person, payable through PayPal to SpeckledBand@comcast.net, or by check (made out to The Speckled Band) mailed to Richard Olken (1313 Washington Street #306,

Boston, MA 02118).

Sep 11 #3 The Bookseller has reported (Aug. 24) that BBC Books is planning to publish some of the Canon as a tie-in with the television series "Sherlock". The first title will be CONAN DOYLE'S SHERLOCK: A STUDY IN SCARLET, with an introduction by series co-creator Steven Moffat (Sept. 15; L6.99; THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, with an introduction by Mark Gatiss will follow (Oct. 27). Three more titles will follow next spring: THE SIGN OF FOUR, THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. And next fall there will be THE CASEBOOK "as a hardback gift guide that will revisit all the mysteries solved throughout the series" (L14.99).

Lloyd Rose found Red Scharlach's amusing cartoon (posted at his blog on Sept. 6); he's at <www.redscharlach.livejournal.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes Strikes Back!" was performed and recorded by the Wireless Theatre Company in August in London during the Camden Fringe Festival. The amusing one-hour show, written by Peter Davis and Matthew Woodcock, features the authors playing Holmes and Watson; go to <www.wirelesstheatrecompny.co.uk> to listen to and download the recording (there's no charge).

Roy Ward Baker died on Oct. 5, 2010. He began his career in 1934 fetching coffee for staff members at Gainsborough Pictures, and by 1938 was assistant director on Alfred Hitchcock's "The Lady Vanishes"; he continued on to a long and distinguished career as a director in film and on television and was best known for directing "A Night to Remember" (1958). He also directed four episodes of the Sheldon Reynolds television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980) and Peter Cushing "The Masks of Death" (1984).

Takeshi Shimizu has succeeded in arranging for a plaque honoring Dr. Joseph Bell to be installed at his last residence, at 2 Melville Crescent in Edinburgh. The house is now the Japanese General Consulate, and the plaque is to be unveiled on Oct. 8, the first Saturday after the centenary of Bell's death on Oct. 4, 1911. The unveiling ceremony will be followed by a reception at the General Consulate, which now is an interesting addition to the list of Sherlockian sites for visitors to Edinburgh.

The Theatre Arts Guild will present David Belke's play "The Reluctant Resurrection of Sherlock Holmes" at the Pond Playhouse, Apr. 19 through May 5; the theater's address is 6 Parkhill Road, Halifax, NS B3P 1R3, Canada (902-477-2663) <www.tagtheatre.com>.

Bill Barnes spotted a report in the Moscow Times (Aug. 11) that Lenfilm has fallen on hard times. Lenfilm, one of Russia's oldest movies studios, was founded in 1918 and has made more than 1,500 films, including the well-received television series "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1979); it now makes only three to four films a year and is struggling to stay afloat, according to the article. A Russian tycoon wants to buy the company and use the studio for lucrative construction projects.

Sep 11 #4 As with many other web-sites the Smithsonian has blogs, including Karen Abbott's "'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' Takes on the NYPD"; search for [humiston] at <www.smithsonian.com>. Grace Humiston was a lawyer-turned-investigator who fought against "white slavery"; according to a story in the N.Y. Times (on June 24, 1917), "It was like dropping in at Baker Street and having Holmes throw the pipe, the violin, and hypodermic out of the window and begin to discuss how many strawberries make a shortcake." And the reporter continued: "Frankly, so far as appearances go, Mrs. Humiston is badly miscast in the role of sleuth extraordinary, or as the program

might say--'Mrs. Sherlock Holmes.'" Reported by Tina Rhea.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha Theatre Department on Oct. 21-23, at the Fine Arts Center, 1500 North University Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 (no phone number or URL available).

Mia Trona, an Italian admirer of Jeremy Brett, has donated funds to establish a scholarship program at the Central School of Speech & Drama at the University of London, where Brett studied, graduating in 1954. There are five scholarships available in 2011-12, and an additional two awards in the 2012-13 and 2013-14 school years. Additional information is available at <www.cssd.ac.uk/content/news>.

The last time I mentioned Lego bricks (Sep 06 #1) there wasn't a Sherlockian minifigure available But there is one now, spotted by Samantha Wolov; search for [lego minifigure detective] to find it at Amazon and eBay and elsewhere, priced as low as 25¢ (plus far more for shipping).

Jacquelyn Applegate's SELENA JONES: TRIAL AND ERROR: FEATURING SHERLOCK HOLMES (Charleston: Createspace, 2010; 155 pp., \$13.00) is the first book in a projected series featuring a young woman who has detective skills and manages to attract the attention of Sherlock Holmes, who plays a supporting role in her adventures and who winds up demonstrating a rather emotional attachment to Selena; there's more information about the book and the author at <www.sites.google.com/site/selenajonesmysteries>.

Bryce L. Crawford Jr. ("The Solitary Cyclist") died on Sept. 16. He was a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, one of the founders of The Norwegian Explorers in 1948, co-editor of their anthology CULTIVATING SHERLOCK HOLMES (1978) and a stalwart member of the society over many decades. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1985.

The Hollywood Reporter carried a story (Sept. 13) about CBS having ordered a script for a modern-day "Sherlock Holmes" drama from CBS Television Studios, producers Sarah Timberman and Carl Beverly, and scriptwriter Rob Doherty; one assumes that someone at CBS has seen Benedict Cumberbatch's series and decided that there's a better way to do it. Copycatting is hardly new in the entertainment industry: news of the Warner Bros. film starring Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law inspired Columbia Pictures to announce plans for a comedy with Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson (Jul 08 #3); the world is still waiting for that one.

Sep 11 #5 Further to the report (Aug 10 #2) on the web-site that allows you to "check which famous writer you write like" <www.iwl.me>, Karen Murdock has an interesting and imaginative article "Do You Write Like Arthur Conan Doyle?" in the fall issue of The Serpentine Muse. The Muse is published quarterly by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes; \$15.00 a year from Evelyn A. Herzog (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

The Toronto Reference Library's "Re:vitalize" project includes a new Arthur Conan Doyle Room to be built within a new Special Collections Centre; work on the new room begins on Oct. 3, when the existing room will close. There is a brief blog by curator Peggy Perdue at <www.tinyurl.com/3kxc4cB>.

"Darlock Holmes & Dalek Watson" was drawn by freelance cartoonist Anthony Naylor, whose caption is "When you exterminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must also be exterminated." The cartoon is on display in full color at <www.tonecartoons.co.uk/blog/archives/559>. Tina Rhea gets credit for reporting it.

Steve Emezc has announced that MX Publishing will sponsor a worldwide electronic debate on Nov. 10; the topic of "The Great Sherlock Holmes Debate" will be "BBC's Sherlock vs. Guy Ritchie's Movies: Which Is More Beneficial to Holmes in the 21st Century"; there will be two teams, and free on-line seats for 100 audience members. Go to <www.mxpublishing.com/page/Debate> for additional information about the event.

MX also has published BAREFOOT ON BAKER STREET, by Charlotte Ann Walters, who has set herself a "blogging challenge" and started on Sept. 20 writing a blog a day on each of the 56 short stories in the Canon. You'll find her blog at <www.barefootonbakerstreet.wordpress.com>.

For the completists: Andy Peck reports that there's a Mystery Guild edition of A STUDY IN SHERLOCK, at <www.mysteryguild.com>, where you'll find other Sherlockian titles available to members; search for [sherlock]. And if you search for [conan doyle] you'll also find Graham Moore's THE SHERLOCKIAN.

Michael Pointer reported in THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (1975) that "On one occasion Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce appeared as guests on a comedy radio show and swapped their regular parts, with Rathbone as a bumbling Watson and Bruce as a sharp detective Holmes." The radio show was "Request Performance" (a 30-minute series sponsored by Campbell Soup and broadcast by CBS in 1945 and 1946), and the five-minute Sherlockian segment aired on Nov. 4, 1945. It's nice indeed that we can listen to the segment, kindly reported by Bert Coules (who in turn thanked Steven Moffat) on the Internet at <www.basilrathbone.net/radio/mp3/requestperf1945.mp3>.

The web-site's title is "Basil Rathbone: Master of Stage and Screen" and it is maintained by Marcia Jessen, who has created an excellent catalog of his appearances on stage, screen, radio, television, and records, with opportunities to listen and view. This may be your first time to see a photograph of Rathbone (as Holmes) and Dagmar (as Dagmar) on television in the 1950s.

Sep 11 #6 In addition to the exhibition showcasing the manuscript of THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (Aug 11 #5), the British Library will present a public event on Nov. 27 with Anthony Horowitz, the author of the upcoming pastiche HOUSE OF SILK, and Roger Johnson, the editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal; 2:30 to 4:00 pm at the British Library Conference Centre (96 Euston Road in London) and tickets will cost £7.50.

Joan Proubasta has kindly forwarded Alberto Lopez Aroca's SHERLOCK HOLMES Y LOS ZOMBIS DE CAMFORD (Palma de Mallorca: Dolmen Editorial, 2011; 280 pp., £16.95); it's the latest of his Sherlockian pastiches. His earlier story, ("El problema del la pequena cliente") appears to be unique for including Mary Poppins as a character in a Sherlockian pastiche.

"The Travels of Sherlock Holmes--It's All About Location, Location, Location" is the theme of the annual "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 5th; the sponsors are the local Sherlockian societies, and the library is at 400 Cathedral Street in Baltimore. The event's sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, and there is no charge.

Work has started on a new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" series, according to a report from Bert Coules. There will be 16 episodes, filmed in St. Petersburg, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrey Panin as Watson, and you can visit <www.rt.com/news/prime-time/sherlock-holmes-russian-adaptation-875> to see a brief video report.

Lenny Picker has reported a Sherlockian episode of the animated childrens' series "Curious George" that aired on Sept. 6: in "The Great Monkey Detective" George imagines himself as a detective and watches a take-off of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on television. The episode is scheduled to repeat on Oct. 12 and Nov. 14 on PBS-TV.

Maria Konnikova contributes a guest blog to Scientific American's web-site <blogs.scientificamerican.com/guest-blog>, and has been discussing Sherlock site, including David Bresan's "It's sedimentary, my dear Watson" (part of his discussion of the history of geology). Thanks to Les Klinger and Dan Stashower for reporting the Konnikova blogs.

Sherlock Holmes will return to the Victorian Village Inn for a special seven-course champagne English countryside dinner on Oct. 22; more information is available from the management (601 North Broadway, Union City, MI 49094) (800-348-4552) <www.avictorianvilla.com>. John Sherwood, who serves as Mr. Holmes' scheduler, reports that he plans a series of activities to augment the grand meal, but regrets that Dr. Watson will not be able to attend.

John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" will be performed at the Artists Repertory Theatre from Nov. 15 through Dec. 24; "literature's favorite quirky inquisitor is infused with the spirit of crotchety Ebenezer Scrooge in an unusual holiday show." 1515 SW Morrison, Portland, OR 97205 (503-241-1278) <www.artistsrep.org>.

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

Oct 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Reported: Sherlock Holmes is mentioned three times in Lonely Planet's 1,000 ULTIMATE SIGHTS (Oakland: Lonely Planet, 2011; 352 pp., \$22.99), in entries for Reichenbach Falls (most impressive waterfalls), Baker Street (best literary sites), and Baker Street (most interesting subway stations).

Kandie Carle's one-act play "Sherlock Holmes: From Page to Stage" will be presented by the East Haddam Stage Company at the Mark Twain House Museum on Dec. 8 and 9; the play "explores William Gillette's journey from Victorian stage actor to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's master sleuth." 351 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105 (860-280-3130) <www.marktwainhouse.org>.

Criminal Element, "a community web-site featuring daily content for fans of the crime and mystery genres in all of their forms," recently published Guy Bergstrom's "Death Brackets", a contest in which he matched "master detectives" against "spies, assassins, and anti-heroes"; Sherlock Holmes was one of the master detectives, and made it into the semi-finals. You can read all about it at <www.criminalelement.com/features/series/death-brackets>.

ISO [that's "in search of" in the personal ads] a postal or e-mail address for Millard Cecil, reported to be contact for a Sherlockian society called The Crouching Lions.

For the completists: Judith Solberg found a new version of the Sherlockian nutcracker that was available from Target last year (Dec 10 #4); it's exactly the same, except that the date on the base is 2011 rather than 2010. It still costs \$12.99, and is available at their stores or their web-site <www.target.com/p/Decorative-Nutcracker-Detective/-/A-13508848>.

"Make a Bid, Seller Is Motivated" was the headline on a listing spotted by Garth Hazlett in Forbes (Sept. 12): Updown Court, Windlesham, Surrey, England, has been on the market since 2005; the current asking price of \$124 million. It's not Conan Doyle's home Windlesham, which is in Crowborough in Sussex (Windlesham also is the name of a town in Surrey). Updown Court is England's most expensive home, and has 103 rooms (including two indoor pools) and a heated marble driveway. And of course there's an informative web-site at <www.updowncourt.com>.

Garth also has spotted a Sherlockian connection for Moammar Gadhafi, in the Toronto Star (Sept. 21): Diane Sawtch's article about Foyles mentions that Gahaffi once deposited £500,000 with the legendary bookstore to supply him

and his government departments with books; the authors requested included John le Carre, Barbara Cartland, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

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 Thelma Beam's report on a newly-acquired collection of letters Conan Doyle wrote to his wife during their American tour in 1923, Barbara Rusch's discussion of "The Ring of Thoth" (the story that launched a flood of movies about mummies), and other news from and about the collection. Copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb (22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Oct 11 #2 The September issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Dan Stashower's report on four recently-acquired manuscript letters, three written by Conan Doyle about the medium Margery and one by Margery herself, and a "50 Years Ago" tribute by Jon Lellenberg and Peter Blau to Bill Rabe and his landmark SHERLOCKIAN WHO'S WHO & WHAT'S WHAT, and other new 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>.

John Garden, the keyboard player and musical director of the American band Scissor Sisters ("spawned by the scuzzy gay nightlife scene of New York") has composed an original score for the silent film "The Lost World" (1925), which was screened with live accompaniment in England in October; audio and video samples are available at <www.johngarden.net>.

Otto Penzler reports that there will be reading and signing at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York on Nov. 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, featuring Anthony Horowitz (author of the new pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK) and Michael Dirda (author of the new ON CONAN DOYLE, OR THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING; signed copies also will be available for those who can't attend. 58 Warren Street in New York <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.

Paul Singleton reports that he will perform as Sherlock Holmes in a staged reading of Alex Simmons' play "Sherlock Holmes and the Hands of Othello" in the Workshop Theater Company's Jewel Box Theater at 6:00 pm on Dec. 4. No charge for admission; 312 West 36th Street (4th floor), between 8th and 9th Avenues in New York City (212-695-4173) <www.workshoptheater.org>.

Peter Hammond died on Oct. 12. He began his theatrical career as an actor, and went on to become a prolific television director, with credits ranging from "The Avenger" (1960) to eight of the programs in Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series.

Work continues on the museum exhibit "Sherlock Holmes" The Science of Deduction" (Apr 11 #5); there's a preliminary web-site display of information at <www.exhibitsdevelopment.com/InDevelopment.html>, and there are links to descriptions of other exhibits already on tour. The "Sherlock Holmes" exhibit will begin touring in 2013. And in the meantime there's a "Sherlock Holmes: The Science of Deduction" cocktail: Dewar's, Cointreau, fresh lemon juice, and bitters.

Tracy Revels' SHADOWFALL: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 193 pp., £9.99/£12.99/\$16.95) is a thriller that involves Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in the world of the wizards and wizardry, and in a battle for "the safety of the British Empire, and Doctor Watson's mortal soul." The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX Publishing: RENDEZVOUS AT THE POPULAIRE: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 203 pp., £9/£12.99/\$16.95): Kate Workman's version of the battle between Sherlock Holmes and the Phantom of the Opera. THE OUTSTANDING MYSTERIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 317 pp., £12.99/£14.99/\$19.95); 13 short stories written and illustrated by Gerard Kelly.

Oct 11 #3 Conan Doyle's THE NARRATIVE OF JOHN SMITH (London: British Library, 2011; 138 pp., £10.00/\$16.00) offers a delightful look at an author at the start of his career, with an interesting introduction by Jon Lellenberg, Daniel Stashower, and Rachel Foss, and excellent footnotes. It's much more of a journal than a novel, and it offers the author's philosophy and opinions, as well as intriguing foreshadowing of many themes and phrases found in his later work, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian. There's an impressive report on the manuscript, and on the book, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/ref/narrative-john-smith-ms.htm>, Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site.

Michael Dirda discovered Sherlock Holmes in THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES at a time when a dollar bought "two or three candy bars, a box of Cracker Jack, and a cold bottle of Orange Crush" (all of which he enjoyed while he read the book). He tells that story, and many more, in ON CONAN DOYLE: OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011; 210 pp., \$19.95), which is far more than a delightful introduction to Conan Doyle and his work, and to The Baker Street Irregulars (described by Dirda as a "mysterious literary society" that surely will be less mysterious now to those who read this book): those who need no such introduction will find many pleasant surprises in his insights and infectious enthusiasm for Conan Doyle. Recommended.

Mark Alberstat's 2012 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\$15.00 postpaid, and his address is: 46 Kingston Crescent, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2M2, Canada.

The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, The Toronto Public Library, and The Bookmakers of Toronto presented an excellent symposium on "Arthur Conan Doyle: A Study in Scandal" this month; the speakers included Les Klinger (an illustrated presentation on "The Other Victorians: A Study of Pornography and Pornographers in the Time of Arthur Conan Doyle") and Bill Mason ("Arthur Conan Doyle on Trial: The Murder of Sherlock Holmes"), and a chance to see an exhibit of some of the treasures in the Collection. "What fun we had!" the symposium web-site explains, "And now it's over. Nothing left but gossip and rumour." Another symposium is possible in 2016.

Another interesting presentation at the symposium was Doug Elliott's "The Piltdown Code" (available thanks to the wonders of modern technology): in Australia, Doug offered a documentary that carefully examined the suggestion that Conan Doyle perpetrated the famous Piltdown hoax. Modern technology (Skype) also enabled a question-and-answer session after the presentation. And there's more: the documentary, which exonerates Conan Doyle, is available on-line in two 15-minute segments at <www.youtube.com>; search for [piltdown code].

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 the Market Bar-B-Que in Minneapolis on Oct. 12, when visiting geologists were welcomed by Julie McKuras and other members of the local Sherlockian society (The Norwegian Explorers). Our next dinners will be in Long Beach on Apr. 12 and in Charlotte on Nov. 7.

Oct 11 #4 Will there be a third "Sherlock Holmes" film that stars Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law? Will they become the Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce of the 21st century? According to Law, "I always steal a line that Robert said: if everyone else is as happy and enthusiastic for us to carry on doing it, then we'll probably carry on doing it." Not that one need be in any doubt: Variety has reported (Oct. 23) that Warner Bros. has hired Drew Pearce to write the new script; Pearce also is writing a script for "Iron Man 3" (which will star Downey as Tony Stark/Iron Man).

And Brenda Rossini spotted an amusing story in the Guardian (Oct. 26) that

compares the new film with the Benedict Cumberbatch series; the categories include "best exploding tree sequence" and "sexiest female lead". You can go to <www.guardian.co.uk> and search for [mongolian costume].

Otto Penzler's MysteriousPress.com (Jun 11 #5) is now up and running as an electronic publisher, at <www.mysteriouspress.com>, with about 40 books already available, and many more to come. The e-books are available from Amazon, iTunes, and Barnes & Noble, and include a wide range of classic mystery, crime, suspense, and espionage.

Thanks to Andy Solberg, who has observed and reported an entry at the Sherlockian who's who web-site, there is news of an active Sherlockian society in mainland China: it's The Chinese Sherlockian Society, which has an attractive and interesting web-site at <www.sherlockian.org/sh/home.php>; the web-site's even more interesting if you have Google's "Translate" installed on your computer. Their forum at <www.sherlockian.org/sh/forum/index.php> also is worth a visit.

The Sherlockian who's who at <www.sh-whoswho.com> also is well worth a visit; it's maintained by La Societe Sherlock Holmes de France, and it offers an easy way to locate and contact individual Sherlockians as well as Sherlockian societies that have provided that information to the who's who.

Further to the report (Sep 10 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, Burnett has now made a new "Conan Doyle Quartette": two violins, a cello, and a viola. According to the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 25), the quartet will debut at the Concert for Trees at the Usher Hall on Nov. 26, when the St. Patrick's Baroque Ensemble will play the quartet and Ani Batikian will play the Sherlock violin.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled by the Broadhollow Theatre at the Elmont Memorial Library, Nov. 12-27 (700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont, NY 11003) (516-775-4420) <www.broadhollow.org>.

William Hyder's INTRODUCING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ACCORDING TO DOYLE (2011; 311 pp., \$24.00) has been published by George Vanderburgh; the book includes reprints of eight stories and an excerpt from A STUDY IN SCARLET, with informative introductions and explanations, and what Bill has called "biographical assumptions" that provide the reader with an imaginative account of Holmes' early life and his career that often differs from William S. Baring-Gould's proposed biography. The publisher's at Box 50, R.R. #4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.

Oct 11 #5 Sherlock Holmes' 158th birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 13, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:00 pm at O'Casey's (22 East 41st Street); attendees pay their own checks, but 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) <jasdcox@yahoo.com>, and of course are advised to dress appropriately for the weather.

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 Dr. Lisa Sanders of Yale University, technical advisor to the television series "House", which of course owes much to the Sherlock Holmes stories, including the address of his apartment (221B). The lecture

will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you should reserve early (details below); tickets will not be sold at the door.

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 (\$52.00 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); \$78.00 (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.

If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other mementos to be included in the various dinner packets you should send 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your material must be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15.

Oct 11 #6 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available 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; you can contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) <bugmanhall@aol.com> for information about dealers' tables.

The Beacon Society will hold their annual meeting from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Park Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing the efforts of individuals to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people. Their web-site's at <www.beaconsociety.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). And, of course, the usual (or perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is likely to be \$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 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at a venue not yet confirmed (needless to say, the price is not confirmed either). As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com> will be happy to provide more information about a fine way to end a long weekend.

Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45

East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$199.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 19. In addition, there may be some rooms available at the Yale Club (50 Vanderbilt Avenue) at a special tax-free rate of \$200.00 per night (details on both 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 and the Yale Club, the Thursday lecture, and the Saturday reception, visit the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.

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> and <www.bsiweekend.com>. News of additional events will be found in this newsletter, and at the web-sites.

The 31st annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium, to be held in Dayton, Ohio, on May 18-20, has the theme "Cheetahs and Adders and Hounds, On My!"; Cathy Gill manages their mailing list (4661 Hamilton Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45223) (513-681-5507) <chirpsworth@fuse.net>.

Sherlock Crater, named in honor of Sherlock Holmes by astronaut-geologist Jack Schmitt in preparation for the Apollo 17 mission to the Moon in 1972, can be seen at Google; go to www.google.com/moon and search for [sherlock].

For San Franciscans: Laurie King and Les Klinger (editors) and Tony Broadbent and Jan Burke (contributors) will appear at the San Francisco Public Library (at 100 Larkin Street at Grove) on Nov. 8 at 6:00 pm to talk about (and sign) the new anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2).

Bill Dorn's "Sherlock Holmes Calendar" for 2012 features to actors who have played Professor Moriarty on the screen and on television; the price (post-paid) is \$17.95, but if you mention the magic word [scuttlebutt] you get a \$2.00 discount. You can see (and order) the calendar (and other offerings) at <www.me.com/billdorn/Holmesian_Films>.

Spiritualists in Edinburgh have opened a new church that's named in honor of Conan Doyle, according to a report in the Edinburgh Evening News (Oct. 19); formerly housed in a tenement, the church has about 150 members, and funding from a trust allowed them to move into the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Centre. They have a web-site at <www.edinburghspiritualists.com>.

Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's

Tin Box, and this year's issue (58 pp.) offers the usual interesting mix of articles, toasts, and poetry, including Debbie Clark's discussion of various attempts to assassinate Queen Victoria, Russell Wm. Hultgren's examination of the recordings of the Canon David Timson made for Naxos Audiobooks, and Emily Doss' winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md.; \$15.00 postpaid from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

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

Nov 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York: 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 on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 6:00 pm at Pete's Tavern (129 East 18th Street, between Irving Place and Third Avenue); \$42.00 including tax and tip for dinner and two drinks, and details are available from Chrys (18014 Sherman way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm at the Irish Rogue (356 West 45th Street between Eighth and Ninth Avenues); \$20.00 payable by cash or check at the door. As always, the brunch is open to all, but space is limited; details about a fine way to end a long weekend are available from Lyndsay Faye (450 West 162nd Street #25-E, New York, NY 10032) <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.

And a reminder: seasonal souvenirs or other mementos intended for various dinner packets should be mailed to arrive by Dec. 15: 170 copies (for the BSI) to Al Gregory (118 South Prospect Street, Verona, NJ 07044), 100 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Carol Fish (Box 4, Circleville, NY 10919), and 20 copies (for The Women) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278).

The "Sherlock Holmes Shaped Puzzle" (Apr 10 #1) offered by Bits and Pieces (Box 4150, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025) (866-503-6395) <www.bitsandpieces.com> has been discounted to \$8.49 each for either of the two formats (300 pieces or 750 pieces) (items 45849 and 45850).

The White Ghost Shivers are a seven-piece band that plays (according to one reviewer) "an insane collision of ragtime, jazz, swing, bluegrass, cabaret, vaudeville, burlesque, Hostess Twinkie, caffeine, and Tilt-a-whirl." Their web-site is at <www.whiteghostshivers.com>, and their latest CD is "Nobody Loves You Like We Do" (\$12.17); it's of Sherlockian interest because one of the tracks is "We Never Mention Aunt Clara" (which is described as "the anthem of The Baker Street Irregulars") sung by Cella Blue, who is the daughter of Sherlockian book-dealer Vinnie Brosnan. The CD (and possibly an LP) will be available in the Merchants Room at the Roosevelt Hotel during the birthday festivities in January.

A page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be offered at auction on Dec. 3, estimated at \$115,000-125,000; the auction will be at Ira & Larry Goldberg Auctioneers <www.goldbergcoins.com> in Los Angeles. Currently owned by David Karpeles, the page was advertised at \$22,500 by Pepper & Stern in 1994. Randall Stock has compiled an excellent census of pages from the manuscript; it's available at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site at <www.bestofsherlock.com>.

Sean Wright has reported a delightful segment from "The Morecambe and Wise Show" broadcast on July 27, 1969, with guest Peter Cushing as King Arthur, introduced by Ernie Wise (in costume as Merlin) and with a surprise appearance by Eric Morecambe as Sherlock Holmes. And of course it's available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1T6e58r3bv0>.

Nov 11 #2 E.J. Wagner's THE SCIENCE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: FROM BASKERVILLE HALL TO THE VALLEY OF FEAR: THE REAL FORENSICS BEHIND THE GREAT DETECTIVE'S GREATEST CASES (Jun 06 #2) is available translated into French; her web-site <www.ejwagner-crimehistorian.com> has details on how to order the book (which also is available in Italian, Korean, German, Russian, Japanese, Spanish, and Braille, and in a Kindle edition and as an audiobook.

The Sussex Courier reported (Oct. 28) on Brian Pugh's efforts to promote Crowborough as the home of Arthur Conan Doyle: Brighton and Hove Buses have named one of their buses in honor of Sir Arthur. According to the company operations and commercial manager, "about 75 per cent of our buses are dedicated to local heroes like Thomas Kemp and Dusty Springfield." That's Brian Pugh in the photograph.

"Sublime Sherlocks: The Great Detective's Brainy Descendants" is an interesting interactive web-site reported by Tina Rhea. Wired offers 18 candidates at <www.wired.com/underwire/2010/10/best-sherlocks-ever>, and there are some amusing surprises among them.

Computers make it quite easy to produce personalized books, and a personalized edition of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is available from Book By You <www.bookbyyou.com> for \$49.95 (hardcover) or \$29.95 (paperback); you get to select new names for Holmes, Watson, Lestrade, Irene Adler, and Mrs. Hudson, and you can create a free preview sample at the web-site.

James H. Bready ("The Disappearance of James Phillimore") died on Oct. 29. He served in the Army's Counterintelligence Corps in the European Theater during World War II, and in 1945 began his long career as a journalist with the Baltimore Sun; his enthusiasms were sports, Maryland's pre-Prohibition rye whiskey, and Sherlock Holmes. Jim was an early member of The Six Napoleons and served as its Gasogene in the 1950s; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1955.

There will be two "Sherlock Holmes weekends" in Cape May, N.J., next year, on Mar. 16-18 and Nov. 2-4, and you can find out what happened this year at <www.capemaymac.org/tours/winter/special/sherlock.html?terms=sherlock>; information about next year's events will be available from 1048 Washington Street, Cape May, NJ 08204 (800-275-4278).

"The musical begins when Sherlock Holmes and his trusty partner Dr. John H. Watson are dispatched to solve the case of the Anderson family and a missing woman," according to an article in the Jeju weekly about the Korean musical "Sherlock Holmes", which premiered in Anyang City on July 29 and went on to play in Seoul and Jeju. I am not aware of any previous Sherlockian theatrical production, musical or otherwise, in Korea, and there have been two articles (in English) about the musical in the Jeju weekly, whose web-site is <www.jejuweekly.com>; search for [sherlock].

Nov 11 #3 Ken Ludwig's new comedy-mystery-thriller "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" (Mar 11 #3) opened its world premiere at the Cleveland Play House on Nov. 25; it's a murder mystery set in William Gillette's home, and it's wonderfully hilarious. You can see images of the set and costumes at <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>.

French Connection U.S. is promoting their fashion brand with a sweepstakes contest that's tied to "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (the winner and a guest will be flown to New York for a preview of the film, and a shopping spree) <www.usa.frenchconnection.com/content/sherlock-holmes/index.htm>.

The Langham in London "lays claim to being instrumental in the creation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous character, Sherlock Holmes," according to its web-site, and displays a commemorative Green Plaque (Mar 10 #3); the hotel also is offering a "Sherlock Holmes Package" celebrating the launch of the new film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (the package is available through Mar. 31). You get to stay in the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Suite and enjoy a gift from the Langham Book Butler, as well as an English breakfast <www.londonlanghamhotels.co.uk/rooms/sherlock-holmes-package.html>.

Dr. William R. Hanson has designed a colorful cachet for the stamp issued this year in honor of Mark Twain, who wrote "The Double-Barrelled Detective Story"; the artwork shows the mining camp in Hope Canyon in the Esmeralda region of California (where the story takes place in October 1900). \$10.00 postpaid (to U.S. addresses), and you are requested to make payment in currency or by U.S. postal money order to Dr. Hanson at 78 West Notre Dame Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801; for information on prices outside the U.S. contact him at <drhanson@localnet.com>.

The fall issue of For the Sake of the Trust (the The Baker Street Irregulars Trust newsletter) offers Peter Accardo's report on the completion of the BSI Archives cataloguing project, editor Mike Berdan's account of his visit to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and other news. All issues of the newsletter have been posted (the latest in full color) at the Trust web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>, and copies of the current issue are available on request from Marshall S. Berdan (2015 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT 06033) <editor@bsitrust.org>.

William Hyder, author of INTRODUCING SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE GREAT DETECTIVE ACCORDING TO DOYLE (Oct 11 #4), now has an informative web-site about the book, and other things, at <www.introducingsherlockholmes.com>.

J. Warren Scheideman ("Count Von und Zu Grafenstein") died on Aug. 25. He taught English and American literature at De Paul University, and then at De Paul's School for New Learning; he was a member of Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville of Chicago, and wrote many learned articles for Sherlockian journals in the 1970s and 1980s. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1982.

Nov 11 #4 Sherlock Holmes is (or at least will be) one of the characters in THE FIFTH HEART, a book that has not yet been written by Dan Simmons. Lenny Picker has noted that Simmons blogged about it in July 2010 <www.dansimmons.com/news/message/2010_07.htm>; the blog offers an interesting look at how an author thinks about a book.

There are many Android Apps available for Google's Android phone, and you can explore them at <www.android-apps.com>; just search for [conan doyle] to find a number of free downloads, and a few more at modest cost.

Die Deutsche Sherlock Holmes Gesellschaft is celebrating the 125th anniversary of the first appearance of Sherlock Holmes in Beeton's Christmas Ann with a colorful calender (E12.50 plus shipping), and there's a preview at their at web-site <www.deutsche-sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de/?p=1205>; it's an interesting web-site, with lots of news about Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockians in Germany.

Two sets of four Sherlock Holmes Marble Coasters with Sidney Paget illustrations (\$39.95 each), cut from Botticino marble imported from Verona, are again available (along with other nice Sherlockiana) from The Strand Magazine (Box 1418, Birmingham, MI 48012) (800-300-6652) <www.strandmag.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Frozen City" is a new computer game designed for the Nintendo 3DS; it's due for release in 2012, but there are images available now at <www.gonintendo.com/?mode=viewstory&id=162111>.

Jim Ballinger has found Spineless Classics at Foyles in London; the company offers full-text books in four-point print on single sheets of quality paper, and with interesting silhouette artwork. Their titles include THE LOST WORLD and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (L44.99 each unframed), and you get a 20% discount through Christmas if you say the magic word [scuttlebutt]; the concept is imaginative and attractive, and you can send orders to the company at The Granery, 4 High Street Eton, Windsor, Berks. SL4 6AS, England) <www.spinelessclassics.com/voucher/scuttlebutt>.

"Sherlock Holmes Neveben" [In the Name of Sherlock Holmes] is a Hungarian film now in post-production and due for release next year. There's a one-minute teaser at <www.sherlockfilm.hu>. Click on the Facebook icon at the web-site to see a poster for the film.

Bill Crider, who contributes a "Blog Bytes" column to Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, has noted Tony Renner's interesting blog "Pfui", which can be found at <www.louderthanecessary.blogspot.com> and will be enjoyed by fans of Rex Stout and his work; Renner is reprinting contemporary reviews of Stout's work, as well as interviews with him and reviews written by him (one of them a review of M. F. K. Fisher's AN ALPHABET FOR GOURMETS).

Al Gregory spotted a report in the Thorne and District Gazette (Oct. 8) on a one-year suspension imposed on a teacher at the Hayfield School in Auckley, in South Yorkshire, for failing to follow the school's procedure for teaching and marking English coursework; omissions included teaching only THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES to pupils and failing to cover other Sherlock Holmes short stories. The teacher was later dismissed.

Nov 11 #5 WHO WAS JACK THE RIPPER?, by Hartley R. Nathan, is the result of his deep interest in the continuing mystery; there is discussion of Conan Doyle in the chapter on "Why was the Ripper Not Caught?". The 88-page book costs \$18.60 postpaid (and signed on request), and you can mail checks to Hartley (Minden Gross LLP, 145 King Street West #2200, Toronto, ON M5H 4G2, Canada).

Bryan Ford notes the Classic Tales Podcast <www.classictales.libsyn.com>, where B. J. Harrison reads (and well) classic tales that include "The Red-Headed League" and "Playing with Fire".

Visitors to the historic city of York can still raise a glass at the Brigadier Gerard, discovered by Ely Liebow some years ago (Aug 95 #2); the pub is named in honor of the famous racehorse ("the only English classic winner of the present century to have lost only one race in 18 or more starts"), and the horse was named in honor of Conan Doyle's swashbuckling hero. And Al Gregory has found the Brigadier Gerard Stakes, a flat race that is run each year at Sandown Park; the event was established in 1953, as the Coronation Stakes commemorating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and the race was renamed in 1973 in honor of the famous racehorse.

Raymond C. Murray first encountered forensic geology in 1973, when he was teaching geology at Rutgers University and received a request for assistance from a federal agent; he went on to co-author the first textbook (FORENSIC GEOLOGY) in 1975, and then alone wrote EVIDENCE FROM THE EARTH: FORENSIC GEOLOGY AND CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION (Oct 04 #3), which now has a second edition, revised and expanded and with Sherlockian cover art (Missoula: Mountain Press, 2011; 240 pp., \$16.00). It's an up-to-date review of the science, and gives due credit to Sherlock Holmes as the first forensic ge-where you'll find some Sherlockian artwork.

John Neville died on Nov. 19. He began his acting career in the 1950s, and performed at the Old Vic, alternating the roles of Othello and Iago with a

young Richard Burton, and in films, and in 1972 emigrated to Canada to direct and act for the National Arts Centre Theatre Company; he continued to act in films such as "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen" and on television as "the well manicured man" in "The X-Files". He played Sherlock Holmes in film "A Study in Terror" (1965), on stage in the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of "Sherlock Holmes" in New York (1974) and in a Canadian production of the play (1975), and on radio in "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" (1978).

"Sherlock Holmes and the Alien Abduction" is a new short story by Phillip Duke, available as an Amazon Kindle ebook (\$0.99); Kindle software can be downloaded without charge to desktops and other devices in addition to the Kindle, and Amazon offers a free sample from the story.

Watson's Tin Box will host the fifth "Scintillation of Scions" at the Comfort Suites at Laurel Lakes, Md., on June 9, 2012, the intent is to bring 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.scintillation.org>.

Nov 11 #6 "A campaign is underway to turn one of London's most iconic but underwhelming roads into a thriving business quarter," according to a report in the Hampstead & Highgate Express (Sept. 18). The Portman Estate, hoping to turn the area into a Business Improvement District, wants to include Baker Street between Marylebone Road and Oxford Street as well as many surrounding roads. But the Baker Street BID is in the early stages: "consultation with local businesses is earmarked for early 2013.

"Pendergast thinks like Sherlock Holmes, fights like James Bond, and looks like Andy Warhol," will Boisvert reported in a review of THE WHEEL OF DARKNESS (2007), perhaps the first time Holmes, Bond, and Warhol have appeared in the same sentence. FBI special agent Aloysius Xingu L. Pendergast will be found in a series of books written by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, who have an interesting web-site at <www.prestonchild.com>.

Michael Cox's A STUDY IN CELLULOID: A PRODUCER'S ACCOUNT OF JEREMY BRETT AS SHERLOCK HOLMES, first published by Rupert Books (May 00 #4), has been re-issued (Bloomington: Gasogene Books, 2011; 222 pp., \$28.95), and it's grand that the book's again in print. Cox was the producer of the Granada series from 1984 to 1991, and he offers insightful discussion of the entire series and a new "re-introduction" to the book, which includes a touching account of the memorial service for Jeremy Brett in 1995, some of Dame Jean Conan Doyle's comments on the series, and much else of interest. Those who own the first edition value it highly: if they have it, they keep it, and there are very few copies available on the used-book market, and at three-figure prices. Recommended.

The 20th and final chapter of Stephen Gaspar's pastiche "Cold Hearted Murder" is now available at <www.stephengaspar.blogspot.com>, along with the earlier chapters (he started posting the pastiche in January).

4-D films are a relatively new phenomenon; they combine 3-D film with special effects in the theater, and tend to be shown in venues such as amusement and theme parks (although the films also can be screened without the special effects in normal theaters). "Sherlock Holmes 4D" is an 11-minute "comedy mystery adventure" being produced by Red Star 4D of Sheffield, England, authorized by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd., according to Jon Lellenberg. There's a one-minute teaser available at <www.sherlockholmes4d.com>. No word yet as to when or where the film can be seen (and experienced).

Steve Emezc reports that MX Publishing will follow up on their "Great Sherlock Holmes Debate" (Sep 11 #5) with a monthly light discussion, the first one being scheduled on Dec. 14 from 8:00 to 10:00 pm GMT, open to all; you can register at <www3.gotomeeting.com/register/592595902>.

Some truly unusual Conan Doyle material will be included in a sale at Wellers Auctioneers on Dec. 3 <www.wellersthesurreyauction.com/Film.html>: lot 752 (estimated at L100-L150) is described in the catalogue as "a group of ladies bed jackets and undergarments of silk and cotton with lace and broderie anglaise, formerly the property of Lady Jean Conan Doyle of Windlesham, Crowborough, some bearing name tape 'Conan-Doyle', comprising: seven long bodices/nightdresses, three pairs of separate leg drawstring bloomers, two petticoats, and three bed jackets."

Nov 11 #7 "'Meow'trage at Algonquin" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Post on Nov. 23 about Matilda III, the latest of the Algonquin Hotel's free-ranging cats: the Department of Health told the hotel that live animals are not allowed in food-service establishments unless a patron needs a service dog; the Algonquin, which serves food in the lobby, has been forced to end a tradition that began in 1932. The Algonquin will close on Jan. 1 for four months for a \$15-million renovation.

Daniel Corey's MORIARTY comic-book mini-series from Image (Jul 11 #1) has completed its first four-issue story ("The Dark Chamber"). also now available as a trade paperback (\$14.99), and has begun a second story ("The Lazarus Tree"); his media company is DangerKatt, and you can see some of his work at his web-site <www.professorjamesmoriarty.com>.

The late Peter Woods' article on "The Lost Special" (an excellent detailed investigation of Conan Doyle's Apocryphal story) is one of the featured articles in the fall issue of Canadian Holmes (published by The Bootmakers of Toronto for its members); a subscription's included with membership (\$35.00 a year). TDC Postal Station Box 1157, 77 King Street West, Toronto, ON M5K 1P2, Canada <www.sherlockian.net/bootmakers>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Voices of the Celts" is a new play that presents Holmes and Watson solving a mystery that involves the Celtic Sacred Book of Kells, "just in time for the Winter Solstice and Christmas," at the Walnut Street Theatre Studio 5 from Dec. 2 to Dec. 11; 825 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (609-703-3906) <midsummernightplayers@comcast.net>.

Francie LeVillard is the great-granddaughter of the famous French detective who consulted with Sherlock Holmes (as Holmes reported in "The Sign of the Four"), and is a detective in her own right, on the Monterey Peninsula, and appears in mysteries written by Tony Seton and available as on-line serials at <www.montereymystery.com>.

Warner Bros. is hard at work publicizing "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" (and will be working even hard in December, when the film will open in Hong Kong on Dec. 15, and then in the U.S. and the U.K. on Dec. 16. And of course there are all sorts of colorful posters available on the Internet, including one from Hong Kong that shows Gladstone (the dog who lives at 221B Baker Street); needless to say, it looks much better in a larger size and in full color, and you can see it at <www.comicbookmovie.com/fansites/wolvie09/news/?a=50072>.

There's also pleasant news about the BBC television series "Sherlock" that stars Benedict Cumberbatch: PBS-TV has announced that the second season's three new episodes will air in the U.S. beginning on May 6. Sorry: as far as I know, the BBC has not yet announced an air date for the U.K.

Peter C. Shumway's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND 'THE KISS OF DEATH' was published by BookSurge in 2005, and a second, slightly revised edition is available online at <www.epix.net/~pshumway/kod.htm>; the pastiche has Holmes and Watson investigating a series of bizarre murders committed by an evil and vindictive magician.

Nov 11 #8 Peter Calamai delivered the annual Cameron Hollyer Lecture (on

"The Real world of Sherlock Holmes"), at the Toronto Public Library last year, and his remarks 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. The web-site's at <www.acdfriends.org>; or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C 1T1, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>, and the minimum donation (which includes three issues of their newsletter "Through the Magic Door) is \$25.00. This year's lecture by Tom Ue ("Sherlock Holmes and Shakespeare") will be sent to members of the Friends next year. A few copies of past lectures (Steven Rothman on Christopher Morley in 2008 and Michael Dirda on Conan Doyle as an Essayist and Journalist in 2009) are available at \$10.00 each.

THE PUNISHMENT OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, by Bob Burr and Philip K. Jones (London: MX Publishing, 2011; 292 pp., L11.99/E12.99/\$18.95), is an astonishing anthology of Sherlockian humor, some of it Sherlockian directly and some by association only, including puns, jokes, spoonerisms, feghoots, shaggy dog stories, and the occasional feghoot; the majority of them were written or adapted by Burr, and all have been catalogued by Jones in his ever-expanding data base. The publisher's web-site is at <www.mxpublishing.com>.

Also from MX Publishing: Charlie Roxburgh's THE CASE OF THE RUSSIAN CHESSBOARD (2011; 108 pp., L6.99/E7.99/\$9.95); the pastiche involves Holmes and Watson in the world of Russian radicals, idealists, and extremists in London, and it's a world full of treachery and conspiracies.

And: Thomas Bruce Wheeler's THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 391 pp., (L13.99/E17.00/\$22.95) is a greatly enhanced version of his THE NEW FINDING SHERLOCK'S LONDON (Jun 09 #5); there are discussions of each story, and the London locations mentioned in them, and listings of locations near each underground and railway station and along each underground line, plus a few walking tours. The enhancement comes with the e-book edition, which costs \$9.00 to \$10.00 and will run on desktops, tablets, phones, and what-not; it is an impressive introduction (for me, at least) to what can be done with modern technology: clicking on geographical coordinates in the book brings up Google maps and allows you to maneuver through 360-degree photographic street views.

And: Tracy Revels' SHADOWBLOOD: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 193 pp., L10.99/E12.99/\$19.95) is a sequel to her SHADOWFALL (Oct 11 #2); Holmes and Watson are again in the world of wizards and wizardry, and in Florida, this time in pursuit of villains who in turn are in hot pursuit of the legendary Fountain of Youth.

Ryan Jacobson and Deb Mercier have taken an interesting approach to the Canon in their CAN YOU SURVIVE: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Minneapolis: Lake 7 Creative, 2011; 157 pp., \$8.95), which is written for readers aged 9 to 13; it's a "choose your path" book that combines three of the stories and offers readers opportunities to decide how to proceed. Their web-site's at <www.lake7creative.com>.

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

Dec 11 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: Paul Martin reports that Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, and the staff of the Brookings Public Library in South Dakota are collaborating on a four-month "A Life Explored" program on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in Brookings. Go to <www.brookingslibrary.org> and click on "Newsletter" for more information.

The official web-site for Frogwares' computer game "The Testament of Sherlock Holmes" (Jun 10 #5) is now live at <www.sherlockholmes-thegame.com>; click on "Collection" to review five earlier games from Frogwares.

Further to the report (Oct 11 #4) about the "Sherlock" violin made by Steve Burnett from wood from the 170-year-old sycamore at Liberton Bank House in Edinburgh, musicians from the Royal Scottish National Orchestra performed on his new "Conan Doyle Quartette" (two violins, a cello, and a viola) at a concert that was broadcast on BBC-1's "The One Show" on Nov. 2; Burnett has a web-site at <www.burnettviolins.co.uk>, where you can listen to the musicians play a piece by Mendelssohn. The web-site also offers images of his instruments, and audio and video of his "Sherlock" violin in performance.

Karen Ellery found Rikki Little's grotesque "Custom Zombie" artwork at his web-site at <www.etsy.com/shop/customzombie>; search for [sherlock] to see his "Sherlock Bones" and "Sherlock Holmes" prints. Little also does custom portraits for people who want to see what they'd look like as zombies.

Alan Sues died on Dec. 1. He began his acting career on stage and continued in vaudeville, and then appeared in films and on television, where he was best known for his comic roles on the long-running series "Rowan & Martin's Laugh In". Sues also played Moriarty in a touring company in William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1976 with Robert Stephens as Holmes in Toronto and with Leonard Nimoy in Detroit, Cleveland, Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago. Lee Gibson has reported that he saw one performance in Chicago in which Nimoy and Sues exchanged roles: Sues was "a very fine Holmes" and Nimoy "a better Moriarty than he was a Holmes."

THE DEAD WITNESS, edited by Michael Sims (New York: Walker & Company, 2011; 576 pp., \$20.00), is aptly subtitled "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian detective stories," and he offers an insightful introduction and an excellent selection that includes old favorites (the first two chapters of A STUDY IN SCARLET), familiar authors such as Poe and Dickens, and many stories that will be new to many if not most readers.

Criminal Element is community web-site "featuring daily content for fans of the crime and mystery genres in all of their forms," and of course there's frequent Sherlockian content; you can sample their Sherlockian content at <www.criminalelement.com/features/series/sherlockiana?WTmc_id=undefined>, where you'll find "Sherlock Season 2 Scenes" (clips from the new mini-series), Lyndsay Faye's "Testosterone and a Powder Keg of Glitter" (her review of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows"), Cathy Zhu Chen's "Holmes Coping with Alzheimers Comedy Sketch: Depressing?" (her comments on a skit "That Mitchell and Webb Look"), and much more.

Dec 11 #2 Kim Newman describes his PROFESSOR MORIARTY: THE HOUND OF THE D'URBERVILLES (London: Titan Books, 2011; 488 pp., \$14.95) as a "novel disguised as a collection," and the book is a fine demonstration of the fact that villains continue to attract excellent writers; the story is told by Col. Moran (some chapters are reprints, and some are new), and the book is full of interesting characters, some borrowed from other authors. It's all grand fun, and recommended.

And Newman's ANNO DRACULA (London: Titan Books, 2011; 547 pp., \$14.95) is an expanded new edition of his earlier imaginative novel (Dec 92 #3); it's an alternate-universe novel, with considerable cross-over: Queen Victoria has married Vlad Tepes, who is ruling as Prince Consort and as Lord Protector, and Mycroft Holmes is far more involved in a resistance movement than his brother. The new material includes annotations, an alternate ending, and an excerpt from Newman's movie script. ANNO DRACULA was the first of a series, and Titan will be publishing expanded new editions of the next two titles, and a brand new fourth title.

Newman has an excellent web-site at <www.johnnyalucard.com>, and his essay on "Everything You Need to Know about Professor Moriarty" is available at <www.tinyurl.com/89oao4y>.

The Pawky Humorists, one of the more unusual of the Sherlockian societies,

was founded by Peter G. Ashman in 1974, revived by Norman M. Davis in 1989, was revived again by Linda Crane this year in an electronic version to be found at Facebook; just go to <www.facebook.com> and search for [pawky humorists].

Reported: Barbara Roden's THE THAMES HORROR AND OTHER ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is a new eBook published by the Ash-Tress Press; a collection of four stories, one of them new and the others reprints (\$5.99 for Kindle, Nook, etc.) <www.ash-tree.bc.ca/ebooks.htm>

Digiview Entertainment has issued CDs of public-domain fiction, including (in 2006) CASE OF IDENTITY and THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE, nicely read by James Hadley; they're available inexpensively here and there on the Internet.

John Linsenmeyer offers a discovery for anyone who's investigation forensic or medico-legal aspects of the Canon: important textbooks written by Alfred Swaine Taylor (1806-1880), who has been called the father of British forensic medicine, are readily available (free) at <www.books.google.com>. Just search for [alfred swaine taylor].

The Wick Theatre Company will perform Tony Brownings' new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" on Jan. 11-14 at the Barn Theatre (Southwick Street, Southwick, West Sussex BN42 4RE) <www.wicktheatre.co.uk>.

THE DRAGON TURN (Toronto: Tundra, 2011; 220 pp., \$19.95) is the fifth book in Shane Peacock's series about "the boy Sherlock Holmes" (still on his own in London and learning how to be a detective, with the help of his friends Irene Doyle and Beatrice Leckie, and his mentor Sigerson Bell); the series is well written (and attractively produced by Tundra), and Peacock's website is at <www.shanepeacock.ca>.

Dec 11 #3 The Feb. 2012 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, which will be found on newsstands during the birthday celebrations, has a Sherlockian cover photograph by Kurt Paris, a pastiche ("Shikari") by James Lincoln Warren, a sonnet ("Immortal Londoners") by Donald A. Yates, and a Sherlockian cartoon by Bob Schochet. You can see some of Schochet's non-S'ian work at <www.dialanartist.com/portfoliolist.htm?it=4&ar=176>.

Reported: a 25th anniversary edition of SCARLET IN GASLIGHT, the comic-book series and graphic novel written by Martin Powell and illustrated by Seppo Makinen (May 88 #5), from Createspace (\$9.99); Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula.

SPOT THE PLOT, by J. Patrick Lewis (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2009; 28 pp., \$15.99), is an amusing "riddle book of book riddles" with Sherlockian artwork by Lynn Munsinger on the cover and on inside pages.

Some film costumes are worth more than others: Basil Rathbone's wool cape overcoat used in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold for \$61,500 when Debbie Reynolds' collection of movie memorabilia was sold at auction (Jun 11 #6), but a brown shirt that was used by Patrick Macnee in "Sherlock Holmes in New York" (1976), estimated at £30.00-50.00 by Cameo Auctioneers in a sale on Dec. 6, went unsold.

John Baesch has reported an attractive deerstalker in a catalog from the J. Peterman Company (888-647-2555) <www.jpeterman.com>; it's item 2914 and costs \$128. The catalog notes that "This is not the hat of an urban detective. But don't blame Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It was the famed illustrator Sidney Paget who was a fan of the stylish 'fore and aft,' and sketched Sherlock in it for the Strand Magazine in 1881. It just sort of fit."

Deb weissler, a fervent Sherlockian miniaturist (Jul 09 #6 and Jan 10 #5), has a colorful article about her Sherlockian room box in the October issue of Dolls House and Miniature Scene; you can see photographs of her excellent work at <www.tinuurl.com/7eoevgu>.

Arthur Twidle is perhaps best known for his illustrations of the Sherlock Holmes stories in The Strand Magazine, but he was a prolific artist; some of his non-Sherlockian art will be available at Leland Little Auction & Estate Sales on Jan. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/73g2vrq>.

Steven Dietz's play "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be produced at the Long Beach Playhouse, Feb. 25 to Mar. 24; 5021 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach, CA 90804 (562-494-1014) <www.lbplayhouse.org>.

willis Frick reports that Cox has shut down Sherlocktron (along with everyone else's Personal webSpace), explaining that declining usage of the service "has highlighted the need to focus our resources on other priorities, such as increasing our Internet speeds and providing new services." willis quickly found a new host <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/Sherlocktron.html>.

Dec 11 #4 The Edinburgh Scotsman has reported (Dec. 22) that the family of Dr. Joseph Bell has donated all of his papers, and other material, to the Royal College of Surgeons; one item in the collection is the letter to Bell from Conan Doyle in which he wrote "It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes." The collection is part of an exhibition at the Surgeons' Hall Museum, and planning is underway for a special "Conan Doyle Day" in the New Year.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times11-12.html>, offering Sherlockiana, old and new, books and much more, and an opportunity to see a colorful rendition of one of Jim Vogelsang's "Olmcs 'n watso" Christmas cards.

The modern version of The Strand Magazine, published by Andrew Gulli, continues to offer interesting (and occasionally Sherlockian) fiction and reviews; the latest issue is #35 (\$6.95) and includes Lyndsay Faye's new pastiche "The Adventure of the Vintner's Codex" (a new version of the case of Vamberry, the wine merchant).

A Wall Street Journal blog, kindly forwarded by Bob Katz, noted on Dec. 18 that wide-release franchise films failed to match what their previous in-stallments earned, continuing a domestic box-office slump; the highest box-office receipts went to "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows", which grossed \$39.6 million over the three-day weekend. "Sherlock Holmes" grossed \$62.3 million on a "magical" weekend in 2009 when the Christmas holiday fell on a Friday and children were already out of school, according Dan Fellman, Warner Bros.' president of domestic distribution, and he was pleased with the reception of the sequel, which cost \$125 million and attracted a 59% male audience.

<www.boxofficemojo.com> is a fine web-site for tracking how movies do (and have done) at the box office. As of Dec. 29, the new film had grossed \$159 million world-wide. The web-site offers daily and weekly figures only for domestic gross: the first film in the franchise grossed \$146.6 million in the first two weeks, and the second film grossed \$110 million.

WaterTower Music has issued the soundtrack of "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows" as a CD (\$9.99) and as an MP3 download (\$4.99). According to the Internet Movie Data Base, people who purchase the 18-track album will also be able to download three free additional tracks from the film, along with a video chronicling composer Hans Zimmer's trip to Slovakia to record the music of the Roma people.

And "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Good Music" is a blog by Anastasia Tsioulcas at <www.npr.org/blogs/deceptivecadence> [scroll down to

the title of the piece]; she praises Zimmer's "clever score" and is pleased that for once "it's not just the villain who loves classical music."

National Public Radio <www.npr.org> has much of interest: you can listen to interviews on programs such as "All Things Considered" (Anthony Horowitz, Les Klinger, and Laurie King on Dec. 19), "Morning Edition" (Michael Sims on Dec. 22) and read blogs. Search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle], and don't neglect older material in the archives.

Dec 11 #5 M. Diane Vogt's THE LITTLE BOOK OF BATHROOM CRIME PUZZLES (New York: MJF Books, 2005) is Sherlockian only for a small picture of a rubber duckie in Sherlockian costume on the front cover of the book, similar (but not identical) to the real rubber duckie in Sherlockian costume that was briefly in shops a few years ago. You can see the front cover of the book at Amazon, and elsewhere on the Internet images of the real rubber duckie (which seems not to be available for purchase anywhere).

For completists: Sherlockian artwork on the cover of David Levinson Wilk's REALLY CLEVER CROSSWORDS (New York: Puzzleright Press, 2004; 95 pp., \$8.95). The puzzles are full of wordplay, and the collection is described at Amazon as an "official MENSA puzzle book."

Anthony Horowitz's new pastiche THE HOUSE OF SILK (London: Orion Books, 2011; 304 pp., £18.99) (New York: Mulholland Books, 2011; 294 pp., \$27.99) has been reviewed widely and promoted heavily, and he tells an interesting story that involves Holmes and Watson in two intersecting mysteries and a "dire conspiracy that threatens to tear apart the very fabric of society." The publisher has described the book as the first Sherlock Holmes novel to be authorized by the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (the heirs of Dame Jean Conan Doyle), but of course it isn't. Horowitz is the creator of the television series "Foyle's War" and the author of the "Alex Rider" children's series, and his web-site's at <www.anthonhorowitz.com>.

Spotted at eBay: a publicity still from "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (1939) signed by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; the auction ends on Jan 3, and the opening bid is \$6,000. It will be interesting, of course, to see if anyone bids.

Mary Losure's THE FAIRY RING: ELSIE AND FRANCES FOOL THE WORLD (Somerville: Candlewick Press, 2012; 181 pp., \$16.99) is an interesting approach to the story of the Cottingley fairies: the book is written for children ages 10 and up, and it's carefully researched and tells the story of Elsie, Frances, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle well.

The Long Beach Shakespeare Company performed a reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" on Dec. 22, with Richard MacPherson as Holmes, and (thanks to the Internet) you can listen to a web-cast at <www.lbshakespeare.org/audio.php>.

"It is a truth universally acknowledged," Michael Dirda suggested, "that a restless reader in possession of a quiet evening must be in want of a mystery." That's the opening of his review in the Washington Post (Dec. 8) of P. D. James' new DEATH COMES TO PEMBERLEY, a mystery devised as a sequel to Jane Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, and all of Jane Austen's fans will know how appropriate his language is.

Detective novelist N. Narasimhaliah died on Dec. 25. He had written more than 550 detective novels, and according to stories in the Indian press he often said that while people described him as the Sherlock Holmes of Kanna-da, "they might have wanted to call me Arthur Conan Doyle."

Dec 11 #6 The second season of the television series "Sherlock" that stars Benedict Cumberbatch will begin on the BBC beginning on Jan. 1,

and on PBS-TV on May 6, but people outside Britain don't have to wait that long to see the series if you can play region 2 DVDs: the British set will be released on Mar. 5 (L12.99), according to <www.amazon.co.uk>. There is a lot of information about "Sherlock" at <www.sherlockology.com>; the folks who maintain Sherlockology describe it as "a fan-site dedicated to the BBC drama Sherlock."

The Daily Telegraph reported (Dec. 30) that the first series has been sold to 180 countries, and provided a link <www.tinyurl.com/6q48eux> that allows you to watch a 3-minute video with Holmes and Watson speaking fluently in Italian, Russian, Spanish, and French.

It has been about 40 years since this newsletter was founded as quite informal "information sheets" mailed to John Bennett Shaw by way of sharing Sherlockian and Doylean gossip with him (the "about" being due to the fact that the earliest pages were not dated). The gossip was of course written on what some now blithely call a "steam typewriter" at a time when postage cost 8c an ounce, and the paragraphs were full of arcane abbreviations that John had no difficulty in understanding.

Soon there were other readers, and eventually actual subscribers, and then a more formal name, and the manual typewriter was succeeded by an electric and in March 1985 by a computer. Those who want more history are welcome to read the opening page at <www.sherlocktron.hostoi.com/scuttle.htm>.

which of course brings us to the Internet, which in the early days was managed for the academic community by the National Science Foundation, which imposed on users a strict "acceptable use policy" intended to prevent commercial use of the Internet; somewhere in my archives there's a copy of the letter I wrote to the NSF asking if reports of things offered for sale by others was acceptable, and a reply confirming that the newsletter was not in violation of the rules.

Of course now the newsletter is full of URLs and a new jargon. And there are no doubt many people who are quite happy to read all of the gossip in bits and bytes. Certainly there are fewer people now who actually pay for a subscription: there were more than 300 subscribers to the newsletter in 1995 (when subscribers in the U.S. paid \$8.90 a year), and fewer than 150 now.

How times change. I acquired my first videocassette a few years after the information sheets were launched, and my first VCR a few years later (the reason for that sequence being part of my occasional lecture on Sherlockian pornography). Now there are DVDs and streaming audio and video on the Internet, and of course electronic books and stories that are available only in that format, which makes things interesting for people who collect first printings of first editions. How do you collect first editions of e-books? what will book collectors be collecting 40 years from now?

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