

Jan 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 160th birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 15 to Jan. 19. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at O'Casey's and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was James O'Brien, author of *THE SCIENTIFIC SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRACKING THE CASE WITH SCIENCE & FORENSICS* (2013); the title of his talk was "Reassessing Holmes the Scientist", and you will be able to read his paper in the next issue of *The Baker Street Journal*.

The William Gillette Luncheon at Moran's was well attended, as always, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Sarah Montague, and Andrew Joffe) entertained their audience with a tribute to an aged Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The luncheon also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber) honoring the most whimsical piece in *The Serpentine Muse* last year; the winners (Susan Rice and Mickey Fromkin) received certificates and shared a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where John Linsenmeyer proposed the preprandial first toast to Marilyn Nathan as *The Woman*. The dinner agenda featured the usual toasts and traditions, and an energetic and amusing debate on whether the Constitution and Buy-Laws of the BSI should be amended (the decision was that the 80-year-old document will serve quite well for another 80 years).

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") presented the BSI's first Edgar W. Smith Intrepid Irregular Award to Les Klinger; A Tip of the Deerstalker Awards to Andy Peck, Mitch Higurashi, Susan Rice, Don Curtis, and Maggie Schpak; and a Two-Shilling Award to Randall Stock. This year's Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) were presented to Peter McIntyre ("*Arthur Cadogan West*"), SJ Rozan ("*The Imperial Palace of Peking*"), Chris Music ("*Wagner Night at Covent Garden*"), Sonia Fetherston ("*The Solitary Cyclist*"), Mark Alberstat ("*Halifax*"), Jacquelynn Morris ("*The Lion's Mane*"), and Terry Hunt ("*The Something Hunt*").

An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club, where the agenda included Karen Wilson's parody-song-arama "*The Sign of the Sussex Hound in the Cardboard Box*", a performance (by Nick Martorelli and Tiffany Knight) of Gayle Lange Puhl's skit "*How Much Is That Hound Dog in the Window*", and much much more.

Some of the more fervent (or perhaps hard core) Sherlockians gathered after the dinners at O'Lunney's Irish Pub to honor long-standing traditions such as staying until at least 2:21; another tradition calls for newly-Investitured Irregulars to buy a round of tequila shots.

Jan 14 #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. The Beacon Society presented its annual Beacon Award (recognizing those who introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Timothy S. Greer; the society has an excellent web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com>. And the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured "The Riddle of the Hunted Hound" (a new play by Gayle Lange Puhl, performed by Ken Vogel's hand puppets).

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; the entertainment included a performance of a short play written by Jerome Coopersmith, and Anastasia Klimchynskaya was honored as the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (an attractive certificate accompanied by a check) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal last year. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of raffle tickets for Maggie Schpak's attractive handcrafted assortment of jewelry and other memorabilia inspired by "The Valley of Fear", and an auction of edible, oenological and artistic donations to the Fund.

The principal Saturday-evening event was the annual "Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" dinner arranged by Chrys Kegley and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub, with 54 on hand for the festivities, and on Sunday morning a goodly crowd gathered at the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' brunch at the Oldcastle Pub & Restaurant.

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 9, 2015. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 17, 2015.

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 activities.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (by e-mail) his 2014 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).

There were, needless to say, a treasure trove of new books available in the dealers room, but you'll need to wait until next month to read reviews. In the meantime you can find many of the books at the web-sites of publishers such as the Baker Street Journal <www.bakerstreetjournal.com> and the Gasogene Press <www.wessexpress.com>.

Jan 14 #3 Further to the report (Dec 13 #1) on the decision in Les Kling-er's lawsuit against the Arthur Conan Doyle Estate (Sep 13 #8), the ruling has received lots of publicity in the press and on the Internet. Sutin, Thayer & Browne (the Estate's law firm) has announced that they will appeal the decision to Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals; you can read their press release at <www.tinyurl.com/myqx8wj>.

The torrent of stories about the lawsuit included one in the Sunday Express (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/ntk4jmv>, notable for a colorful (and undated) photograph of Andrea Reynolds Plunket, presumably seen at home in Livingston Manor, N.Y.; Andrea continues to claim control of the characters, despite a series of court rulings against her.

"Sherlock Enters Top Baby Name List" was the headline on a story in Radio Times (Dec. 2), spotted by Oscar Ross. The Office for National Statistics has released its lists of baby names in England and Wales in 2012, and yes, Sherlock is on the list, with 5 babies, in a tie for 3,416th place. Harry ranked first (with 7,168 babies), and for girls it was Amelia (with 7,061 babies). One should note that all it took to make the lists was 3 babies with the same name (which does make it a stretch for Radio Times to use the word "top"). You can find the lists at <www.tinyurl.com/k4vykmz>.

In plenty of time for Christmas (or any other occasion, for that matter): "Handmade Geeky Goodness!" is the motto of Ursula and Olive, an Etsy shop maintained by Darlene Belisle, who offers Sherlockian (and Doylean) lockets, earring, and magnifying glasses <www.ursulaandolive.etsy.com>. She'll also do custom orders, such as Moriarty or Benedict Cumberbatch.

Leonard Cochran ("Cardinal Tosca") died on Mar. 30, 2013. He worked in advertising, served in the Air Force, and in 1956 became a Dominican Friar; he was ordained as a priest in 1962, and went on to a long career in education. He was published in The Baker Street Journal in 1967 and 1972, and was an active members of Hugo's Companions in Chicago; he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1973.

Chuck Schaden "Speaking of Radio" web-site offers some 200 interviews with the people responsible for radio's "golden age" (and much else that's worth exploring) <www.speakingofradio.com>; one of the interviews (99 minutes) is with Himan Brown, who produced more than 30,000 radio shows over seven decades (including series such as "Inner Sanctum Mysteries", "The Adventures of the Thin Man", and "Bulldog Drummond"). His "CBS Radio Mystery Theater" was launched in 1974 and ran for nine years; it won a Peabody Award, and of course included many Sherlockian and Doylean stories. The series has its own web-site <www.cbsrmt.org> with information about and downloads of the programs.

"Holmes & Moriarty" is a 9-page PDF file offered by magician Paul Voodini at <www.readerofminds.co.uk> for £1.50; all you need to perform the trick is a deck of cards and some practice. And learning the patter, of course. Note that the real secret of magic is not what the magician does (you can easily find explanations of this in books and on-line); the real secret is how the magician does the trick, and that includes the story the magician tells, all of which requires imagination and practice.

Jan 14 #4 The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State (which commemorates the life and work of Christopher Morley) has published the first issue of its newsletter Hoboken Nights, with 16 pages, a report on the first annual Morley birthday lunch (on May 15, 2013, in New York), toasts, commentary, and photographs. Society membership includes two issues of the newsletter and costs \$15.00 a year per household; Harrison and Linda Hunt (113 North Street, Catskill, NY 12414).

This month's trivia question is: what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes?

Well, the long wait is over, for all those who wondered about how Sherlock survived the fall, and about how Watson met and married Mary Morstan, and about other things. The BBC blocked access to the series from outside the United Kingdom, but of course there are work-arounds: Hola! <www.hola.org> and TunnelBear <www.tunnelbear.com> work well with most operating systems, come highly recommended, and are free downloads, and of course this sort of thing was quite popular with Yanks who didn't want to wait for the series to air in the U.S. No spoilers here, since some people won't yet have seen the series.

The overnight ratings for "The Empty Hearse" in the U.K. were 9.2 million viewers, and a 33.8% share (of those who were watching television); these were highest ratings of any of the seven episodes. Add 3.5 million viewers who watched the episode in the following week after recording it; the 12.7 million total doesn't include people who watched the episode on-line at the BBC web-site. The BBC did a fine job of promoting the new series, and Nick Utechin has reported that The Times gave the debut of "The Empty Hearse" a page-3 news story, a four-star review, a leader [editorial], and an amusing allusion in a political cartoon.

Overnight ratings for "His Last Vow" in the U.K. were 8.8 million viewers, and 31.9% share; for "The Empty Hearse" the numbers were 8.8 million viewers and a 32.1% share. The 12-month average for the time slot on BBC-1 was 4.9 million, and a 19.7% share, so both the BBC and the production company obviously are delighted with the audience response to the series.

There were all sorts of interesting homages to the Canon in the series, and the producers had some fun with casting: in "The Empty Hearse" there was a scene with Sherlock's parents visiting him, and his parents were played by Benedict Cumberbatch's parents Wanda Ventham and Timothy Carlton. In "His Last Vow" the young Sherlock Holmes was played Louis Moffat, son of series co-creator Steven Moffat.

And if you'd like to see more of Appledore (the evil Charles Augustus Magnussen's home), it's really the £30 million Swinhay House, the home of Sir David McMurtry. The Daily Mail had a well-illustrated story (Jan. 14) on the house <www.tinyurl.com/lhtosk9>.

As for the future, Steven Moffat has said that he and Mark Gatiss have already planned the future of the series. "We plotted out the whole of series four and five." And they hope that there won't be as long a wait for the fourth season as there was for the third.

Jan 14 #5 SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, by Jennifer Adams, illustrated by Alison Oliver (Layton: Gibbs Smith, 2013; 22 pp., \$9.99), is one of the titles in an imaginative BabyLit "Sounds Primer" series that's intended to help parents introduce the concept of sounds to their children. The sounds are for the toddlers, and the "literature" for the parents, by way of keeping them entertained <www.babylit.com>. The artwork's also available on prints and totes, and other authors in the series include Tolstoy, Dickens, Stoker, Melville, and Shakespeare.

I asked what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes? "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug") stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Smaug, and Martin Freeman as Bilbo Baggins.

Ray Betzner's new "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> is a delightfully lively exploration of Vincent Starrett and his Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian work. Those who visited the Morgan Library's exhibition on "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" and viewed the three copies of TAMERLANE AND OTHER POEMS (only 12 copies are known to exist) can learn from Ray about Starrett's connection with one of them.

Bob Byrne's "The Solar Pons Gazette" has returned, after a five-year hiatus, at <www.solarpons.com>, offering 44 pages about August Derleth and his delightful homage, which Vincent Starrett once described as "the best substitute for Sherlock Holmes known."

There now are 171 scripts available as free downloads from the Radio Script Library of the Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com>, six from the long-running "Sherlock Holmes" series (1939-1947).

Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE SPOOK LIGHTS AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2013; 250 pp., \$24.99), once again accompanied by Sherlock Holmes (or a man who claims to be Holmes), this time as a minor supporting character in an entertaining mystery.

The latest issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's The Sherlockian E-Times will be found at <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times14-1.html>, offering Sherlockian news, an explanation of a Sherlockathon, an announcement of the opening on Feb. 8 of the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" in Columbus, Ohio, after a successful run in Portland, and news that the annual Sherlock Holmes/Arthur Conan Doyle Symposium in Dayton, Ohio, has been relaunched by The Agra Treasurers as "Holmes, Doyle, & Friends" on Mar. 14-15. More information on the goings-on in Dayton is available from Martin Arbagi, whose e-mail address is <martin.arbagi@gmail.com>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" will run through Sept. 1 in Columbus, and then move to the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., from Oct. 9 through Jan. 4. It's scheduled next at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, opening Feb. 2, 2015, and at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., opening June 11. The exhibition web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>, and the web-site for the Coumbus visit is at <www.cosi.org/exhibits/sherlock>.

Jan 14 #6 I know: I asked what film, now in theaters nationwide, has actors who have played Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Mycroft Holmes, and the answer was ("The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"). But I didn't identify the actor who has played Mycroft Holmes; it's Stephen Fry, who played the Master of Lake-town (as well as Mycroft in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows").

"Hound of the Baskervilles" is a three-minute band composition written by Mekel Rogers and based on the final chase scene; designed for middle-school bands (because that's when students often read the story), it is available at <www.tinyurl.com/lchkydx>, where you can also listen to the piece.

It didn't take long: the new Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series, with Igor Petrenko as Holmes and Andrei Panin as Watson, is being subtitled in English. The first episode ("221B Baker Street"), broadcast in Russia on Nov. 18-19, was uploaded with sub-titles on Jan. 12, and you can watch it at <www.tinyurl.com/p733zry>.

Not for the squeamish: the blog of Barts Pathology Museum, which has an illustrated entry on the effects of wearing Victorian corsets, a discussion of The Death Salon, and much more, including a section on "Barts and Sherlock Holmes" <www.potts-pots.blogspot.co.uk>.

Further to the mention of John Dawson's "Conan Doyle/Sherlock Holmes Primary References in the Early Works of P. G. Wodehouse (through 1922)" (Nov 13 #5), the web-site Madame Eulalie's Rare Plums <www.madameulalie.org> has a link not only to the article (click on Notes & Lists), but also to text of all of those early works (click on Items by Publication). It's nice indeed to have Wodehouse's pre-1923 writings so readily available.

HOMES AND DR. WILLIAMS, by Roy S. Purcell (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2013; 339 pp., \$26.99), stars Stanley Homes (whose boyhood hero was Sherlock Holmes) and his companion Dr. Williams (a veterinarian). Homes opens a detective agency, with disastrous results, and the book is full of broad (very broad) humor.

Don Hobbs has discovered Novial, an artificial language devised by the Danish linguist Otto Jespersen in 1928. Similar to Esperanto and Ido, Novial seems to have no translations of the Canon, but there is a study guide for THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES on-line <www.en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Novial>.

Watson's Tin Box will host the seventh "A Scintillation of Scions" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Hanover, Md., June 6-7. It's an entertaining gathering of local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers, and details are available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724) <www.scintillation.org>. The event sold out last year, so you're advised to register sooner rather than later.

"Going Shopping, Honey? Be a Dear and Pick Up My Arsenic." That was the headline on the N.Y. Times preview of "American Experience: The Poisoner's Handbook" (broadcast by PBS-TV on Jan. 7). The program was based on Deborah Blum's book, which was published in 2010 with the imaginative subtitle "Murder and the Birth of Forensic Medicine in Jazz Age New York".

Jan 14 #7 Jayantika Ganguly describes THE HOLMES SUTRA (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 120 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) as a birthday gift for Sherlock Holmes, and for those who now thinking about the KAMA SUTRA, it should be noted that a sutra is a collection of aphorisms; Jay is general secretary and editor for The Sherlock Holmes Society of India, and she presents 160 aphorisms from the Canon and from other sources, with commentary, and with an imaginative "Holmes Mania Quotient Test".

SHERLOCK HOLMES: STUDIES IN LEGACY, by Luke Benjamin Kuhns (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 247 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95), has four short stories about Holmes and Watson's battle against a mysterious evil organization, and two bonus stories, one of which sets them in pursuit of Frankenstein's monster.

The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2013" has the theme "Anniversaries" and the authors range from Randy Cox ("My First Meeting with the Norwegian Explorers") to Dick Caplan ("An Anniversary Theme?") to Ruth Berman ("Sherlockian Governesses"). The 54-page booklet, edited by Timothy Reich, is available from John Bergquist (3665 Ashbury Road, Eagan, MN 55122); the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

Further to the mention (Dec 13 #5) of the link in Parade magazine to an online version of "The Blue Carbuncle" (on Dec. 22), the link received about 3,000 hits, presumably from people who hadn't read the story before (or had and were happy to have an easy way to read it again).

Otto Penzler has reported Gabe Hasbash's blog at Publishers Weekly (Jan. 8) about "The 9 Best Books That Don't Exist" <www.tinyurl.com/qyo83tp>, one of them being Prof. James Moriarty's THE DYNAMICS OF AN ASTEROID. Wikipedia has an entry for the book, and another for A TREATISE ON THE BINOMIAL THEOREM.

David Greenlee is offering his collection of Sherlockiana (with more than 300 books, booklets, pamphlets, magazines, cassettes, and records) as one lot, and a list is available from him at <sdgcollection@xemaps.com>.

Nicholas Utechin's COIN OF THE CANONICAL REALM is the first monograph from The John H. Watson Society; 50 pages, with an interesting discussion of the Canonical coins and notes and with full-color illustrations, and "then and now" comparisons of values. \$9.00 plus shipping, and you can order at the society's web-site <www.johnhwatsonssociety.com>.

An addendum to the obituary for Peter O'Toole (Dec 13 #3). He was reported to have been considered as a possible Holmes in three films: "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976), and "Murder by Decree" (1979).

Dramatic Publishing offers interesting Sherlockian and Doylean scripts, including "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" (by Kent R. Brown), "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" (by Suzan L. Zeder), "The Sign of the Four" (by Dr. Shanghai Low), "The Very Great Grandson of Sherlock Holmes" (by Bill Majeski), and "The Lost World" (by Nat Segaloff and John de Lancie for "Alien Voices"). 311 Washington Street, Woodstock, IL 60098 <www.dramaticpublishing.com>.

Jan 14 #8 The Times has reported (Dec. 3, 2013) that the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh has received a £2.7 million grant to re-develop its Surgeons' Hall Museum. The displays are to include the letter to Joseph Bell from Conan Doyle in which he wrote that "It is most certainly to you that I owe Sherlock Holmes." And a leather wallet made from the skin of the infamous murderer William Burke (as in Burke and Hare).

News from Laurie R. King, in the latest issue of her newsletter (News and Nonsense), which you can read at <www.tinyurl.com/klescba>. The title of the next Mary Russell novel is DREAMING SPIES; set in Japan and Oxford, it is due in Feb. 2015. Laurie has also published a Kindle edition of her BA thesis (FOOLISH WISDOM, 1977) and her MA thesis (FEMININE ASPECTS OF GOD, 1984), with a new introduction (Laurie calls herself a recovering academic, and you can see what she's recovering from); 99¢ at <www.amazon.com>.

The BBC now offers a "Sherlock: The Network" iPhone and iPad app, with more than 30 minutes of new video content, games, and a mystery to solve. £2.99 in the U.K. and \$4.99 in the U.S.; details at <www.sherlockthenetwork.com>.

The New York Society Library (at 53 East 79th Street) has an exhibition on "From the Western Front and Beyond: The Writings of World War One" through Nov. 15 that displays books by members of the Wellington House, described as "a secret arm of the British Foreign Office" that included Conan Doyle and 25 other well-known authors "who were recruited to create propaganda on behalf of the Allied forces," according to an article in DNAinfo New York (Jan. 24). "Wellington House" was the informal name of the War Propaganda Bureau.

A. Brad Schwartz's interesting contribution to the blog "Sounding Out!" on Jan. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/lce34zc> discusses and contrasts (with audio) Orson Welles' performances as Holmes and Moriarty, and explores the influences of the Canon on Welles' career.

Some additional news about the BBC series "Sherlock": The Wrap has reported that Benedict Cumberbatch, executive producer Stephen Moffat, and his wife producer Sue Vertue were at the Television Critics Association press tour on Jan. 20. Moffat said that Ben Stephenson, head of drama at the BBC, has commissioned the series for 50 years, and that it will continue "until Benedict gets too famous." Vertue commented that "he gets precious and just doesn't want to do it," and Cumberbatch said that he's not in any danger of burning out in the role, as some of his predecessors had, noting that "I'm younger than any of them were or are."

Welcome to our new postage rates, now 49¢/ounce (domestic) and \$1.15 (international); the old rates were 46¢ (domestic) and \$1.10 (international). The new subscription rates for the ink-on-paper version of this newsletter are \$12.50 (domestic) and \$20.50 (international). You're also welcome to read the electronic version without charge (and with illustrations in color and live URLs) at the Red Circle's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/d8uoo80> or at Willis Frick's Sherlocktron <www.tinyurl.com/kl9gc11>.

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

Feb 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

A bit more on the birthday festivities: "Baker Street Irregulars Turns 80" was the headline on the story by Peter Cannon's story in Publishers Weekly (Jan. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/lmogyj5>. And Amanada Hopluch's story on "Sherlockians Gather as Americans Get the Chance to View the Latest BBC Series" ran in the Guardian (Jan. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/ks5e4bq>.

The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2013 Christmas Annual is "Disaster at the New Century" (it's now in the hands of subscribers to the BSJ, and not otherwise available unless you can find it at eBay or wherever), and it offers the text of Ouida Rathbone's "Sherlock Holmes: A New Play in Three Acts" (1953), published for the first time ever, with a fine introduction by Nicholas Utechin. The 2014 Christmas Annual will be Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty's tribute to Douglas Wilmer, also available only to subscribers to the BSJ. \$38.50 (to the U.S.) or \$49.00 (elsewhere) for four issues and the Annual; 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>.

The latest volume in the Baker Street Irregulars Manuscript Series is IRREGULAR STAIN, edited by Robert Katz and Andrew Solberg, with a facsimile of the original manuscript of "The Second Stain", an annotated transcript, history, commentary, and artwork. The commentary includes Bob Katz's explanation of why Lancaster Avenue is second only to Baker Street in importance for Sherlockians, a facsimile of the only known galleys for a Sherlock Holmes story, and an explanation by John Baesch and William Walsh of their belief that Holmes attended Haverford rather than Oxford or Cambridge. 188 pp., \$39.95; details, including the table of contents and a brief excerpt, are at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/stain.html>.

Also from the BSI is THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, edited by Joel M. Silver; it's the proceedings of a conference at the Lilly Library in 2009 that focused almost entirely on Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work, and it's nice indeed to have a chance to read some excellent papers. 138 pp., \$35.00; details at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/characters.html>. The books can also be ordered by mail (checks payable to The Baker Street Irregulars) from Michael H. Kean, 3040 Stroat Road, Pebble Beach, CA 93593; shipping costs for one book are \$5.95 (to the U.S.)/\$22.95 elsewhere, and for two books are \$7.45/\$27.95.

"Oggy et les cafards: Le film" ["Oggy and the Cockroaches: The Film"] is a French animation <www.tinyurl.com/lnl2wx9> that had its premiere in France last year and is scheduled in the U.S. on June 27. Jennie Paton discovered a 26-minute Sherlockian sequence at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/ltyb3hq>. If you want to see the entire film, it's at <www.tinyurl.com/kntjau9>.

"Sherlock Holmes Is Alive and Well!" notes a recent blog from the University of Texas <www.tinyurl.com/kp8vcz2>, offering excellent scans of some of the rare items at the Harry Ransom Center. Images of original Sherlockian artwork by Sidney Paget are spectacular, showing how much was lost when the engraving were made. Last year the center launched a new on-line collection that includes Holmes highlights (links are provided in the blog).

Feb 14 #2 Many admirers of Sherlock Holmes also admire Nero Wolfe, whose creator Rex Stout was an excellent writer as well as an enthusiastic Sherlockian; Stout's Nero Wolfe series has been continued by Robert Goldsborough, whose most recent book is MURDER IN THE BALL PARK, just published by the Mysterious Press <www.tinyurl.com/kfwag2d>. There was a long interview with Goldsborough by J. Kingston Pierce at his blog The Rap Sheet on Jan. 21 <www.therapsheet.blogspot.com>.

THE ONE FIXED POINT IN A CHANGING AGE: A NEW GENERATION ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2014; 271 pp. \$24.95) is a resounding refutation of the often-seen lament that a younger generation of Sherlockians has nothing to offer the Sherlockian world beyond youth and enthusiasm; edited by Kristina Manente, Maria Heischhack, Sarah Roy, and Taylor Blumberg, and with an apt introduction by Laurie R. King, the essays collected in the book offer insightful scholarship into the Canon as well as its modern manifestations. It also is interesting to see how many of the sources cited are from Internet archives, blogs, and YouTube; "the times they are a-changin'" for scholars, too.

Also from Gasogene: Ann Margaret Lewis' THE WATSON CHRONICLES: A SHERLOCK HOLMES NOVEL IN STORIES (2014; 283 pp., \$22.95), with six connected stories that begin in 1900 as Holmes contemplates retirement and offer an interesting view of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, and Watson; the stories are told with sentiment and imagination. Gasogene is at Box 63808, Indianapolis, IN 46268 <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

The admirers of the writings of Jules Verne are dedicated indeed: the North American Jules Verne Society <www.najvs.org> is publishing a long series of his books, plays, and articles, many translated into English for the first time. BANDITS & REBELS (Albany: BearManor Fiction, 2013; 214 pp., \$19.95) includes his "The Siege of Rome" (a historical adventure in the tradition of Alexandre Dumas), with series editor Brian Taves' comment that Verne, in 1857, reviewed a painting with that title by Horace Vernet, noted as a relation of Sherlock Holmes.

Conan Doyle also admired Verne's works, and read some of them in French at Stonyhurst at the age of 14, encountering the Nautilus long before he wrote "Danger!" (1914). BANDITS & REBELS also has the first story ("San Carlos") Verne wrote about submarines, long before he wrote TWENTY THOUSAND LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA.

Steve Kious' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CRATER LAKE ADVENTURE (Mechanicsburg: Sunbury Press, 2013; 132 pp., \$9.99) has Holmes and Watson to Paris in 1896 to solve a mystery for Jules Verne, and then Holmes, Watson, and Verne visit Oregon to investigate a mysterious flying machine; lots of local history and geography.

One of the nice films screened at the "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen" conference at UCLA in 2012 was Eille Norwood's silent "The Sign of Four" (1923); Jennie Paton has reported that you can see some clips from the film at <www.vimeo.com/84890479>. Russ Merritt notes that there also are clips from "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (which suggests that additional films have been found).

Feb 14 #3 Maria Konnikova's MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #4) has been nominated for an Agatha (best nonfiction) at Malice Domestic. Also nominated in the same category is Daniel Stashower's THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR (Dan has explained that he was not able to persuade his publisher to include a mention of Sherlock Holmes in the book).

Benedict Cumberbatch has recorded a segment for "Sesame Street" appearing with his arch-nemesis Murray-arty; there's no word on when the segment will air, but in the meantime you can watch it at <www.youtube.com/pf6gfkfb>.

Further to the mention (Jan 14 #5) of Bob Byrne's web-site for admirers of Solar Pons <www.solarpons.com>, he also has a mailing list for occasional announcements about Solar Pons; if you'd like to be on his mailing list, he is at <bob@solarpons.com>.

The second issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published in January, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with what they describe as "history, mystery, and science," including reviews and an interesting article by Elizabeth T. Gray Jr. (on "A Case of Identity: Holmes and Hafiz"). \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).

"Your Friend Elle" has offered some imaginative Sherlock Holmes Party Ideas at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lhsz8ks>, with a ReichenBingo Falls game and a cake decorated to match the wallpaper at 221B Baker Street.

Terminally cute? Waffles is a ginger cat who has his own web-site and many fans, including someone who has supplied artwork showing Waffles dressed as nine different characters in the "Sherlock" series; you can find "Sherlick Holmews" at <www.tinyurl.com/m3yrlhh>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE MODERN CINDERELLA, by Thomas Owen (Amazon Digital Services, 2013; 53 pp., \$5.95), presents Holmes and Watson in an Edwardian version of the classic fairy tale.

John Aidiniantz, who founded the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Baker Street in 1990, is in the news again: according to the Daily Mail (Jan. 18) he is using money from the Sherlock Holmes Museum in a bid to win a reversal for a convicted murderer <www.tinyurl.com/16s7qaa>. Last year he was sued by his mother Grace over control of almost £2 million in admission fees from the Museum (Mar 13 #5), but he has now told the paper he had settled the case and is good terms with his mother.

When in Houston: there's a new Baker Street Pub & Grill in Cypress (a suburb of Houston) <www.tinyurl.com/mykkboa>, offering 40 taps with about 96 different beers, and a lengthy happy hour.

Further to earlier mentions of a Lego minifigure of Sherlock Holmes (Sep 11 #4) and someone's Lego recreation of the sitting-room at 221B (Sep 13 #4), a CNET story (Feb. 4) reports that Lego is considering the possibility of a set of "Sherlock" minifigures as one of six Winter Lego Review qualifiers. And they're colorful indeed <www.tinyurl.com/k3cgdtf>.

Feb 14 #4 Phil Attwell has reported some news from a story in Radio Times (Feb. 8) about the magazine's Covers Party: "Doc Martin" stars Caroline Catz and Martin Clunes had a new project to announce: they're making Julian Barnes' book ARTHUR AND GEORGE into a two-parter for ITV, coming out in 2015. None of the other entertainment web-sites have anything about this, but we'll see if anything develops.

Kelly Blau spotted a story headlined "His Friends Know Him as Petrowskovicovick" in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/mlpg8pn> that reports that other Brazilians are oddly named: "A strange name like Sherlock Holmes da Silva, pronounced SHARE-Lockee WHOLE-mess in Brazil, certainly does have a distinctive ring to it."

The winter issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors the Brigadier Gerard, celebrating the Library's acquisition of the manuscript of "The Marriage of the Brigadier" with articles by admirers of one of the most interesting characters created by Sir Arthur. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The 2012 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Roy Pilot (on "The Lost World Revisited"), and his remarks have been 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. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability), or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$25.00 brings three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2013 Memorial Lecture (by Bernard Lightman on "Conan Doyle and the Scientific Naturalists").

The Library will celebrate the opening of its new Arthur Conan Doyle Room on May 9, and Lyndsay Faye will deliver this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"); details at <www.acdfriends.org/events.htm>.

When in Reading: Denny Dobry has for many years welcomed those who want to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street in his home in Reading, Pa. <www.facebook.com/221binReading>, and he is holding an open house on Apr. 26, 1:00 to 6:00 pm. You can contact him to RSVP and to ask for directions <dendobry@ptd.net>.

Barbara Hicks died on Sept. 6. She had a long career in supporting roles, and many fans (her obituary in The Times, noted that Mel Brooks considered her the funniest woman he had ever met); she played Emily Garrideb in Granada's "The Mazarin Stone" (1994).

Andrew Malec has noted Denis Gohin's splendid archive of illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, and in full color, on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/lnuolf6>, and that there is additional Steele artwork in the Cabinet of American Illustration at the Library of Congress web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/laua5r5> and at Paul Giambarba's web-site devoted to "100 Years of Illustration and Design" <www.tinyurl.com/l3nsghx>.

Feb 14 #5 Plans to name a South Norwood lake in honor of Conan Doyle (Dec 13 #3) were unofficially successful, with 100 supporters gathering on Feb. 1 for a ceremony that also included enjoy Morris dancing and poetry. The Croydon Council's head of public safety refused to give formal approval, but the South Norwood Tourist Board is nevertheless proud of Lake Conan Doyle.

"The Ambience & Residents on Baker Street" will be the theme of this year's "Gathering of Southern Sherlockians" in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Apr. 26-27; details are available from Kent Ross at <kenthross@gmail.com>. The Wigmore Street Post Office will also meet in Chattanooga on Apr. 25; their contact is Dave Milner <dmycroft@bellsouth.net>.

Some who visited New York for the birthday festivities were able to see the spectacular "Edgar Allan Poe: Terror of the Soul" exhibition at the Morgan Library, where one could view three of the twelve known copies of the first edition of TAMERLANE AND OTHER POEMS, quite likely together for the first time since they were printed in 1827. Many items displayed were from the collection of Susan Jaffe Tane, who contributed "A Poe Collector's Memoir" to the catalog; she's a fine writer and an interesting collector, and you can learn more about her at <www.tinyurl.com/mh5fzo7> (click on "biographies" and "exhibition catalog introduction").

"Sherlock Holmes Returns from the Dead" was the headline on a France24 story (Jan. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/myy4wpn>, notable for a delightful photograph of Ed Johnson performing as a living statue near King's Cross Station in London. There's video at YouTube of the opening ceremony of the living-statues area in King's Cross Square on Sept. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/ln84785>. Careful readers will recall that the station is mentioned by Sherlock Holmes in the Canon: "King's Cross Station," said he (in "The Missing Three Quarter"). There's another important series of stories that mention King's Cross, where Harry Potter and his friends board the Hogwarts Express, and where fans can now have their pictures taken at Platform 9-¾.



If you're wondering about which king was commemorated at the cross, it was King George IV, whose statue stood from 1830 to 1845 at the crossroads of Gray's Inn Road, Pentonville Road, and New Road (now known as Euston Road). And there are allusions to him in the Canon: he served as the Prince Regent before becoming king and the Regency is mentioned in three stories.

The Beacon Society <www.beaconsociety.com> offers Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that will introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes; the deadline for grant applications is May 1; details are available at the web-site and from Alan Devitt <adevitt@comcast.net>.

Oscar Ross spotted an article in The Sunday Times (Jan. 26) about a pair of teenage sweethearts who ran away from Stonyhurst College to the Dominican Republic, where they lived off their parents' credit cards until the police traced them to the five-star Punta Cana resort. What's of interest is that Stonyhurst now costs £30,000 a year; Conan Doyle attended the school from 1867 to 1875 (no one seems to know what it cost at that time).

Feb 14 #6 Simon Vance, winner of many awards for his audiobooks, has recorded more than 700 books over the last 20 years, and you can sample some of them at his web-site <www.simonvance.com>; Of particular interest to Sherlockians is his new THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Grand Haven: Brilliance Audio, 2013; 50 CDs, 59 hours, \$99.99). It's unabridged and nicely done indeed: Vance has an excellent voice and pays careful attention to the text and the various characters.

"Baker Street Vienna" is a Sherlock Holmes convention planned for June 14-15 in (of course) Vienna <www.bakerstreetvienna.at>; the convention will be bilingual (German and English), and registration is open now.

The CBS-TV series "Elementary" is about to set some records: when the second season ends, Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have played Holmes and Watson 48 times (more than any actors on film and television); Jeremy Brett played Holmes 41 times in the Granada series. "Elementary" also will have aired for 48 hours (another record); the Granada series ran for 46 hours. And it's possible that there's a third record: according to the Hollywood Reporter (Feb. 14), the network will receive about \$3 million per episode from a just-signed agreement that covers cable (WGN America), subscription-video-on-demand (Hulu Plus), and an unnamed broadcast component.

Anthony Hinds died on Sept. 30. He had a long career in the film industry, and made Hammer Studios famous for a series of horror films that often featured Peter Cushing and Christopher Lee; one of them was "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1959). Hinds also wrote a three-act dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982), and (as John Elder) the script for "The Masks of Death" (1984).



NPW (the retail division of Natural Products and Worldwide) <www.npw.co.uk> has created an amusing set of "Great Literary Moustaches" (£4.95) that anyone can wear, thanks to the adhesive backing; look for them on-line at Amazon. Conan Doyle is at the right in the second row (and the others are Shakespeare, Kipling, Hemingway, Twain, and Orwell).

Vincent J. Cirillo's interesting discussion of "Arthur Conan Doyle: (1859-1930): Physician During the Typhoid Epidemic in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902)" in the Journal of Medical Biography (Feb. 2014) covers new ground in Conan Doyle's medical career; copies are available by e-mail from the author <vjcirillo@optonline.net>.

Further to British prime minister David Cameron's discussion of "Sherlock" (Dec 13 #6), The Times reported (Jan. 29) he was interviewed on BBC Radio 2 and said that he had received the boxed DVD set of "Elementary" from Father Christmas. "That was good of Father Christmas," he added, "Good pick."

That earlier item noted that the headline on a story in Radio Times (Dec. 9) read "Chinese fans go potty for the BBC's Sherlock." That seems to be true: according to the Shanghai Daily (Jan. 25), after "The Empty Hearse" debuted on the video web-site Youku.com the program was viewed more than 5 million times in the first two hours. And there now is a cafe named Sherlock on Ruijin Road South in Shanghai.

Feb 14 #7 WHO THINKS EVIL, by Michael Kurland (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 286 pp., \$25.99), is the latest in his delightful series about Professor Moriarty, offering great fun as well as a good story. Sherlock Holmes appears as a supporting character, and so does Mycroft, but as usual it's Moriarty who's responsible for solving the mystery. The author's website is at <www.michaelkurland.com>.



The Sherlock Holmes Hospitality Group owns five pubs in Edmonton (Alberta) <www.sherlockshospitality.com>: Duggan's Boundary Pub, the Rose and Crown Pub, and three pubs all called The Sherlock Holmes. Their first Sherlock Holmes pub was opened in 1985.

Laurie King and Dan Stashower discussed "The Enduring Popularity of Sherlock Holmes" on "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" on WAMU-FM on Feb. 13, and you can listen to a podcast (and read a transcript) at <www.tinyurl.com/k8kwp7s>.

Sid Caesar died on Feb. 12. A master of television sketch comedy on "The Admiral Broadway Review" (1949), "Your Show of Shows" (1950-1954), "Caesar's Hour" (1954-1957), and "Sid Caesar Invites You" (1958), he went on to star on stage and screen; he was nominated for an Emmy every year from 1951 to 1958, and won the award twice. There's a report that when Basil Rathbone appeared on "Sid Caesar Invites You", Caesar introduced him as "Sherlock Holmes".



The Lion's Mane is a giant jellyfish, but apparently not as large as it appears in this photograph (the diver can be seen at the left); the photograph was posted by Craig McClain to Deep Sea News <www.deepseanews.com> on Jan. 23, 2012, with his explanation that the Lion's Mane is "really big, just not that big."

Lisa Daniely died on Jan. 24. She made her film debut in "Lilli Marlene" (1951) and went on to a long career with roles that included Queen Elizabeth II in "Princess in Love" (1996). She also played Nancy Barclay in the Granada version of "The Crooked Man" (1984).

A company called Nightlight Designs offers an imaginative Sherlock Holmes Pub Nightlight (\$17.99 with light) <www.tinyurl.com/m5xy7jm>; you can also find it at Amazon.

Jennie Paton spotted an interesting 56-minute video interview with Benedict Cumberbatch at BAFTA New York on Feb. 13 <www.vimeo.com/87020140>; he discusses "Sherlock" and much more. BAFTA is the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, which holds events in New York from time to time.

Asked about the future of "Sherlock" in an interview with Assignment X on Jan. 31, co-creator Stephen Moffat said that "I can envision doing it for a while--quite a while." He added that eventually he'll stop doing "Doctor Who" but he imagines that "we'll come back and do 'Sherlock' fairly often for many years, rather than very often for a few years." You can read the entire interview at <www.tinyurl.com/kfwgctcg>. Assignment X also offers an interview with Benedict Cumberbatch on Jan. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/lrts36q>.

Feb 14 #8 The Portsmouth City Council has been reported to be considering a proposal to create a £25 million "world-class visitor attraction" in the city. According to the Portsmouth News (Feb. 17), Steve Pitt, of Portsmouth Cultural Partnership, which came up with the idea, said "what we are talking about is a world-class Sherlock Holmes experience." There was a flurry of publicity in the British press, but there was no confirmation of actual planning for the project other than the publicity.

Joseph W. Moran ("Sir Augustus Moran, C.B.") died on Feb. 18. Joe was an actuary for the N.Y. Life Insurance Co., a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and for more than 30 years a member of The Three Garridebs. He delighted in defending the memory of the much maligned Col. Sebastian Moran. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1991.

Pop-up books can be delightful works of art, and there is now one that is properly Sherlockian: THE ILLUSTRATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (San Diego: Canterbury Classics, 2013; 58 pp., \$19.95) is nicely illustrated in full color by Chris Coady and contains two stories ("A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Blue Carbuncle") with eight splendid pop-up creations. Recommended.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ESSENTIAL MYSTERIES IN ONE SITTING, by Jennifer Kasius (Philadelphia: Running Press, 2013; 207 pp., \$5.95), offers capsule summaries in a miniature edition (2½ by 3 in.) of a dozen Canonical tales, along with descriptions of the characters and settings.

Also from the Running Press: Denis O. Smith's THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF THE LOST CHRONICLES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 503 pp., \$13.95), with a dozen nicely-plotted stories (most of them new). There's a British edition from Constable & Robinson (£8.99).

Some theater news: L. Don Swartz's new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed at the Ghostlight Theatre in North Tona-wanda, N.Y. through Mar. 9 <www.starrynighttheatre.com>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is on at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla., through Mar. 16 <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>. Katie For-gette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is being produced at Theatre Suburbia in Houston, Tex., through Mar. 22 <www.theatresuburbia.org>. Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has been scheduled at the Chatham Playhouse in Chatham, N.J., Mar. 7-22 <www.chathamplayers.org>. Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at Loyola University New Orleans, Mar. 14-22 <www.tinyurl.com/l9q5emb>, and his adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" will be produced in Owasso, Okla., Apr. 10-12 <www.octok.org>.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (aka The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) will honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Black Labrador in Houston on Apr. 9, when local Sherlockians will have a chance to meet geologists who are in town for the annual meeting of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists; if you would like to attend the festivities, just let me know.

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

Mar 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sorry about that: it's on May 3 that the Toronto Public Library will celebrate the opening of its new Arthur Conan Doyle Room, with Lyndsay Faye delivering this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Storytelling and the Passion of the Narrator"); details can be found at www.acdfriends.org/events.htm.

The saga continues: the Conan Doyle Estate has filed its appeal against the judge's ruling (Dec 13 #1) that Les Klinger (and everyone else) can use the Sherlock Holmes characters and story elements in the 50 stories now in the public domain without permission from the Estate, arguing that the judge's ruling was erroneous. You can read the Estate's brief (53 pages, plus 35 pages of appendix) at www.free-sherlock.com; click on "Court Filings" and then scroll down to the last entry. And yes, it's called a brief (I've no idea how long a document can be before the lawyers no longer are allowed to call it a brief). Les Klinger's brief is due the first week in April, and the Estate gets to file a reply, and Les then files a reply to the reply. Oral arguments may take place in May.

Computer games get only passing mentions here, because I don't play them, but Frogwares Studio has a continuing series, the most recent being "Crimes & Punishments: Sherlock Holmes"; you see what they're like at YouTube, because people have made videos walking you through the games; if you'd like to see the previous game in the series, go to www.youtube.com and search for [testament of sherlock holmes walkthrough].

Having said that, Maureen Mosher recommends a simpler game called "Sherlock Holmes Escape" available (without charge) at Nickelodeon's Addicting Games web-site www.tinyurl.com/mk82nju.

Tom and Marie O'Day noted a report from Michael Allan Mallory at the DOROTHY-L mailing list linking to Denise Martin's interesting story on "Steven Moffat Explains the Origins Sherlock's Best-Man Speech" on-line in Vulture (Jan. 27) www.tinyurl.com/knzhy7m.

"The Secrets of Sherlock's Mind Palace" is the title of an interesting discussion by Sarah Zielinski, who suggests that the memory technique was invented by the ancient Greeks; you can read the piece on-line at the Smithsonian magazine web-site www.tinyurl.com/lrtua6y.

Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 100 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and bibliographic information; the bibliography on a CD costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.)/\$20.00 (elsewhere), or free to those who report something not already in the bibliography).

"Sherlock Holmes Under the Magnifying Glass" is the Smithsonian Associates title for what they call "A Conan Doyle Birthday Celebration" scheduled at the Ripley Center in Washington on May 22. Dan Stashower will discuss both Holmes and Conan Doyle, and Scott Sedar will read from some classic Conan Doyle works. Tickets are available on-line at www.tinyurl.com/mkpwof2.

Mar 14 #2 A collection of John Lennon manuscripts will go to auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 4. According to a story in the N.Y. Times (Feb. 25), the material is from the collection of Tom Maschler, who in the 1960s was the literary director of Jonathan Cape, Lennon's publisher in Britain. The highlight of the material is the manuscript of "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (a parody that was published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS in 1965, and featured Shamrock Wolmbs and Doctored Whopper), with an estimate of \$70,000. And Lennon's original artwork for the illustrations for the story also will be in the sale. You can read the parody on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/7sfdvrl>.

Ray Majors has written a new song "The 7% Solution" on an album of the same name, released on Jan. 14 by Angel Air Records as a CD (£9.35/\$18.41) and as an MP3 download. Now in his 5th decade as a guitarist, Majors has survived stage 3 throat cancer, and having experienced the numbing qualities of painkillers during his treatment, recalled Sherlock Holmes' recreational use of cocaine.

Wikipedia Portals are useful entry points to Wikipedia content, and there now are 1,132 portals on Wikipedia, one of them Sherlockian; you can find the Holmes Portal at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Sherlock_Holmes>, and it's well worth exploring.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of ten stamps honoring the 150th anniversary of Middlesex County Cricket Club; it was in 1877 that Lord's Cricket Ground in St. John's Wood became the club's permanent home ground, and it remains the club's home today. Lord's, of course, has special significance for Sherlockians: in 1946 Dorothy L. Sayers wrote (in her Foreword to UN-POPULAR OPINIONS) that "The rule of the game is that it must be played as solemnly as a county cricket match at Lord's." You can see an image of the sheet of stamps at <www.tinyurl.com/kbcdk6q>.

"Urlach Holmes" is "the greatest football detective" in an amusing 5-minute segment that aired on Fox Football Daily on Mar. 4, starring Brian Urlacher (who played 13 seasons with the Chicago Bears) <www.tinyurl.com/ljfc3b>. Thanks to Jennie C. Paton, who spotted the video.



Ken Lanza spotted a mention of an interesting collectible: "Walther. Carl Walther" is the title of an article by Mark Keefe in the American Rifleman (Oct. 2013) <www.tinyurl.com/mdxx7bq>. According to Keefe, in 1979 a company called Umarex made a blank-firing revolver sold in a book-shaped package with a magnifying glass and paid the Conan Doyle heirs 25¢ for each set sold; according to the Umarex web-site <www.tinyurl.com/l69mwfj>, where you will find an image of the set, it sold at a rate of 80,000 a year.

Mar 14 #3 Readers will have noted that I make use of <www.tinyurl.com> to avoid the long strings of characters (letters and numerals) in URLs. The company uses 33 characters, so there are some 42 billion encoded URLs available; they're not going to run out soon. They're certainly useful: I see that I used 24 of them in the February issue. TinyURL, launched in 2002, was the first company to offer this sort of service, but there are many others in the field now.

Further to reports on the film "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" announced by Rocket Pictures some time ago (Mar 12 #6 and Sep 12 #2) as a sequel to their "Gnomeo and Juliet" (2011), the company filed a trademark application for "Sherlock Gnomes" last year, and the Conan Doyle Estate is opposing it. The new film, still "in production," was reported to have Gnomeo and Juliet enlisting the help of Sherlock Gnomes, the world's greatest ornamental detective, when gnomes start disappearing from the suburban gardens of England.

Ross Husband died on Jan. 2. His pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE MASTER ENGRAVER (Dec 13 #5) was the first of six novels in a planned series titled "The Revival of Sherlock Holmes".

The Pioneer Drama Service <www.pioneerdrama.com> continues to publish plays for production by schools and community theater groups: their first was Tim Kelly's "Sherlock Meets the Phantom" (1975), and their latest is Craig Sodar's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" (2012).

Playscripts Inc. <www.playscripts.com> offers two scripts: "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" (by Katie Forgette) and "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (adapted by Marcia Milgrom Dodge and Anthony Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel); \$8.99 each.

Further to an earlier report of a Sherlock Holmes slot machine (Dec 10 #1), Dan Andriacco has spotted one of the machines at a casino in the U.S.; the machine's made by Aristocrat <www.aristocrat-us.com/#!/sherlock/c1102>.

The latest Sherlockian audio from Big Finish is a set titled THE ORDEALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, containing four one-hour adventures ("The Guttering Candle", "The Gamekeeper's Folly", "The Bermondsey Cutthroats", and "The Sowers of Despair"); the stories are written by Nicholas Barnes and performed by a cast that includes Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson. They're nicely done indeed, and are available as 4 CDs (\$48.87) and as a download (\$25.00); P.O. Box 3787, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 3TF, England, or <www.bigfinish.com>. The web-site also has downloadable copies of the company's monthly magazine Vortex, as well as information about their other Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian recordings.

Peter A. Ruber ("Camden House") died on Mar. 6. He was an executive with the advertising agency Kenyon & Eckhardt in the 1960s, when his enthusiasms included Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, Vincent Starrett, and August Derleth; he edited and published four issues of The Baker Street Gasogene in 1961 and 1962, and continued with a series of pamphlets and books that culminated with THE LAST BOOKMAN, a tribute to Starrett published in 1968. He received his Investiture from Baker Street Irregulars in 1964.

Mar 14 #4 "The Musical Sherlock Holmes: A Bloody Game" was performed at the BBC Theater in Sinsa-dong, Korea, with 36 performances in March, directed by Noh Woo-sung and starring Song Yong-jin and Kim Do-Hyun (alternating as Holmes) and Lee Young-Mi (Jane Watson); you can read about it in the Korea JoongAng Daily <www.tinyurl.com/n77e7hh>. It's the second Sherlock Holmes musical in Korea: "Sherlock Holmes: The Secret of the Anderson Family" was performed in 2011 (Nov 11 #2); there's a 3-minute clip from that show available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/l12bu6y>.

Alexander Orlov has noted an entry at KinoPoisk (it's also at the Internet Movie Data Base) about "Sherlock Holmes and the Saint Ax Colossus" (scheduled for 2015; there's little information there other than mentions of the company Adventurous Arts, Doug Elliott (producer), and Aaron Webster (producer and writer), and no information at all found anywhere else.

"A Cottage on Dartmoor" (aka "Escape from Dartmoor") is a British 87-minute 1929 silent film notable for some gloomy exteriors shot on Dartmoor; it was spotted by Greg Darak on a DVD issued by Kino International (2007); the DVD also has "Silent Britain" (2006), an 88-minute documentary produced by the British Film Institute for BBC-4. "Silent Britain" is notable for a 2-minute segment about Oswald Stoll and the Eille Norwood films, with a tinted and toned clip from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921); the BFI owns a copy of the film, but has not released it on cassette or DVD.

Larry Millett's latest mystery novel is STRONGWOOD (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014; 265 pp., \$24.95); it's a complicated and interesting story, nicely told with excerpts from newspapers, trial transcripts, diaries, and letters: Addie Strongwood is on trial for murder in 1904, and her lawyer is assisted by Shadwell Rafferty and his friends Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. The author's web-site is at <www.larrymillett.com>.

It's not Sherlockian, but: "Bees Saal Baad" [Twenty Years After] is an Indian 158-minute film produced by Geetanjali Pictures and released in 1962. It's obvious that Dhruva Chatterjee, who wrote the story, was familiar with THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, and you can see for yourself, since the film is available (with subtitles) on a Bollywood Entertainment DVD, and in Hindi only from other companies.

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals Charitable Foundation is attempting to set a world record for the largest gathering of people dressed as Sherlock Holmes <www.sherlockworldrecord.com>; the challenge will be held at Temple Newsam in Leeds on Aug. 31 to help raise funds for a new Yorkshire Brain Research Centre, and you can read more about it at their web-site, where you can also enter a raffle to win signed memorabilia from the "Sherlock" television series. Thanks to the Baker Street Babes for the alert; their interesting web-site and podcast can be found at <www.bakerstreetbabes.tumblr.com>.

Barry S. Brown's MRS. HUDSON IN THE RING (Santa Fe: Sunstone Press, 2014; 266 pp., \$22.95), is the third in his "Mrs. Hudson of Baker Street" series, in which Mrs. Hudson does the real detecting, with assistance from Holmes and Watson, this time in a case involving old-style boxing, Lillie Langtry, and murder (Mrs. Hudson gets to go undercover, so to speak, as the Jersey Lily's ladies maid).

Mar 14 #5 Steampunk is a modern Victorian science-fiction genre generally set in alternative universes, and it includes some interesting pastiches: one of them is SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE CASE OF THE MAN-MADE VACUUM, by Roy C. Booth and Nicholas Johnson, from the Harren Press (2014; 78 pp., \$5.39), in which a mechanically enhanced Holmes appears with Jack the Ripper and the Baroness von Frankenstein.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES ANIMATED COLLECTION, released by Liberation Entertainment in 2007 (\$29.99) is a boxed set of the four animated versions of the long stories that were produced in Australia in the 1980s by Burbank Films, with Peter O'Toole providing the voice of Sherlock Holmes. Slightly cheaper at Amazon, with a chance to save some money on all four DVDs.

Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#62) is "Inside the BSI Weekend" <www.tinyurl.com/p3zoqm6> and it includes interviews with people who attended the birthday festivities in New York, among them Art Levine (who has been attending the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinners since 1954).

Vaughn Entwistle's THE REVENANT OF THRAXTON HALL (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 322 pp., \$25.99) is the first novel in his series taken from "the paranormal casebooks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle," and it involves Conan Doyle (who is dealing with readers upset by his decision to kill off Sherlock Holmes) and Oscar Wilde in an investigation of a murder that hasn't yet been committed and that involves Daniel Dunglas Home, and to Society for Psychical Research, some weird goings on in the English countryside. The author has a web-site at <www.vaughnentwistle.com>.

"Solves Circus Murder! Who killed Felipe, the Lion Tamer? Even the indefatigable Sherlock Holmes is worn with worry because of the important yet stubborn supernatural clue!" That's the promotion for a Rathbone/Bruce radio program, sponsored by the Petri Wine Company, in a newspaper advertisement possibly published in 1944. But which program was it? Which program involved the murder of Felipe?

Now offered at the Baker Street Journal web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kac3ros> is "The Texas Set" (\$185.00); the limited-edition boxed set contains copies of BOHEMIAN SOULS and THE WRONG PASSAGE (about the two manuscripts at the University of Texas) in special bindings, together with a pamphlet with indexes to the two books.

Francine Kitts has reported "Sherlock's Great Afghan Adventure Mystery Read & Knit-Along" created by Susan Woodley at Ravelry; it's a year-long project with a different pattern each month inspired by one of the stories, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/jvu2y72>.

The Cedars Spiritualist Church in Ipswich, where Conan Doyle attended seances in the 1920s, was offered at auction on Mar. 5, estimated at £500,000 to £700,000, according to the Daily Mail (Feb. 24); the newspaper story has pictures of the building <www.tinyurl.com/ktgnabf>. The building went unsold at the auction, but was sold afterward for £500,000; you can see more images at the auction-house web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oefmgr6>.

Mar 14 #6 Clarissa Dickson Wright died on Mar. 15. She became famous on the irreverent cooking show "Two Fat Ladies" broadcast by the BBC and the Food Network from 1996 to 1999, when her partner Jennifer Paterson died (Aug 99 #3); she also appeared on "Clarissa and the Countryman" from 2000 to 2003, and her BBC News obituary <www.tinyurl.com/mk5416e>, reported by Scott Monty, included a photograph of her wearing a deerstalker.

The Two Fat Ladies enjoyed traveling on a motorcycle and sidecar for their programs. Scott recalls that in the episode "Barristers at Lincoln's Inn" Clarissa said "Turn into Queer Street, Jennifer," to which Jennifer replied "They probably call it Gay Street now." "Not that sort of queer," Clarissa explained, "It's because the bankruptcy courts are here." And that reminded Scott of Lestrade telling a constable (in "The Second Stain") that "It's lucky for you, my man, that nothing is missing, or you would find yourself in Queer Street."

"Nothing on Earth Can Hold Houdini" opened at the Axis Theater in New York on Feb. 27, and runs through Apr. 5 <www.axiscompany.org>; it's a new play by Randall Sharp, and stars George Demas (Houdini) and Spencer Aste (Arthur Conan Doyle), and has received favorable reviews in the N.Y. Times (Mar. 7) and elsewhere. Thanks to Ray Betzner for the report.

"Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" (a new play by Ken Ludwig) is to have its world premiere next year at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., Jan. 16-Feb. 22 <www.arenastage.org> and then moves to the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J., Mar. 10-29 <www.mccarter.org>.

Another new play is "Sherlock Holmes & the Ice Palace Murders" (dramatized by Jeffrey Hatcher from the novel by Larry Millett) scheduled for its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in Minneapolis, June 19-July 19, 2015 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

And there's lots more theater to report: Jerry R. Montoya's comedy "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is being performed by the Children's Theatre of California at the B Street Theater in Sacramento, Calif., through Apr. 13 <www.bstreettheatre.org>. Jahna Beecham and Malcolm Hillgartner's musical "Holmes and Watson Save the Empire" is due at the Evergreen Cultural Centre in Coquitlam, B.C., Apr. 1-5 <www.evergreenculturalcentre.ca>. Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be performed at George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., Apr. 3-13 <www.georgefox.edu>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has two productions coming up: at the State Theatre in Bay City, Mich., from Apr. 24 to May 4 <www.baycityplayers.com>, and at the Coronado Playhouse, in Coronado, Calif., Apr. 11-May 18 <www.coronadoplayhouse.com>. Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Playhouse in the Park in Cincinnati, Sept. 20-Oct. 12 <www.cincyplay.com>. Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is scheduled at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre in Winnipeg, Oct. 1-25 <www.mtc.mb.ca>.

"The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a new British play performed by the Chapterhouse Theatre Company; it opens at Lacock Abbey, nr. Chippenham, on June 13 and then tours in Britain and Ireland <www.chapterhouse.org>.

Mar 14 #7 Sherlock Holmes is returning to Japanese television, this time as a puppet, and as a 15-year-old high-school student. According to a story in the Japan Times (Mar. 22), Koki Mitani, a popular playwright and director, is preparing a 20-episode series for NHK. Bunta Inone designed the puppets, and there are images and more information on the series at <www.tinyurl.com/p5g5qpm>. The first three shows were broadcast as a preview in March, and the next three will be seen in August; the entire series will air in October. Mitch Higurashi has kindly reported that you can see additional images at <www.nhk.or.jp/sh15>; click on the four blue boxes below the large image.

Marlene Aig's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LUFTON LADY (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 95 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) is a welcome reminder of a fine writer who died far too young; set in 1878, it's a tale of a younger and more romantic Holmes, nicely told, and with an appreciative forward by written by Susan Dahlinger. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX Publishing: Matthew J. Elliott's THE IMMORTALS: AN UNAUTHORIZED GUIDE TO SHERLOCK AND ELEMENTARY (2013; 208 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is an interesting analysis/critique/comparison of the first two seasons of "Sherlock" and the first season of "Elementary"; the author notes that the whole book is a spoiler, and so it is, but it will be enjoyed by those who enjoy the series.

And there's more: Stephen Seitz's NEVER MEANT TO BE (2013; 122 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) involves time traveler Cynthia Kenyon, who has a complicated romantic relationship with Watson. IS THAT MY HOLMES? and IS THAT MY WATSON? are amusing rhymed picture books written by Andrew Murray, with artwork by Deakin Brook (2013; 24 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95 each), that are inspired by recent film and television versions of Holmes and Watson. Eddy Webb's WATSON IS NOT AN IDIOT (2013; 201 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is not a rehabilitation of Watson (who doesn't really need one any more), but rather (as it's subtitled) "an opinionated tour of the Sherlock Holmes canon" that offers insights into the stories. Luke Benjamin Kuhns' SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE HORROR OF FRANKENSTEIN is a graphic novel with artwork by Marcie Klingner (2013; 32 pp., £7.99/€8.99/\$10.95).

And Clair Daines' SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN REGRET (2013; 242 pp., £6.99/€7.99/\$9.95) has Holmes and Mary Watson in pursuit of villains led by Col. Moran, who shot and killed Watson at the Reichenbach; the conclusion of the two-part series will be THE FINAL SOLUTION. W. P. Lawler's MYSTERY AT ST. ANDREWS (2013; 246 pp., £9.99/€12.99/\$16.95) is a reissue of the pastiche published in 2012 (Apr 13 #3); Watson, Holmes, Irene Adler, and much golfing. Andrew Murray's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES QUIZ BOOK (2013; 164 pp., £8.99/€10.99/\$12.95) offers 100 10-question quizzes on the Canon, television, and films.

Andrew Clark has reported an interesting item from BBC News in Pictures on Feb. 26 <www.bbc.com/news/in-pictures-26339275> with a slide show of hybrid images of London street scenes (some of them at Canonical locations). The images are from Museum of London's "Streetmuseum" app, which is explained at <www.tinyurl.com/bvbnfca> and is available at the iPhone App Store.

Mar 14 #8 I suggested earlier that Watson doesn't really need rehabilitation any more. Nigel Bruce wasn't the first or the last actor to portray Watson as "boobus Britannicus" or Holmes' "rather stupid friend" (a phrase that Conan Doyle used in the Fox Movietone film interview (1929) after he had seen earlier Sherlock Holmes films). Younger generations of Sherlockians have been introduced to Watson by actors such as Robert Duval, David Burke, Edward Hardwicke, Jude Law, Martin Freeman, and Lucy Liu, all of whom present a Watson much closer to the Watson found in the Canon.

The Huffington Post reported on Mar. 11 that Benedict Cumberbatch would be appearing as a celebrity guest at the Wizard World Minneapolis Comic Con on May 2-4, setting off a flurry of interest and an almost instant denial from the convention. But there are lots of other celebrities appearing at the convention <www.wizardworld.com/home-minneapolis.html>.

C. Michael Forsyth's SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND HARRY HOUDINI IN THE ADVENTURE OF THE SPOOK HOUSE (Freedom's Hammer, 2014; 173 pp., \$13.46) involves Conan Doyle and Houdini and the medium Eva C. in an investigation of multiple murders and a haunted house in Virginia; Eva Carrière was a prominent spiritualist who was investigated by both Conan Doyle and Houdini, and she has an interesting entry at Wikipedia.

One of the nicest things about the Internet is that it makes it possible to offer access to archives; Ted Bergman has done that quite nicely providing access to a wide variety of his work, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, in Swedish and in English <goto.glocalnet.net/tedbe> (there are some excellent photographs of his model of 221B Baker Street).

Marc Pastor's BARCELONA SHADOWS was first published in Catalan in 2008, and has now been translated into English (London: Pushkin Press, 2014; 265 pp., €12.99/\$18.95); it's fiction, but based on the story of the very real Enriqueta Martí, who was a child murderer, kidnapper, and procurer of children who victimized Barcelona until she was arrested in 1912. It's a gripping novel, often grotesque and chilling, not for the faint of heart; it's also an excellent police procedural, but Sherlockian only because Inspector Moisés Corvo has read about Holmes.

The Domino Lady, a masked heroine who first appeared in the May 1936 issue of Saucy Romantic Adventures, appeared with Sherlock Holmes in a story by Nancy Holder in Lori Gentile's anthology DOMINO LADY: SEX AS A WEAPON (Aug 09 #6); they're together again in a two-issue comic-book mini-series DOMINO LADY/SHERLOCK HOLMES from Moonstone Entertainment (2013; \$3.99 each) with artwork by Reno Maniquis <www.moonstonebooks.com>.

Moonstone also has published SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CROSSOVER CASEBOOK (2012; 300 pp., \$18.95); edited by Howard Hopkins, the anthology has 14 pastiches by authors such as Win Scott Eckert, Joe Gentile, Barbara Hambly, Christopher Sequeira, and Martin Powell, involving Holmes with characters who include Lawrence of Arabia, Harry Houdini, Calamity Jane, Arsene Lupin, and Dr. Thorndyke.

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

Apr 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The saga continues: Les Klinger filed his brief in opposition to the Conan Doyle Estate's appeal against the ruling (Dec 13 #1) that Les (and everyone else) can use the Sherlock Holmes characters and story elements in the 50 stories that are now in the public domain without getting permission from the Estate, and the Estate has responded; all of the filings are available at Les' web-site <www.free-sherlock.com>; click on "Court Filings" and then scroll down to the last entries. There will be oral arguments in the case in Chicago on May 22.

The DFN Charitable Foundation has announced that it has exchanged contracts to purchase Undershaw (the former home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), and will create "the schools at Undershaw" with Undershaw as the upper school and an existing school, Stepping Stones in Hindhead as the junior school; the goal of the schools will be to create a 'gold standard' special-needs school for children and young adults who have mild learning and physical difficulties, and there's more information at <www.dfnfoundation.org>. And there's a 5-minute video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8x0MUAI5cw>.

The foundation was established this year by David Forbes-Nixon, co-founder, chairman, and chief executive of Alcentra, a company that works "with investors around the world to help them make the most the market opportunities.

Some treasures from the late Norman Nolan's collection will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 19: the manuscript of "The Adventure of Black Peter", the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Watson in the railway carriage (in "Silver Blaze"), and a pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors. Christie's web-site is at <www.christies.com>; if you'd like to be on their mailing list for an announcement of the auction, you should ask Diane Nolan at <n2913@aol.com>. And Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>.

The question was: "Who killed Felipe, the Lion Tamer?" (Mar 14 #5), asked in an advertisement for one of the Rathbone/Bruce radio programs. And the answer seems to be: no one. Alexander Orlov has reported that "Under the Big Top" was broadcast on Nov. 6, 1944, and you can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/lc5a4fp>. What's really interesting is that there's no Felipe, the Lion Tamer in the story: victim of the murder is Giselle, the tightrope walker.

Caroline Bryan Atkins has found an interesting Sherlockian game available (free) at Google Play <www.tinyurl.com/qb9exsa>; there's a lot more Sherlockian material at the web-site, which is well worth exploring.

The Internet reverberated earlier this month with news of new photographs of fairies: the Manchester Evening News reported that Manchester lecturer John Hyatt had photographed what appeared to be fairies in the Rossendale Valley, and that the photographs would be exhibited at the Whitaker Museum in Rossendale <www.tinyurl.com/q58gn86>. The story was published on Apr. 2, which suggests that the announcement was made on Apr. 1. Caveat lector.

Apr 14 #2 Fergus Hume's THE MYSTERY OF A HANSOM CAB (1886) isn't at all Sherlockian, but it's an interesting example of a truly popular Victorian mystery novel: it was self-published in Australia by the author, who sold all the rights for £50 and then watched sales rise to a reported 375,000 copies by the end of 1887, when A STUDY IN SCARLET made far less of an impression on readers. The State Library of New South Wales is reported to hold the only known copy of the first edition. Michael Dirda's perceptive review of a new edition of the book from Text Classics was published last month in the Washington Post last month <www.tinyurl.com/k7zun7j>.

The amusing comment that "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes" is credited to Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung; but what is the source? When and where did he say or write it?

Mickey Rooney died on Apr. 6. He was born Joe Yule Jr., went on stage as a toddler in his parents' vaudeville act, and made his first appearance in films in at the age of six. The next year, in 1927, he made the first of his Mickey McGuire short films, and took half of his acting name from his role in the series; he went on to a long career as an actor, and never retired. In "Mickey the Detective" (1928) he ran a detective school, planning "to make Sherlock Holmes look like a cross-eyed house detective." You can see the film (in two parts) at <www.youtube.com>, as well as an excerpt from "Mickey's Disguises" (1933), which includes an amusing bit with Sherlockian artwork.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France's web-site has much to offer, including "The Conan Doyle Encyclopedia" <www.sshf.com/encyclopedia> which will reward those who explore it thoroughly. One such item is an entry for "Le Quadrille des Diamants" (a French television program that was broadcast in 1957), with a link to the film at <www.ina.fr>; it's based on Conan Doyle's "The Story of the Jew's Breastplate" and new to Doylean filmography.

The French society also helpfully provides images and transcripts of Conan Doyle's contributions to the N.Y. Times, as well as many other periodicals <www.sshf.com/encyclopedia/index/php/Main_Page>; click on "Periodicals" in the column at the left.

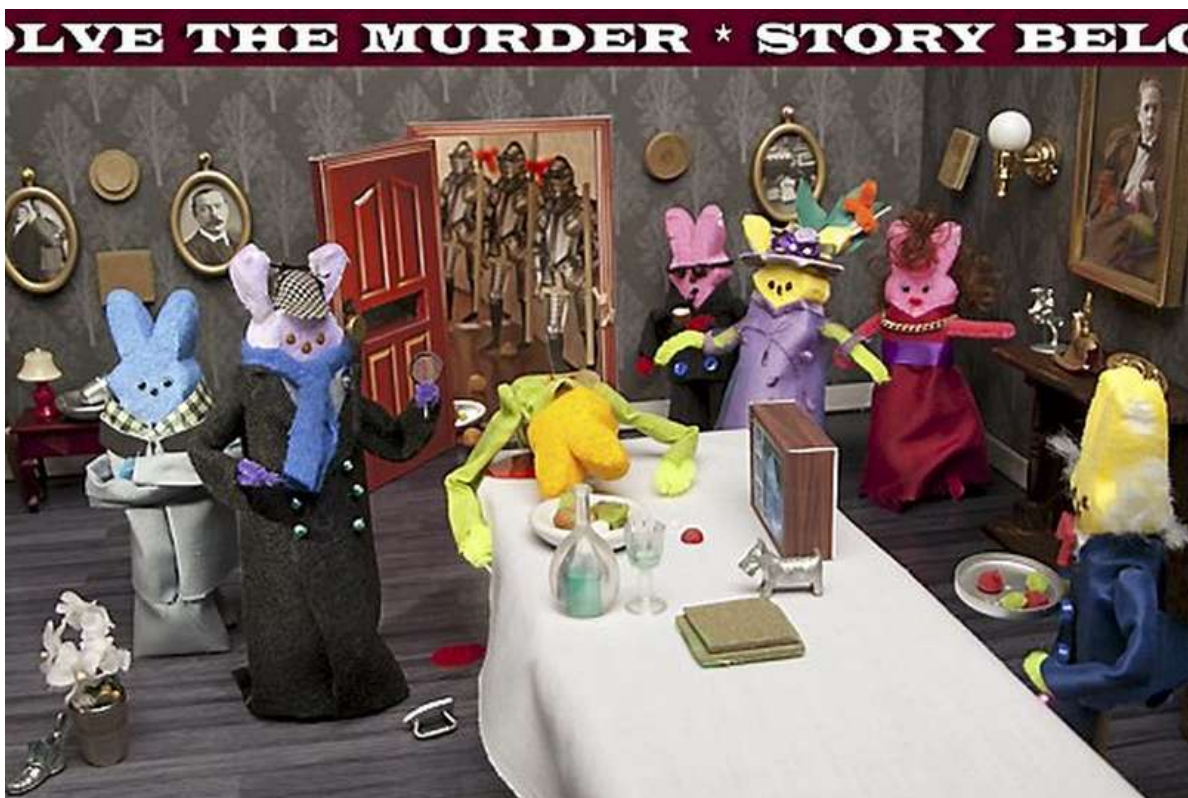
Howard Ostrom's extensive research on "The Original Baker Street Babes" is available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/qyooq7g>, offering a survey of women actors, directors, and writers who have been involved in presenting Sherlockian drama, and you can see an interesting four-part video documentary based on his research at <www.tinyurl.com/p6q wz4d>.

Curtis Armstrong continues to appear on television, currently guest-starring as God's scribe Metatron in "Supernatural" (a series broadcast by the CW Television Network series). In the episode "Meta Fiction" (Apr. 15) he quotes from the Canon; the episode may still be available at the web-site for the series <www.cwtv.com/series/supernatural>, and it will surely repeat. Curtis reports that Robbie Thompson (the writer) tweeted during the East Coast feed of the show that he put the quote in because he had heard that Curtis was a Sherlockian. The show wound up seven minutes long, so it had to be cut; he was afraid that Holmes would wind up on the cutting-room floor, and was delighted when he didn't.

Apr 14 #3 The April issue of Laurie R. King's "News and Nonsense" offers news for fans of Mary Russell: THE MARY RUSSELL COMPANION will be published as an e-book in May, there's a Laurie R. King Channel at YouTube, and you can see an image of the cover of the next Mary Russell novel, DREAMING SPIES. You can read the newsletter at <www.tinyurl.com/l7xdj5r>.

Don Libey reports that last year's 221B Cellars "A Study in Scarlet" vintage is no longer available (unless you know someone who is willing to share a bottle); this year's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" vintage will be ready soon; you can read all about it, and order, at <www.221bcellars.com>.

The Washington Post has held a Peeps Diorama Contest since 2007, and this year's winners can be seen at <www.tinyurl.com/mm1l1bxb>. The St. Paul Pioneer Press, however, has been running a contest since 2003, and this year's winner, accompanied by a story written by Seth Johnson and Candace Okeson, was Sherlockian: "The Adventure of the Speckled Cand(y)". You can read the story, and see the diorama, at <www.tinyurl.com/n3xucq4>.



JEWEL OF THE THAMES: A PORTIA ADAMS ADVENTURE, by Angela Misri (Fierce Ink Press, 2014; 243 pp., \$11.99) is the first of a series featuring a 19-year-old Canadian girl who when her mother dies in the 1930s discovers that she is the granddaughter of Dr. Watson, inherits 221 Baker Street, and acquires a mysterious (and generous) guardian who takes Portia to London, where she studies the journals and books she finds in the house, and shows a talent for detective; it's nicely done, with some interesting twists and turns.

Apr 14 #4 Further to the earlier mention of Baskerville the Hound (Apr 13 #6), there is a nice blog about his debut on "The Muppet Show" on Oct. 18, 1976 (with a link to "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Disappearing Clues") on Scott Monty's web-site "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/nwos386>. Credit where credit is due: Jim Henson (Rowlf) as Sherlock Holmes, and John Loveday (Baskerville the Hound) as Watson.

Dave Thompson's SHERLOCK HOLMES FAQ (Milwaukee: Applause Books, 2013; 283 pp., \$24.99) promises "all that's left to know about the world's greatest private detective," and offers a well-illustrated and sometimes irreverent guide to Conan Doyle, the Canon, selected pastiches, Sherlockian drama, and the world of Sherlock Holmes.

More about Lego minifigures of Sherlock Holmes (Feb 14 #3): Maureen Mosher notes some interesting videos at <www.youtube.com>; just search for [lego sherlock].

Further to the item on the three mysterious metal plates discovered by Javier Doria (May 13 #4), one of them, honoring Sherlock Holmes and the publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, went unsold at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 2, estimated at \$15,000; the plate still is available (for \$9,375), and there are images and a detailed description at <www.tinyurl.com/ow4ejs3>.

PwC (the new brand for PricewaterhouseCoopers) is a professional services and auditing company with headquarters in London; Jennie Paton has spotted their new amusing Sherlockian commercial at <www.vimeo.com/89868475>.

"Here at Oxford University Press we occasionally get the chance to discover a new and exciting piece of literary history," said an announcement on the OUP blog at the beginning of the month. "Never before published, our editorial team has acquired 'The Mystery of the Green Garden,' now believed to be Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's first use of the Sherlock Holmes character in his writing. Written during Doyle's time at Stonyhurst College before entering medical school, the short story displays an early, amateur style of writing not seen in his later published works." You can read the complete announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/nsp35v9>.

J. C. Jones' THE SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES AND COMBUSTION SCIENCE is a splendid example of how much fun experts can have using their expertise to analyze the Canon (and in this case also the Apocrypha and a few pastiches). A few of the pieces in this collection were first published as letters in The Sherlock Holmes Journal, but most of them are new, and all are interesting. For information on how to purchase the book, you can contact the author at <j.c.jones@abdn.ac.uk>.

WATSON AND HOLMES is a new comic-book mini-series created by Brandon Perlow and Paul Mendoza, and written by Karl Bollers; there are six issues so far (\$1.99 each), and a graphic novel WATSON AND HOLMES: A STUDY IN BLACK that combines the first five issues (2013; \$16.99). Holmes and Watson are African Americans living and battling criminals in modern-day Harlem, and the series offers strong and colorful artwork by Rick Leonardi and Larry Stroman; you can see samples at <www.newparadigmstudios.com>.

Apr 14 #5 Steve Moore died on Mar. 16. He was a co-founder of The Fort-ean Times, and claimed he "was obviously destined to be either a werewolf or a lunatic." He also worked as an editor and a writer, and according to his obituary in The Telegraph (Apr. 13), produced the SHERLOCK HOLMES & DOCTOR WATSON ANNUAL (1979), a tie-in for Sheldon Reynolds' television series starring Geoffrey Whitehead and Donald Pickering.

Still another playscript: John Longenbaugh's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" premiered in Seattle in 2010, and the script is available from the Dramatists Play Service <www.dramatists.com> (\$8.00); the company has published other Sherlockian plays over the years.

"Nevada Barr on Addiction" is an amusing and intriguing (although non-Sherlockian essay at the Mystery Scene web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lr9o4jk>.

No one seems to be able to identify the source of E. W. Hornung's "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes," but we have it on good authority that the comment was Hornung's: Dan Stashower reports that Conan Doyle (in the chapter "Some Notable People" in his autobiography MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES) quotes Hornung's "criticism upon my Sherlock Holmes." Conan Doyle also describes Hornung as "a Dr. Johnson without the learning but with a finer wit," and added that "No one could say a neater thing, and his writings, good as they are, never adequately represented the powers of the man, nor the quickness of his brain."

The 55th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze (the world's oldest and still-active annual Sherlockian horse race) will be held on Oct. 18 at the Hawthorne Race Course; if you'd like to attend the festivities, details are available from Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

Tony Gray died on Apr. 14. A member of what the Telegraph called "the most famous trio of musical clowns in London" in the 1950s and 1960s, he and his partners were credited with inspiring Monty Python. He also acted in films and television, appearing (according to the Telegraph obituary) in an uncredited walk-on role in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).

Ray Celestin's THE AXEMAN'S JAZZ (London: Mantle, 2014; 426 pp., £19.66) is set in New Orleans in 1919, when Ida Davis (a fledgling Pinkerton employee who's a fan of Sherlock Holmes), young Lewis Armstrong (still on his way to becoming a famous musician), and a vivid cast of characters all are in pursuit of a fiendish serial killer in a city described with a fine sense of place and time.

For readers in Maryland (and for the amusement of readers elsewhere): this year's "Search for Unclaimed Property" features Sherlock Franchot in print and at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nrkafv4>. Peter V. Franchot is the Comptroller of Maryland.

Rick Etchells' FINDING SHERLOCK HOLMES IN AMERICA is an e-book travel guide to the United States, offering a state-by-state guide to Holmes-named cities and places, bookstore, societies, and much more, available for \$3.95 at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/kgHPa46>, where you can review the opening pages, which will take you through Arkansas and into California.

Apr 14 #6 SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BLACK WIDOWER, by Keiran McMullen (London: MX Publishing, 2013; 189 pp., \$16.95) offers an interesting approach to the Canon: Holmes, in 1908, investigates the deaths of Watson's three wives, hoping to prove his friend is not a murderer. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>. THE WIDOW OF DARTMOOR, by Warwick Downing (2014; 234 pp., \$16.95), is an imaginative courtroom drama: the Widow of Dartmoor is Beryl Stapleton, who now is the wife of a nobleman and on trial for murdering Prof. Christian Vandeleur; her barrister's Jeremy Holmes, the nephew of Sherlock Holmes, and the story is full of twists, turns, and surprises.

Also from MX Publishing: P. James Macaluso Jr. has used Legos to illustrate A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA, THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE, and A CASE OF IDENTITY in full color (each \$9.95); it's an imaginative concept, and done well. David Marcum's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A QUANTITY OF DEBT (2013; 183 pp., \$19.95) is a novel-length addition to his earlier short stories in THE PAPERS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Aug 13 #7); Holmes and Watson investigate (and succeed in solving) a 50-year-old murder.

And there's more: John Worth's THE MAKING OF A MAN (2013; 249 pp., \$16.95) echoes both Dickens and the Canon, offering the story of how young Shiloh Coombs survives the squalor and perils of the East End to become Sherlock Holmes. Peter A. Andersson's THE COTSWOLDS WEREWOLF AND OTHER STORIES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 214 pp., \$16.95) presents one long pastiche and four short ones, set in the country and in London. Fiona James-Brown's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE AFFAIR OF THE CONTENTIOUS CONTRALTO (94 pp., \$10.95) is set in 1910, when Holmes and Watson attend Irene Adler's final performance and meet her daughter Sophie, solving a terrible murder.

The Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Fla., which is devoted to the philosophy and art of Salvador Dali, offers lectures called "Coffee with a Curator". On May 7 the curator will be Elise Trucks, speaking about "Dali, Freud, & Sherlock Holmes"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/mummzgx>.

Alexander Orlov has reported from Russia on what is perhaps the strangest sort-of-Sherlockian film ever produced: "Selden: Deep in the Grimpen Mire" (2010). There's some comment (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/m9xop4e> and a trailer made in 2008 at <www.tinyurl.com/mdzrovvr>, and Bill Barnes found the complete film (66 minutes) at <www.tinyurl.com/n4narya>. Described as a "bio-pic" of Selden, it's notable for showing a lot of Selden but not the Hound, nor Holmes or anyone else from the Canon other than (in a very brief glimpse) Barrymore. It's an amateur film, directed by Dmitry Lesnikov and starring Maxim Sveshnikov as Selden, it was uploaded to YouTube on Jan. 16, 2012.

Marsha Pollak reports The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association will meet on June 30, during the annual conference of the ALA, this year in Las Vegas, with Laurie R. King as the guest speaker. Marsha will be delighted to provide more information <mlpollak@earthlink.net>.

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

May 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The saga continues: the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments on May 22 (by interesting coincidence, Conan Doyle's birthday), in Leslie S. Klinger (Plaintiff-Appellee) vs. Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. (Defendant-Appellant); the judges were Richard Posner, Joel Martin Flaum, and Daniel Anthony Mannion and each side was allowed 15 minutes in which to present and defend their arguments. You can listen to the arguments at the court website <www.tinyurl.com/ogswbd6>, and you can read comments by Brenda Rossini (who attended the proceedings) at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/ptf4yqu>. There's no predicting how long it will take for the court to render its decision in the case.

It was interesting to hear Judge Posner ask Les Klinger's attorney Jonathan Kirsch whether Les was "the author of the annotated volumes," because Posner reviewed THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES for The New Republic (Oct. 11, 2004), and offered a decidedly unfavorable opinion of the scholarship and pseudo-scholarship detailed in the annotations.

Congratulations to Daniel Stashower, who makes it look easy. This month he won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar (best fact crime) and Malice Domestic's Agatha (best non-fiction work) for THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR. Dan also won an Edgar and an Agatha in 2008 for ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS, and in 2000 for TELLER OF TALES: THE LIFE OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE; it's rare for an author to win more than one award the same year. Ever rarer is a hat trick: Dan also won an Anthony at Bouchercon in 2008.

Sorry about that: material from Norman Nolan's collection (Apr 14 #1) will be offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 19 (which gives you more time to get ready to bid). Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>, where you can see just how spectacular Sidney Paget's original artwork is (the engraved versions in The Strand Magazine are nowhere near as nice).

The Wessex Press has announced that Mark Gatiss will be a special guest at "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14, 2014. Steve Doyle and Mark Gagen have attracted enthusiastic audiences for their past three conferences, and registration is now open <www.wessexpress.com>. Fans of the BBC series "Sherlock" will know that Gatiss has series credits as co-creator, producer, actor, and writer. Other special guests are Paul Annett, first director of the Granada "Sherlock Holmes" series, and Michael Hoey, son and biographer of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in the Rathbone/Bruce films.

Aziz Bin Adam has discovered the British Library's English and Drama blog, with an entry on "The Spirit Voice of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" and links to the recording Conan Doyle made in 1930 for His Master's Voice, and to the recording made in 1934 during a seance at the Aeolian Hall; you can listen to both recordings at <www.tinyurl.com/on5k321>. BBC Radio 4 broadcast a 30-minute program ("What Grandad Did in the Dark") on Jan. 4, 2002, and you can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/ng6a9p9> (but the Conan Doyle recording isn't included in the program).

May 14 #2 LADIES, LADIES: THE WOMEN IN THE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Patricia Guy and Katherine Karlson (Sep 07 #3), is now available from Amazon as an e-book (\$2.99) <www.tinyurl.com/m5sr4ko>; it's intriguing anthology of essays, poems, music-hall songs that mention Sherlock Holmes (and some that don't), by way of examining "topics ranging from libations to libido, perfumes to prejudice, in the context of the Sherlock Holmes stories."

<www.somethingisgoingto happen.net> is a blog started in May 2012 by Janet Hutchings, editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine, and it is full of interesting posts by Janet and other EQMM authors. Needless to say, some of the posts are Sherlockian, and they're easy to find by searching the blog for [sherlock] and [conan doyle]. Kenneth Wishnia has written a two-part piece about "Conan Doyle's Sly Subversion of English Society", and in March Dana Cameron contributed "Solving for Sherlock Holmes" (she was preparing for a panel on "Sherlock Holmes and TV" at Boskone, and starting to write a Sherlockian pastiche).

If you've never heard of Boskone, it's the longest-running science-fiction convention in New England; it attracts more than a thousand fans and professionals, and this year's was its 52nd gathering. Science-fiction fans have been convening far longer than mystery fans, by the way: Worldcon (the World Science Fiction Convention) was launched in 1939, and the first Bouchercon was held in 1970.

Charles A. Adams ("The Winter Assizes at Norwich") died on May 18. Charlie taught English literature at Norwich Free Academy in Connecticut for almost 40 years; he was a long-time member of The Men on the Tor, founded and led The Winter Assizes at Norwich, and he received that as his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1990.

SHERLOCK: EVERY CANON REFERENCE YOU MAY HAVE MISSED IN BBC'S SERIES 1-3, by Valerie Estelle Frankel (Sunnyvale: LitCrit Press, 2014; 196 pp., \$9.99), is a detailed exploration of "Sherlock" (all nine episodes and the mini-episode), discussion allusions to and echoes of not only the Canon but also other films and television series, accompanied by commentary by Mark Gatiss in print and on DVDs. The author's web-site's at <www.vefrankel.com>.

The attractive young lady is 23-year-old Rebecca Case, and her costume consists entirely of body paint, the handiwork of an artist known as Pashur, according to an article in LA Weekly (May 22); she is part of a triptych, with Watson and a foggy London night on the backs of two other girls (not photographed for the article) available at <www.tinyurl.com/pt96lts>. You can see more of Pashur's work at <www.canvasalive.com>.



Nicholas Utechin's "OCCASIONALLY TO EMBELLISH" (Jan 13 #3) has won the Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award, which is awarded by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London for the best piece of Holmesiana published in the preceding year; it's a collection of reprints of some of his literate and often humorous scholarship, with new postscripts to many of the pieces, and it is still available from the Gasogene Press (\$18.95) <www.wessexpress.com>.

May 14 #3 Alexander Orlov has reported two Canonical stories translated into Lidepla (Lingwa de Planeta). Lidepla is a worldlang (international auxiliary language), and you can read both stories on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/kdydb53> and <www.tinyurl.com/la7lrsg>. There's more information about Lingwa de Planeta at <www.lingwadeplaneta.info>.

And Don Hobbs found Dave Mcleod, who has translated part of "A Scandal in Bohemia" into Occidental <www.page30.com/search/label/Sherlock%20Holmes>.

Ian Schoenherr has responded to my query about E. W. Hornung's "Though he might be more humble, there's no police like Holmes" (Apr 14 #5), noting a stanza in Harry Graham's poem "The Policeman" in FAMILIAR FACES (1907):

He may not be as bright, forsooth,
As Dr. Watson's famous foil,--
Sherlock, that keen unerring sleuth
Immortalised by Doyle,
And Patti who, where'er she roams,
Asserts "There's no Police like Holmes!"

Harry Graham also wrote a long poem "Sherlock Holmes" in MORE REPRESENTATIVE MEN (1905). Both poems can be read on-line at Project Gutenberg. Ian also discovered Ogden Nash's "Macbeth Has Murdered Sleep? or Don't Make Me Laugh" (1933), which ends with the quatrain:

I've watched with fascinated eyes
Detectives fall, detectives rise,
And racing through a thousand tomes,
Reflect, There's no police like Holmes."

Nash's poem was published in the N.Y. Herald Tribune (July 16, 1933) and in HAPPY DAYS (1933). The complete poem's at <www.tinyurl.com/lwxjj8v>. Ian also is enthusiastic about Howard Pyle, and has blogged about Pyle and Conan Doyle at <www.tinyurl.com/m985796>, and about his interest in Sherlock Holmes at <www.tinyurl.com/kkhlcua>.

"When Arthur Conan Doyle tried to kill off Sherlock Holmes in 1893," Gregory Cowles wrote in the N.Y. Times Book Review (May 25), "readers objected so strenuously that Doyle--after trying to mollify them with a prequel--finally gave in and resurrected the character as a cross-dressing mixed martial artist played by Robert Downey Jr."

ITV has commissioned a three-part dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR & GEORGE about Arthur Conan Doyle and George Edalji (Sep 05 #5); Conan Doyle will be played by Martin Clunes (star of the "Doc Martin" series) and the script will be written by Ed Whitmore ("Silent Witness" and "Waking the Dead"). Production is set to begin this fall.

There's now a Dancing Men Brewery in Happingburgh (where Conan Doyle was inspired to write "The Dancing Men") and needless to say there's web-site at <www.dancingmanbrewery.co.uk> with an amusing video (click on "Follow the Dancing Man"); the brewery is located at the Hill House Inn (formerly Hill House, where Conan Doyle stayed with the Cubitt family in 1905).

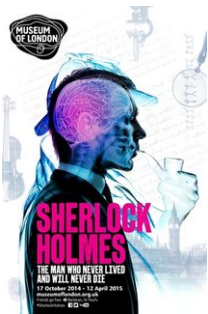
May 14 #4 Ruth Voboril is a fine example of what can happen when one becomes an enthusiast: not old enough (as some of us are) to have watched the original broadcasts of Ronald Howard's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" in 1954, she found the series (thanks to the wonders of DVD), and after much work has created an excellent web-site devoted to Howard's life and career <www.sherlockhoward.homestead.com>.

Francis M. Nevins' ELLERY QUEEN: THE ART OF DETECTION (Baltimore: Perfect Crime Books, 2013; 362 pp., \$19.95) is described on the cover as "the story of how two fractious cousins reshaped the modern detective novel," and it's that and much more. "Ellery Queen" was the pseudonym adopted by Frederic Dannay and Manfred B. Lee, and the name of their detective, but Dannay and Lee were far more than authors of books, short stories, and radio scripts; they edited classic anthologies, and Dannay, an inspired collector, was the founder and first editor of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (and a member of The Baker Street Irregulars). Nevins' book is a thorough biography, and includes detailed discussion of their books, stories, and scripts.

If you're wondering about the "fractious" in the description of the relationship between Dannay and Lee, it's a mild adjective when one is able to take a closer look at the conflicts between the two authors. You get that closer look in BLOOD RELATIONS, also published by Perfect Crime (2012, 150 pp., \$14.95); edited by Joseph Goodrich, it's a selection of their letters to each other from 1947 to 1950, offering a fascinating at how they created excellent work in the midst of mutual conflict. The publisher's web-site is at <www.perfectcrimebooks.com>.

Richard L. Kellogg's BARRY BASKERVILLE RETURNS (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2014; 34 pp., \$10.99) is his latest entertaining story for young readers, attractively illustrated by Gary Kato; Barry wants to be a detective, and (of course) succeeds in solving a case.

"The Many Lives of Sherlock Holmes" is a session scheduled at DashCon, in Schaumburg, Ill., on July 11-13; Schaumburg is near Chicago, and they are expecting more than 3,000 people at the convention)which is billed as "For Tumblr Users, by Tumblr Users"); three of the Baker Street Babes will be on hand, and there's more information at <www.dashcon.org>.



"Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" is the title of the Museum of London's major exhibition, opening on Oct. 14 and closing on Apr. 12, 2015. The official announcement on May 20 gathered lots of publicity in the press, and the exhibition's web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>. They are seeking patrons for the exhibition, and you can read about that at <www.tinyurl.com/mptwx7v>. Exhibition visitors will see the Sidney Paget portrait of Conan Doyle (1897), the manuscript of "The Empty House", and much more.

Further to the report (Mar 14 #7) about Koki Mitani's 20-episode Japanese television puppet series, Mitch Higurashi reports that the first three programs will be released on DVD on July 16. There's an announcement (in Japanese) at <www.dogpatch.jp/smph/news/nhk/25140>; it's helpful, of course, to have Google Translate installed on your computer.

May 14 #5 The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and about recent additions to the Archives at the Houghton Library, and it is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, send a request to Mike Berdan at <editor@bsitrust.org>.

Charles Marowitz died on May 2. He directed and wrote plays, led theater companies, and was a drama critic and an author of books about acting theory. Using the pseudonym Matthew Lang he wrote a one-act play "Sherlock's Last Case" (which was based on the Basil Rathbone-Nigel Bruce films rather than the Canon, which he admitted he never read before writing his play), first performed in London in 1974. Then using his own name he added a second act to the play; the new version was first performed in Los Angeles in 1984 and in Washington and New York in 1987 with Frank Langella and Donal Donnelly as Holmes and Watson). Spoiler alert: Holmes turns up in the second act as a Holmes imposter, and Langella appeared disguised as Tom Baker as Holmes in the BBC's 1984 production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; non-Sherlockians who attended the play understandably were puzzled by the reaction from Sherlockians who recognized the echo.

"I was obsessed with Sherlock Holmes as a young kid," said Laura Linney, in an interview in the Guardian (May 8). "You know how some people are into Dungeons and Dragons? I was into Sherlock Holmes. I loved the atmosphere of the stories. I loved the intrigue, his personality." She'll play Mrs. Munro, Sherlock Holmes' housekeeper in the film based on Mitch Cullen's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND (with Ian McKellen as Holmes).

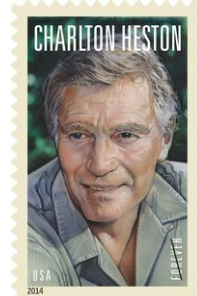


The National Literacy Trust is working with Wild in Art on a "Books About Town" project planned to create trails of benches shaped as open books in London. The Sherlock Holmes BookBench was designed by Valerie Osment and is now in production, sponsored by the Conan Doyle Estate, and at the end of the summer all of the benches will be auctioned to raise funds for the Trust. There's a project web-site at <www.booksabouttown.org.uk>.

Don Hobbs was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog ("Sherlock Holmes in Translation" is episode 64), and you can hear the 72-minute interview at <www.tinyurl.com/kdtfsdc>. Scott and Burt also have a colorfully-illustrated report on "Bow Ties for Sherlock Holmes Fans" <www.tinyurl.com/knpoccc> showing some of the offerings by Beau Ties of Ltd. of Vermont.

May 14 #6 Steimatsky (Israel's largest bookstore chain) continues to run imaginative Sherlockian advertisements (Aug 13 #2), and their latest can be seen at the Mediabistro web-site <www.tinyurl.com/numsmjf>. Scott Monty was reminded of a different artistic advertising campaign from Colsubsidio Libraries, which he reported on at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/mw97r7q> on Apr. 13, 2012.

Charlton Heston (1923-2008), added this year to the "Legends of Hollywood" series, played Sherlock Holmes in "The Crucifer of Blood" on stage (1980) and television (1991).



Sublibrarian A. Davenport Lomax, a friend of Dr. Watson, consults Sherlock Holmes about a rare (and dangerous) volume in Lyndsay Faye's THE GOSPEL OF SHEBA, the latest in the series of short bibliomysteries published by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/m6rxezb>; it's an imaginative pastiche, nicely written and with occasional touches of romance, available in a limited signed and hard-bound edition (\$100.00 or \$50.00) and a paperback edition (\$4.95), and (eventually) as an e-book.

Ron Brackin's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEADLY ILLUSION (Little Elm: Weller & Bunsby, 2013; 106 pp. \$9.99) has Holmes and Watson, assisted by Charles Dodgson, investigating robbery and murder, and encountering the magician John Neville Maskelyn and Jules Verne. The author's web-site is at <www.ronbrackin.com>.

The John H. Watson Society has published the second issue of its semi-annual journal "The Watsonian", with 173 pages of scholarship, puzzles, commentary, and other research by its members. There's more information about the society, and its journal, at <www.johnwatsonsociety.com>.

Angela Buckley's THE REAL SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN STORY OF JEROME CAMINADA (Barnesley: Pen & Sword, 2014; 157 pp., \$34.95) is the biography of a Manchester policeman who began his career as a police constable in 1868 and had risen to the rank of superintendent of the city's police force when he retired in 1899 and became a private detective. Two volumes of his memoirs were published as TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF DETECTIVE LIFE in 1895 and 1901, and was widely celebrated in the local press, so his story's hardly hidden, but he was a dedicated and skilled police officer, and his story offers a vivid picture of what life was like in Manchester in the Sherlockian era.

"Plunging into 'the Full Tide of Human Existence': The Charing Cross Neighborhood in the Sherlock Holmes Adventures" is the latest of seven interesting scholarly papers Leslie Katz has posted to the Social Science Research Network, and you can find them all at <www.tinyurl.com/m7k8fsu>.

Alexander Orlov has noted <www.aparchive.com>, the film and video archive of the Associated Press, where you can easily search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] and find "Holmes Lives Again", a British Movietone Newsreel (Jan. 8, 1953) showing Carlton Hobbs in costume as Sherlock Holmes unveiling the plaque at the Criterion. You can rank search results by "relevance" or "newest first" or "oldest first" (the most interesting ranking), And wait hopefully for more material to be digitized.

May 14 #7 Brian W. Pugh continues to revise his A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Mar 13 #6); the third edition (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 303 pp., \$24.95) delightful and valuable as a resource for information about the life and work of Conan Doyle. The chronology starts in 1755 (the birth of James Doyle) and ends in 1998 (the memorial service for Dame Jean), and there are splendid photographs (old and new), a list of statues and plaques around the world, a new section detailing his Arctic voyage in 1880, careful citations of sources, and much more. The publisher's colorful web-sites can be found at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: Diane Gilbert Madsen's THE CONAN DOYLE NOTES: THE SECRET OF JACK THE RIPPER (2014; 346 pp., \$28.95) is the latest in her series featuring insurance investigator DD McGil, this time involved in a hunt for the manuscript of THE WHITE COMPANY, in which Conan Doyle accidentally inserted his notes about his (and Dr. Joseph Bell's) identification of the Ripper; one of the characters is Chicago rare-book dealer Tom Joyce (conveniently echoing the real Chicago rare-book dealer Thomas J. Joyce), and many others have names taken from the Sherlock Holmes stories. The author has a website at <www.dianegilbertmadsen.com>.

And there's more: Phil Growick's THE REVENGE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 294 pp., \$8.95) is a sequel to THE SECRET JOURNAL OF DOCTOR WATSON; Holmes encounters the Romanovs, the Mafia, Sidney Reilly, David Lloyd George, Doug Fairbanks, and Mary Pickford. John A. Little's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MUSICAL MURDERS (2014; 149 pp., \$11.95) is set in 1925, with Holmes and Watson back in practice, assisted by the next generation (Jasper Lestrade and Lily Hudson), and in pursuit of a bizarre serial murderer connected to the Bloomsbury Group ("musical" being urban slang for "homosexual"). THE POISONED PENMAN, by Dan Andriacco and Kieran McMullen (2014; 172 pp., \$11.95), is a sequel to their THE AMATEUR EXECUTIONER (Sep 13 #6); it's 1922 in London, and Enoch Hale and Dorothy L. Sayers are pursue the murderer of Langdale Pike (again, Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes are involved in the mystery).

And still more: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF EINSTEIN'S DAUGHTER, by Tim Symonds (2014; 193 pp., \$14.95) takes Holmes and Watson to the Balkans to investigate persistent rumors that Albert Einstein had an illegitimate daughter Lieserl. Dean P. Turnbloom's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE BODY SNATCHERS (2014; 322 pp., \$18.95) is a sequel to his earlier SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE WHITECHAPEL VAMPIRE (Apr 12 #7); this time the vampire's in New York, pursued by local detectives, and of course by Holmes and Watson. John Heywood's THE INVESTIGATIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014; 201 pp., \$14.95) offers six short pastiches set both in London and the countryside.

Dan Andriacco has written four books about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, the latest being THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE (Sep 13 #6), and he now has added a short story ("The Revengers") that's available (free) as a Kindle e-book at <www.amazon.com> and in other formats if you join MX's Sherlock Holmes Books newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/k6lrz62>. Dan's entertaining (and Sherlockian) blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

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

Jun 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The saga continues: the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals has issued its final judgment in the Conan Doyle Estate's appeal of the lower-court decision in Les Klinger's lawsuit against the Estate: Judge Castillo ruled in favor of Les, and the Appeals Court affirmed the ruling, also awarding costs, which Les will now be able to recover from the Estate. All the filings and decisions are available at Les' web-site <www.free-sherlock.com>; just click on "Court Filings" to find earlier documents in the case. The Estate also has commented on the judgment in a press release at <www.tinyurl.com/nf4eldo>, saying that the Estate is considering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Sherlock Holmes Attracts 69 Million Viewers in China Despite Being Banned in Country for Being Too Risque" was the headline on one report; the third season of "Sherlock" was banned by the government's censors from the Chinese Central Television network and other channels, but still found an audience thanks to video web-sites.

The three Sherlockian and Doylean lots at auction at Christie's on June 19 brought nice prices: the manuscript of "The Adventure of Black Peter" (estimated at \$250,000-350,000) sold for \$317,000 (including buyer's premium), the original artwork for Sidney Paget's illustration showing Holmes and Wat Watson in the railway carriage (in "Silver Blaze") (estimated at \$40,000-60,000) sold for \$112,500, and the pair of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's surgical scissors (estimated at \$5,000-7,000) sold for \$4,625. And it has been reported that both the manuscript and the artwork went to the same bidder (present at the auction). Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" report on the items is at <www.tinyurl.com/mgwh55r>.

The Baker Street Irregulars have organized excursions to the Vermissa Valley (2004), the Country of the Saints (2008), and the University of California in Los Angeles (2012), and (hold the dates) the next event will be a conference at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York on Sept. 16-18, 2016. Details to come.

The collection of John Lennon manuscripts brought good prices at Sotheby's in New York on June 4 (Mar 14 #2). The manuscript of "The Singulare Experience of Miss Anne Duffield" (a parody that was published in A SPANIARD IN THE WORKS in 1965, and featured Shamrock Wolmbs and Doctored Whopper), was estimated at \$50,000-70,000 and sold for \$209,000 (including the buyer's premium), and illustrations for the story also sold well above estimates.

A new Sherlockian society for numismatists and coin collectors will hold an organizational meeting in Rosemont, Ill. (near Chicago), on Aug. 9, during the American Numismatic Association's World Fair of Money. Details available from Greg Ruby <greg@gregrubyconsulting.com>.

"Metal Knight" is a new digital album from Charlemagne Productions featuring songs by Christopher Lee, who at 92 years old still has a fine voice; there's a sample at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/msng5b9>, kindly reported by Alexander Orlov. It's not Sherlockian, but still nicely done. And there's an interesting web-site at <www.charlemagneproductions.org>.

Jun 14 #2 Henry Cauvin's THE KILLING NEEDLE (New York: Locked Room International, 2014; 152 pp., \$15.99) features an amateur detective skilled at observation, deduction, and forensic science, who occasionally takes drugs, and whose story is told by a doctor who becomes his friend and associate. This all may sound familiar, but he's not Sherlock Holmes; instead he's Maximilien Heller, and the book was first published in French in 1871, leading to speculation that it may have inspired Conan Doyle to create his own similar detective. The translation is by John Pugmire, whose web-site <www.lockedroominternational.com> is devoted to English translations of foreign-language locked-room mysteries. THE KILLING NEEDLE is an interesting mystery, French rather than English, and of course Conan Doyle (who read and spoke French) might well have been familiar with it.

Ron De Waal suggests that Les Klinger seems to have set a record (some time ago). THE NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES, which weighs 15.8 pounds, likely is the heaviest Sherlock Holmes book or set ever published. Of course the single issues of The Strand Magazine that contain the 58 stories published in the magazine would weigh more, but they include a lot of non-Sherlockian material.

When in Russia: Alexander Orlov has reported a Sherlock Holmes restaurant/bar/museum in Obninsk (62 miles southwest of Moscow); their web-site is (in Russian) at <www.sherlockbar.ru>.

William Freeman's DICTIONARY OF FICTIONAL CHARACTERS (1963) contains brief entries for the names of "20,000 characters from over 2,000 literary works --novels, short stories, poems, plays, and operas--by 500 British and American authors," and it's a frustrating and intriguing book. Frustrating because there's no author index, so one can't easily locate all of the characters created by a particular author. And intriguing because it's impossible to figure out why particular characters were or were not chosen. The major characters from Conan Doyle's best-known books are included, not only the stars of the Canon, but also from the Challenger and Gerard stories and from THE WHITE COMPANY, SIR NIGEL, RODNEY STONE, and UNCLE BERNAC, and with some of the minor characters from those novels. But Freeman appears not to have read THE VALLEY OF FEAR: Birdy Edwards and Jack Douglas are missing, and the only McMurdo listed is Bartholomew Sholto's servant in THE SIGN OF FOUR.

Samantha Wolov noted a Facebook reference to a hair salon in Chico, Calif., called Shear Locks Home; it's not there any more, but there is a Shear Lock Home in Delhi, Iowa, a Shear Lock Combs in Edmonton, Alberta, and a Shear-Lock Combs West in St. Charles, Mo. <www.shearlockcombs.com>.

Howard Ostrom's five-part essay on "The Original Baker Street Babes" at the No Place Like Holmes web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qyooq7g> (Dec 13 #5) has now been supplemented by Lexi Wolfe's four-part video documentary at YouTube; go to <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VH7FfQ4J7co> for the first part, with links at the right to the other three parts. Howard's latest essay is about the many Russian presentations of Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, and television, available at <www.tinyurl.com/qd3mu5e>; "From Russia with Love" was written with assistance from Alexander Orlov and others and it demonstrates how valuable Internet archives in other countries and languages can be.

Jun 14 #3 Lenny Picker has reported the just-released direct-to-DVD film "Baby Geniuses and the Treasures of Egypt" (\$14.99); there's a trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/k6g4y8r>. "An adorable group of talking baby detectives travel to the deserts of Egypt to track down the naughty baby-criminal mastermind Big Baby and his partner, the supervillain Moriarty (Jon Voight).

The BBC's "Sherlock" series is thoroughly popular world-wide, and if you'd like to see a grand example of youth, energy, and enthusiasm, take a look at the video of the "I Am Sherlocked Dance Mob" performed earlier this year in St. Petersburg <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqlFjX3lpz0>. Thanks to Alexander Orlov for reporting the video.

Tom Wheeler has expanded his THE LONDON OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Nov 11 #8) into five "New Generation Travel" e-books with active Internet links now available from Amazon Digital Services <www.amazon.com>; just search for [thomas bruce wheeler]. He also offers an impressive set of presentation notes for "The London of Sherlock Holmes" with color photographs and active links; it will run on any computer that has Microsoft Word installed, and it's available on request from Tom <londonsecrets@europe.com>.

Not only "Fleet-street was choked with red-headed folk," John Bergquist has suggested, after spotting a news report about what happened in Montréal on May 3, when ginger-haired Celine Dompierre, who wanted to foster a greater sense of community among those who shared her hair color, used Facebook to organize a gathering in a park on Mount Royal. You can find stories (and video) with a Google search for [redheads montreal].

Fran Martin reported in the June issue of The Petrel Flyer (the newsletter of The Stormy Petrels of B.C.) that her daughter Becky had interviewed Dan Aykroyd, who said that his great-grandfather corresponded with Conan Doyle. Asked if he was a Holmes fan, Aykroyd replied, "Oh yes. Absolutely, sure. Who isn't, really?" Go to <www.tinyurl.com/odbqb6n> to read the entire interview. It should be noted that Aykroyd played Watson in "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" (a skit broadcast on "Saturday Night Live" in 1978).

The protagonist of Steven Galloway's THE CONFABULIST (New York: Riverhead, 2014; 304 pp., \$27.95) is Martin Strauss, the man who killed Harry Houdini (twice); the novel's an imaginative and interesting tale of magic and magicians, espionage, and murder, and it includes a fictionalized account of Houdini's meetings with Conan Doyle.

The second annual "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" symposium will take place in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 21, 2015, and more information is available from Martin Arbagi <martin.arbagi@gmail.com>.

The Second Annual John H. Watson Society World Invitational Canonical Treasure Hunt will be launched at noon on Aug. 1 as a challenge to Sherlockian teams and individuals world-wide; Don Libey promises that this year's challenge will be more difficult than last year's. The rules and regulations are available at <www.tinyurl.com/ndaamme>. Don also announced on June 17 that the society's journal The Watsonian will also be available as a digital edition; details at <www.johnhwatsonociety.com/index.html>.

Jun 14 #4 "Enduring War: Grief, Grit, and Humour" is the title of a British Library exhibition (open through Oct. 12) that commemorates the centenary of the First World War <www.tinyurl.com/mgjkfk2>; one item on display is the letter Conan Doyle wrote to his mother in 1917 about his son Kingsley: "I do not fear death for the boy for since I became a convinced spiritualist death became rather an unnecessary thing, but I fear pain and mutilation very greatly." There's also a link to the Library's World War One web-site, which has images of the manuscript original of Conan Doyle's "Petition in Support of Roger Casement" <www.tinyurl.com/n974fae>.

The second vintage from 221B Cellars honors "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with a Sonoma County Zinfandel and an attractive label; as last year, it's a limited first edition wine, and you can read all about it, and order your bottles, at <www.221bcellars.com>. Don Libey and Don and Joanne Yates obviously are having fun with their project.

Benedict Cumberbatch briefly had green hair, according to Claire Pritchard-Jones. She's the make-up artist for the BBC series "Sherlock" and appeared this month at the Sherlock Holmes Convention in Vienna. You can read all about it (and much more) in a Radio Times story <www.tinyurl.com/lf7otms>; don't neglect the link in the second paragraph to the Q&A, which is really just a report on the stories she told.

Alexander Orlov has noted <www.attaboyclarence.com>, a web-site maintained by Adam Roche and devoted to classic movies and old-time radio, with interesting podcasts, three of them with Basil Rathbone material.

The Undershaw Set is now available from the Baker Street Irregulars Press <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/undershaw.html>. The slip-cased set contains signed, numbered, and specially-bound copies of two books: Michael Dirda's ON CONAN DOYLE: OR, THE WHOLE ART OF STORYTELLING (Oct 11 #2) and Joel Silver's THE REMARKABLE CHARACTERS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE (Feb 14 #1); all profits from the set will go to the Undershaw Preservation Trust to help preserve Conan Doyle's former home.

Congratulations (again) to Dan Stashower, whose THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR has been nominated for a Macavity (best nonfiction) by Mystery Readers International. The book also has won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar (best fact crime) and Malice Domestic's Agatha (best non-fiction work).

Patricia Guy's BACCHUS AT BAKER STREET: SHERLOCK HOLMES & VICTORIAN DRINKING LORE (Nov 95 #6), now available as an e-book (\$2.99), presents an expert's examination of the wine, beer, and spirits found in the Canon, and the brewers, vintners, barkeepers and wine-merchants, with flavor and humor and an occasional surprise; it's another fine example of how useful e-books can be bringing interesting books to a new generation of readers.

Eli Wallach died on June 24, after a long career on stage and screen. He acted for more than 60 years. He was best known for his role as the bandit Tuco in "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" (1965), he titled his memoirs THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND ME: IN MY ANECDOTAGE (2005); he also played Napoleon Bonaparte in the film "The Adventures of Gerard" (1970).

Jun 14 #5 Edith Pargeter (as Ellis Peters), best known for her long series of Medieval mysteries starring Brother Cadfael, also wrote imaginative short stories and novelettes for newspapers, magazines, and anthologies; her THE TRINITY CAT AND OTHER MYSTERIES (Norfolk: Crippen & Landru, 2006; 262 pp., \$19.00), part of Crippen & Landru's "Lost Classics Series", includes one (almost) Sherlockian story that was inspired by one of the Canonical tales. The publisher specializes in collections and anthologies of short stories, with a web-site at <www.crippenlandru.com>.

UNDILUTED HOCUS-POCUS: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MARTIN GARDNER (Princeton University Press, 2013; 233 pp., \$24.95) is a delightful book. Gardner, who died in 2010 (May 10 #5), grew up in Tulsa with John Bennett Shaw, and had many enthusiasms, including Sherlock Holmes, and in these memoirs he tells grand stories about John and the many other interesting people he Gardner met during his long career as a writer and debunker of the paranormal and supernatural.

A brief story about the wonders of a computerized world: it took me three visits to the Maryland Motor Vehicles Administration, and two to the Social Security Administration, to renew my driver's license, because the MVA has to confirm my identity with the SSA. And someone at the SSA had typed my name into their system as Blaie. But now I'm officially me.

It's well known among Sherlockians, and more and more among others (thanks to the efforts of Cliff Goldfarb) that it wasn't Conan Doyle who assisted Dorando Pietri across the finish line at the 1908 Olympics in London. But it's less well known that it was Pietri's ordeal that inspired a young man in New York to write his first complete song, about an Italian barber who sells his barber shop and bets all the money on Pietri. The songwriter was Irving Berlin; there seems to be no recording of the song on the Internet, but the lyrics of "Dorando" are available at <www.tinyurl.com/kq6q5xv>.

Jennie Paton reports that "The Final Problem" (the seventh program in the Russian television series that stars Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin) is now available with English subtitles at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/lh7fyd8>. One more to go to complete the series with subtitles.

Credit Thierry Saint-Joanis for noting a report that the Baker Street tube station is being refurbished, which will involve removal of tiles showing a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes. Cleshar Contract Services is doing the work <www.tinyurl.com/ozocvd> and plans to reinstall some of the tiles in a few areas, and send the rest of the tiles to auction to benefit Sparks, a children's benefit medical research charity <www.sparks.org.uk>. You can read all about it in French and English, and see colorful images of the station, at <www.tinyurl.com/odauxne>.

Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#65) is "Art in the Blood" <www.tinyurl.com/ndfy6l3>; they interviewed Tom Richmond (described as one of the "usual gang of idiots" at Mad Magazine), and they offer a full-color view of Richmond's panorama of eight actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes (prints are available from the artist) and a series of links that portray more of his work.

Jun 14 #6 Fans of Sherlockian poetry will welcome the news that there are a few copies of Ellay Aitcheson's ACD MYSTERY SONNETS, issued by the Hansom Press in 1998) still available, with "Five and twenty sonnets culled from the Canon". You can order the booklet from Len Haffenden (1026 West Keith Road, North Vancouver, BC V7P 3C6, Canada) for \$15.00 postpaid, with checks payable to Len, please.

"Dr. Watson and Mr. Holmes" (recorded by the Spirits of Rhythm for Decca in 1934) has been available on the Internet for some time (Oct 01 #2), but now there's something new, spotted by Alexander Orlov: the song accompanied by clips from the Granada series, at <www.tinyurl.com/lbtvlp8>.

Since it's summer, there's lots of theater coming up, here and there. The East Haddam Stage Company will repeat last year's production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" (Jul 13 #5); it's a 30-minute live-action radio drama using the script from William Gillette's 1930 broadcast) at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., July 5 through Aug. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/kag2zqm>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Murders" (adapted by Jeremy Holstein from William S. Baring-Gould's "Jack the Harlot Killer") will be one of the three plays in "Summer Radio Mystery Theatre: Super Sleuths" at Responsible Grace Church in Somerville, Mass., on July 11-19 <www.tinyurl.com/m8mcbta>. The other super sleuths are Hercule Poirot and Lady Molly of Scotland Yard. "Jack the Harlot Killer" is a chapter in Baring-Gould's biography SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (1962).

"Sherlock Holmes: The Pantomime" with words by Jenny Gilbert will be performed at the Playhouse Theatre in Glen Eden, New Zealand, from July 12 to 25 <www.playhousetheatre.co.nz>.

The Rumpus Theatre Company will offer "Sherlock Holmes: The Scandal of the Scarlet Woman" (based on "A Scandal in Bohemia") at the Fairfield Halls in Croydon on Sept. 18-20 <www.fairfield.co.uk>, and at the Chelmsford Civic Theatre in Chelmsford, Oct. 16-17 <www.chelmsford.co.uk/sherlock-holmes>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is a new play by Eric Coble, based on a series of four graphic novels by Tony Lee and Dan Boulwood, due for its world premiere by First Stage at the Todd Wehr Theater in Milwaukee from Oct. 17 to Nov. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/q8a7hsz>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Jersey Lily" is scheduled by the Kirk Players in Mundelein, Ill. Mar. 27-29, 2015 <www.kirkplayers.org>.

The news of the British play comes from Roger Johnson's excellent newsletter The District Messenger, which is published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of London and offers excellent coverage of what's going on in Britain, Europe, and elsewhere; it's available without charge by e-mail and at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/district.php>. His e-mail address is <rojerjohnson@yahoo.co.uk>.

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

Jul 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The saga continues: Les Klinger has applied to the Court of Appeals to recover his expenses in his lawsuit against the Conan Doyle Estate, quoting the Court's statements that the Estate's argument lacked "any ground known to American law," and that the appeal "borders on the quixotic." He is requesting about \$68,000 for expenses for the entire case. The Estate then asked the Court of Appeals to stay its ruling that only the characters and story elements in the last ten stories are protected, while the Estate asks the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case, because recent "movies and television shows demonstrate that the Sherlock Holmes character is more popular than ever," and because allowing "the Court's opinion to have immediate effect will have a chilling effect on the Estate's ability to manage" promotion and development of the character through licensing agreements."

The Court of Appeals denied the Estate's motion for a stay, and the Estate then asked Elena Kagan (the Supreme Court's Circuit Justice for the Seventh Circuit) to delay implementation of the Court of Appeals decision while the Estate petitions the Supreme Court to review the case; Justice Kagan dismissed the request without comment, and the Court of Appeals decision remains in effect while the Supreme Court decides whether to accept a petition that the Estate has said it plans to submit in a few months. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions a year, and accepts (and hears oral arguments) in about 75 to 80 cases. As always, you can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>.

It's time for a challenge (repeated from Oct 88): A non-Sherlockian friend reports recently riding in a taxi driven by a man who said that there were only four people in the Sherlock Holmes stories who smoked pipes. Who were they? The answer's in this month's issue.

The Kent & Sussex Courier reported (June 14) on a fire at Windlesham Manor, formerly the home of Conan Doyle and now a home for the elderly. An alarm was raised at 12:44 am: smoke was reported in one of the rooms, and three fire engines were sent from Crowborough and Uckfield. One person was taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and several others were checked over by ambulance crews. Brian Pugh heard from the manager that there was only minor damage to one of the rooms.

"Mad Movies with the L.A. Connection" (a syndicated television series that aired in 1985 and 1986) spoofed old movies by editing them to fit a 30-minute slot and overdubbing new dialogue. The series included new versions of "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" and "Dressed to Kill" that are now available on-line at <www.madmoviesonline.com>; they went on to parody "The Woman in Green" in 1993, available at their web-site (\$3.79).

"Anna May Wong: In Her Own Words" (2013) aired on PBS this year, and it's worth watching for a repeat. The one-hour documentary was written by Yunah Hong, with quotes from her letters, and you can watch a six-minute preview at <www.tinyurl.com/m6nrzd5>. She was a fine actress, and the documentary includes a production still showing her as Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933); she also was parodied earlier in the marionette burlesque "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930).

Jul 14 #2 Taxi drivers are not always experts. At least seven people who are named in the Canon smoked pipes (as you might have discovered from the entry for "tobacco" in Jack Tracy's THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA SHERLOCKIANA). Sherlock Holmes, of course, and Dr. Watson. John Straker also smoked a pipe ("Silver Blaze"), and so did Grant Munro ("The Yellow Face"). Thaddeus Sholto smoked a hookah ("The Sign of the Four"), and Isa Whitney smoked opium ("The Man with the Twisted Lip"). Peter Carey owned a tobacco pouch ("Black Peter"). But: who's the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe? The answer will be found on the next page.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" was a fine excuse for a visit to Columbus, Ohio, where it's open through Sept. 1 at the Center of Science and Industry. COSI (pronounced coh-seye, so that it's not mistaken for the restaurant chain) is very much a hands-on museum, which makes it a fine venue of the exhibition, which is a well-designed combination of artifacts and hands-on activity.

The exhibition consists of three rooms, the first devoted to London, Arthur Conan Doyle, Joseph Bell, and Sherlock Holmes, with displays that include a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, original manuscripts, and artwork by Sidney Paget and Frederic Dorr Steele. The second room has a fine recreation of the sitting-room, and an opportunity to investigate a mystery (designed by Dan Stashower) that offers young and old first-hand experience with observation and deduction. And the third room is devoted both to modern times and to the collectibles that fascinate Sherlockians; the displays include costumes and props from modern films (Downey) and television series (Cumberbatch and Miller), and items such as the Czarina's specially-bound copies of the Canon from John Bennett Shaw's collection, and copies of the old and new series of The Baker Street Journal.

There's lots to see and do, and the exhibition is thoroughly engaging (and was well-attended). The labels are easily read (nice for people who have extremely-middle-aged eyes), and visitors can learn a lot (if they want to) about Victorian times and the Sherlockian world. There's a fine video introduction to the exhibition by Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard), and an assortment of videos showing modern forensics (including an explanation of forensic toxicology by Marina Stajic). Bottom line: go if convenient--if inconvenient, go all the same.

The exhibition's scheduled next at the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., from Oct. 9 through Jan. 4, 2015; then at the Perot Museum of Science & Nature in Dallas, Texas, opening Feb. 2; at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, Calif., opening on June 11; the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, in Denver, Colo., opening Oct. 15; and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, opening Oct. 13, 2016. The exhibition web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesexhibition.com>, and the web-site for Columbus is at <www.cosi.org/exhibits/sherlock>.

The Bolton News reported (June 8) that "Burnt Copies of the Bible and Sherlock Holmes" were found next to a torched 10-foot wizard's chair in Tonge Moor. The wizard's chair was installed in a woodland playground near Bolton (in Lancashire); there has been no further word on whether the vandals have been apprehended, nor (of course) why they chose those two Canons.

Jul 14 #3 Jim Browner ("The Cardboard Box") is the eighth person named in the Canon who appears to have smoked a pipe. And not because the cardboard box was a "yellow, half-pound honeydew box," since he could, after all, have obtained the box anywhere. There is much better evidence. What's that better evidence? Again, the answer's on the next page.

"We just think Holmes is really cool, but having always been attracted to the darker side of life, Moriarty just stood out as a basis for our music. He is clever, devilish and unrepentant--what more do you want from a band?" The British two-man band is called Moriarty [that's their spelling], and the musicians are Jordan Macneil West and Matthew Partridge; they're based in Devon, and their web-site's at <www.moriarty.co.uk>. They have an EP ("Lord Blackwood") and a new album ("The Devil's Child"), and a 30-minute documentary at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5y8k73POMm4>.



Here's Ian McKellen as the 93-year-old Sherlock Holmes in "Mr. Holmes" (that's the new title for the film based on Mitch Cullin's A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND), now filming and scheduled for release next year.

"It's Queen Vic, Talking Statue, on the Line" was the headline in the Sunday Times (July 6) on a story spotted by Oscar Ross: the Talking Statues Speak Their Minds project, which will run for a year starting on Aug. 19, allows people with smartphones to hear what statues have to say. Anthony Horowitz wrote the script for the statue of Sherlock Holmes outside the Baker Street tube station, and the recording is by British actor Ed Stoppard (son of Tom Stoppard). Best known for his role as Henryk in "The Pianist" (2002), Stoppard also played Sir Hallam Holland, the Foreign Office diplomat who inherited 165 Eaton Place, in the latest "Upstairs Downstairs" series.

Pennie Mae Cartawick's series of almost two dozen pastiches offers a good demonstration of what can be done with digital publishing: all of them are available for Amazon Kindle (99¢ each), and there are collections for Kindle and on paper, and readings at Amazon and Audible (which you can sample on-line). The author has a blog at <www.tinyurl.com/l8y7h5f> with news and promotions and special offers.

Andrew Page ("Lord Saltire") died on May 10, 2013. He became interested in Sherlock Holmes during his high school years, and in 1971 became an energetic author, editor, and publisher, receiving his investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1974. He went on to a career as a teacher of high school English and then community college mathematics; there is much more about his contributions to the Sherlockian world in The Baker Street Journal's 2003 Christmas Annual, which was devoted to what was called the Junior Sherlockian Movement.

It was 125 years ago that J. M. Stoddart invited Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde to dinner at the Langham Hotel and commissioned both authors to write stories for Lippincott's, and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London will honor the event at dinner in the Grand Ballroom at the Langham on Aug. 30; consult the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pns2xzza> for more information on The Stoddart Dinner.

Jul 14 #4 Oscar Ross has noted a BBC news story about Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office showing at least one program from the "Sherlock" series at a film festival held in Pyongyang in 2012, in hopes of "encouraging change" in North Korea. The episode wasn't "The Empty Hearse" (which the BBC explained involves Holmes identifying a British minister and peer as a North Korean spy who attempts to blow up Parliament); that episode hadn't been filmed, and wasn't broadcast until Jan. 1, 2014.

The better evidence for Jim Browner having been a pipe-smoker is found in The Strand Magazine, where Sidney Paget illustrated Jim Browner smoking a pipe. D. Martin Dakin seems to be the first person to have mentioned this in print (in A SHERLOCK HOLMES COMMENTARY).



The 198 competitors in the Tour de France started this year's event in Leeds, England (the cycling race covers 3,664 kilometers in four countries over three weeks before ending in Paris), and the Associated Press provided this photograph of a man dressed as Sherlock Holmes with cycling fans in Leeds.

Sam Siciliano's THE GRIMSWELL CURSE (London: Titan, 2013; 233 pp., £7.99/\$9.95) is a sequel to his THE WEB WEAVER (Feb 12 #6); the narrator is Sherlock Holmes' cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, who with his wife Michelle (also a doctor), assists Holmes in investigating the case of a young woman who may be subject to a long-standing family curse.

There was more original artwork by Sidney Paget at auction last month, at Reeman Dancie Auctioneers in Colchester <www.tinyurl.com/ncnvfoz>: an oil-on-canvas painting of sheep on a hillside, was estimated at £100-150 but went unsold.

Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> continues to offer interesting commentary, including his recent "Found and Lost: The Manuscript of THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES" (the manuscript did exist, and may still, and of course Ray would like to hear from the owner). Ray also has blogged about Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, reprinting (and commenting) on three reviews from the 1930s, with colorful illustrations that include the seldom-seen dust jacket of the first British edition.

Kelly Blau has noted THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES as a "personalized literary classic" offered by Signals <www.tinyurl.com/qy5my4n>. You're able to change the names of one to six major characters, and add a personal dedication on the opening page (\$39.95).

Val Biro died on July 4. He was a prolific children's author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps most famous for a series of 37 picture books about a car he called Gumdrop. Nick Utechin has noted that Biro's work appears on covers of John Murray paperback editions of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, and TALES OF BRIGADIER GERARD, as well as in Fanny Cradock's THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COOKBOOK. Some of his covers and original artwork can be seen at <www.abebooks.com>; just search for [biro sherlock] and [biro gerard] as author.

Jul 14 #5 Steve Emecz at MX Publishing has posted a statement by Norman Stromsoy, the project manager for the Stepping Stones School's restoration of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, with details on their plans for the house. He also hopes that the Undershaw Preservation Trust "will want to use the new facilities to hold events to celebrate the life and times of Conan Doyle," and that he looks forward to "welcoming you to Undershaw in the autumn of 2015 when you will be able to see for yourself what has been achieved. The full statement's at <www.tinyurl.com/mhl356x>.

John Michael Gibson (the founder and director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust) has said that he welcomes the latest developments but is concerned "that the stables that have stood for 120 years that housed Doyle's horse Brigadier and his carriage and the well that he drew his water from may be lost in the new plans." And he filed an appeal asking for a review of the English Heritage decision to continue the Grade II listing for Undershaw; you can read the text of his appeal at <www.saveundershaw.com>.

An upgrade of the listing would have imposed strong controls over development that could have caused problems for the school's conversion of Undershaw into a school, but English Heritage denied the appeal, concluding that "the interest conferred on the building by its association with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is not sufficient to warrant upgrading given its modest architectural quality."



Escape Hunt is a chain of themed game rooms; the Sherlock Holmes room opened recently at the Concorde Hotel & Shopping Mall in Singapore. Each room is meant for two to five players, who have an hour to solve a mystery and escape from the room <www.singapore.escapehunt.com> (the young ladies likely were posing for a publicity photo).

The BBC announced (via Twitter at 2:21 pm on July 2) that shooting will begin in January on a "Sherlock" special, and that shooting for the next season will begin later next year; the special is likely to air at Christmas in 2015, with the next season starting the following year. Scott Monty had details on the BBC's tweeting at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" website <www.tinyurl.com/pzok5pt>.

"Celebrity Deathmatch" was a 30-minute claymation series that was broadcast by MTV cable, and on July 20, 2000, the program included a 5-minute segment "Sherlock Holmes vs. Jack the Ripper" that's now available on Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" website <www.tinyurl.com/o84j379>. Note: it's not for the faint of heart.

Orion Books launched its publicity campaign for Anthony Horowitz's second pastiche with a giveaway of advance proofs of "Moriarty" to twelve of the "most influential names in the book world" at the Rookery Hotel in Clerkenwell this month, according to a story in The Bookseller (July 16). But there were more than twelve influential people at the event, and 100 proof copies bound in velvet and lettered in silver, and Arifa Akbar reported on the party for the Independent (July 17) <www.tinyurl.com/kzweckm>. There has been no report (so far) of one of the copies for sale, but it shouldn't take long.

Jul 14 #6 THE GRAPHIC NOVELS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is an attractive series of individual short stories, adapted by Vincent Goodwin and illustrated by Ben Dunn (Minneapolis: Magic Wagon/ABDO, 2010-2013, each with 48 pp., \$20.95), intended for young readers, and nicely done indeed. There are 18 titles in the series, and you can see cover artwork at the company's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/oyxvm7l>.



The colorful Gold Bubble "Sherlock Holmes Collection" received lots of publicity this month. The California company, inspired by the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, used the wallpaper, the mind palace, the front door of 221B, and the iconic Belstaff Millford coat for themes

Milford coat. There are additional images at the company's web-site at <www.goldbubbleclothing.com>, and more publicity photographs at <www.images.google.com>; search for [gold bubble sherlock] to see this image and many others.

Otto Penzler notes that the Mysterious Bookshop has published his annotated bibliography of first editions of mystery fiction set in the world of books (1849-2000). BIBLIOMYSTERYIES (\$75.00) includes 130 full-color photographs or rare or especially interesting dust jackets and covers, and is limited to 200 signed and numbered copies. And there is Sherlockian content: not only Vincent Starrett's THE UNIQUE HAMLET, but also books by Robert Richardson, August Derleth, Christopher Morley, S. C. Roberts, and others.

"Whom do you consider your literary heroes?" "The author of the plays attributed to William Shakespeare; I am also a great fan of A. Conan Doyle." John Paul Stevens, former Supreme Court justice, in a "By the Book" interview in the N.Y. Times (Apr. 6), spotted by John Baesch.

MediaWeek reported (July 22) that BBC Worldwide, the commercial arm of the BBC, generated sales of £1.04 billion in the year that ended Mar. 31, due to the popularity of series such as "Doctor Who" and "Sherlock" (which has been licensed to 224 territories). BBC Worldwide's pre-tax profit for the year was £126.5 million.

Benedict Cumberbatch and John Malkovich will star together in a new movie: "Penguins of Madagascar" (animated in 3D and scheduled for a Thanksgiving release): Cumberbatch provides the voice for Agent Classified, a wolf who's head of an animal spy organization that teams up with the penguins to save the world from the evil octopus Dr. Octavius Brine (voiced by Malkovich).

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MR. JAMES PHILLIMORE (Sep 13 #6) was the most recent title in Dan Andriacco's series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, and his next book (ROGUES GALLERY) will have two novellas and three short stories. He has launched a crowd-funding campaign to get the book published, and you can read about it at <www.pubslush.com/books/id/2568>. He is using Pubslush, which says it is "the gateway to the literary world" and a "niche crowd-funding platform," and it's an interesting concept. His entertaining Sherlockian blog is at <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com>.

Jul 14 #7 Phil Attwell spotted a story in Radio Times (July 22) about the revival on BBC Radio 4 of the 30-minute series "Dead Ringers" on which impressionists will parody various public figures, including Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes; the first of six weekly episodes aired on July 30; the series can be heard on-line, but you may need to spoof the BBC into thinking you're in the UK (there are programs such as Hola! that help one do this) <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04brr99>.

A dastardly crime reported on the blotter of the police department on Bainbridge Island, Wash. (July 10): Someone stole a cell phone from a vehicle at the Day Road Park-and-Ride lot. The car owner had left the doors to his Honda unlocked at the time of the prowl. The pipe was glass and shaped in a "Sherlock Holmes style." It was in a brown leather case. The phone and pipe were valued at approximately \$230.



There were 113 people on hand at University College in London on July 19, all of them wearing Sherlockian costume, to celebrate Benedict Cumberbatch's 38th birthday and to try to set a Guinness World Record for the most people gathered in one place dressed as Sherlock Holmes. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton were on hand for the festivities, and you can see them (briefly) in a video report by Charlotte Pamment, available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/q2736r3>. She has other interesting (although non-Sherlockian) video on the Internet, one being a report on an upside-down house in London <www.vimeo.com/86097204>.

The event was organized to raise awareness of the National Literacy Trust, and Roger Johnson has posted pictures from the gathering, and of the Sherlock Holmes BookBench (May 14 #5), at <www.tinyurl.com/ntoek3p>. You can click on each image to read Roger's captions.

"Madame Tussaud ain't in it," Sam Merton said (in "The Mazarin Stone"), but Sherlock Holmes (well, Benedict Cumberbatch) will be on display for visitors to Madame Tussauds in London beginning in October. You can see colorful photographs of him being measured for his waxwork figure in a Radio Times story (July 21) <www.tinyurl.com/qyzttel>. Cumberbatch was among the celebrities at Comic-Con in San Diego; the Guardian reported (July 25) that Hall H (the largest venue, with a capacity of 6,500) was filled completely, with many attendees dressed in Sherlockian costume, "despite this being a presentation that had nothing to do with the show whatsoever."

WinTrillions Casino offers a wide range of on-line games; based in Cyprus, it's the gaming division of Ledonford Gaming Services (licensed in Alderney, which is one of the Channel Islands). The casino's slot-machine-style games include one called "Sherlock Mystery", which you can find (with many other games) at <www.wintrillionscasino.com>.

If you'd like to spend a night at the Abbey Grange, Nick Utechin has found an Abbey Grange Hotel in Llangollen (you need to speak Welsh to be able to pronounce that properly): <www.abbey-grange-hotel.co.uk>. Completists may wish also to stay at the Abbey Grange Hotel in Nuneaton; their web-site's at <www.pierresrestaurant.co.uk>. There's also an Abbey Grange Church of England Academy in Leeds <www.abbeygrandacademy.co.uk>.

Jul 14 #8 Spotted by Nick Utechin: I Love Mel (which "started out life as a few badges that were made and handed out to make Mel Elliott feel better after her boyfriend dumped her") offers a "Colour Me Good: Benedict Cumberbatch" unofficial colouring book (£7.50) and other merchandise honoring the "Sherlock" television series <www.tinyurl.com/nuw9mo6>.

Upcoming theater: Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes & the Case of the Jersey Lily" is running at the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., through Aug. 9; their web-site's at <www.cortlandrep.org>. And the play's scheduled by the Richmond Hill Players in Geneseo, Ill., Oct. 2-12; their web-site's at <www.rhplayers.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (the excellent parody by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., through Aug. 10 <www.bstreettheatre.org>. And it will be produced at the Actors' Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 5-14; their web-site is at <www.theactorstheatre.org>.

Chris Hibbs' "The Curious Case in the Colony: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is on at the Newman Wine Vaults in St. John's, Newfoundland, through Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/k5qghuu>.

"Sherlock Holmes: A Working Hypothesis" is a new interactive (audience-participation) play written by Alexander Wright that will be produced by the Flanagan Collective and the York Theatre Royal in York, Aug. 11 to Sept. 21 <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk> <www.theflanagancollective.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Drury Lane in Oakbrook, Ill., from Aug. 28 to Oct. 19; the theater web-site's at <www.drurylaneoakbrook.com>. And it will be produced by the Minstrel Players at Houghton Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church, in Northport Village, N.Y., Oct. 25-Nov. 2 <www.minstrelplayers.org>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" runs at the Randall L. Jones Theatre at Southern Utah University in Cedar City, Utah, Sept. 20 to Oct. 18 <www.bard.org>. And at the CAT Theater in Henrico, Va., Oct. 24-Nov. 8 <www.richmondvatheater.com>.

Greg Oliver Bodine's "A Requiem for Sherlock Holmes" will be performed as a reading in the Sundays@Six series at the Jewel Box Theatre in New York on Sept. 21 <www.workshoptheater.org>.

The British publisher Titan Books has a nice run of pastiches in print, and 29 of them are listed at Titan's web-site <www.titanbooks.com>, along with an interesting blog about how their covers are designed. Not listed is ELEMENTARY: THE NEXT VICTIM, a pastiche spin-off from the CBS television series, first announced for Sept. 30 and now scheduled for May 26, 2015. They haven't said who the author is, and the book's not available for pre-order at Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Fans of the series are now waiting patiently for the debut of the third season, scheduled for Oct. 30.

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

Aug 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The saga continues: 7th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner has ordered the Conan Doyle Estate to pay Les Klinger the full \$30,679.93 requested to cover his costs in the Estate's appeal of the lower court decision that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright. As always, you can read the documents in the case at www.free-sherlock.com. Judge Rubén Castillo has not yet decided on Les' request for \$39,123.44 to cover his costs in the original case. According to a Reuters dispatch (Aug. 5) Estate lawyer Benjamin Allison said that he will appeal both of the Appeals Court rulings to the Supreme Court.

"Masterpiece Mystery" started a new season of "Poirot" on July 30 on PBS-TV, with a dramatization of "The Big Four" by Mark Gatiss and Ian Hallard; the program was quite different from the book and had none of the Canonical echoes found in the book (but there was a new Doylean echo). The season will complete David Suchet's appearances as Poirot in every major literary work by Christie that features the famous Belgian detective: 70 episodes over 25 years, and there are brief clips from all of them available at www.agathachristie.com/poirot-tv.

The Florence Freedom are a Frontier League professional baseball team based in Florence (near Cincinnati), Ohio, and on July 26 they presented a Sherlock Holmes Night that featured actors from the Murder Mystery Theater Company acting out a "Take 'em out at the ball game" Murder Mystery Theater, and the team wearing Sherlock Holmes Baseball Caps, which also were available for purchase by fans. They're now out of stock, but you can see photographs at www.tinyurl.com/nyv97fk.

At long last Sherlockians have a reason to watch "Downton Abbey" (not that most Sherlockians are not watching the series already): Richard E. Grant, who played Sherlock Holmes in "The Other Side" (a television program broadcast by BBC-2 in 1992), will appear in four episodes of "Downton Abbey" as Simon Bricker, an art historian and houseguest of the Crawley family (Grant said in an interview that "my knees will be taken off" if he reveals anything else about his character).

If you'd like to own a fancy car: Silverstone Auctions' Salon Privé Sale on Sept. 4 will include a 1931 Pur Sang Bugatti Type 51 estimated at £150,000-£170,000. The catalog notes that Bugatti's cars were bought and raced by elite customers such as Achille Varzi, Marcel Lehoux, Jean Pierre Wimille, Louis Chiron, and Arthur Conan Doyle. And yes, it's quite likely that it was Adrian Conan Doyle who was among their elite customers. You can read more about the car at www.tinyurl.com/lghpesh.

Alan Rettig has discovered Gutenberg Labo, a Japanese font foundry that has created a nice Dancing Men font that's available as a free download, and of course far more accessible than the first Dancing Men reported in my newsletter many years ago (Mar 92 #5). If you'd like to install the Gutenberg Labo font on your computer, it's at www.tinyurl.com/q8sv652. Alas, there seems to be no program that can be used to translate dancing men into something more easily readable.

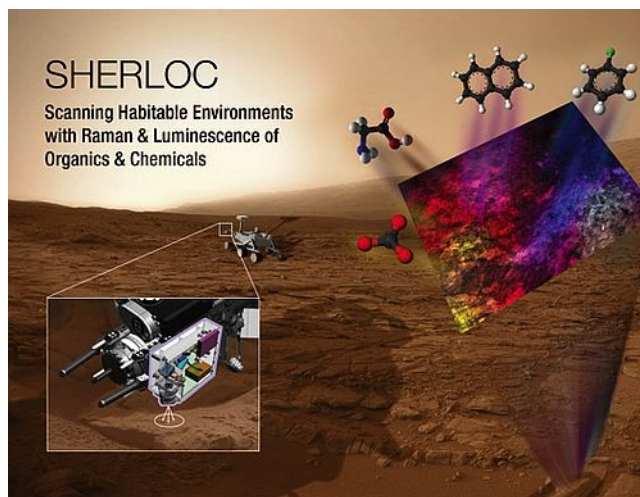
Aug 14 #2 The British Film Institute has launched a search for a copy of the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film made in Britain, now high on the BFI's list of most-wanted films. This year is the centenary of the release of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), directed by George Pearson and starring James Bragington as Holmes, and the BFI would love to hear from anyone who has a copy of the film.

It's not the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film, however. That was "Der Hund von Baskerville" (A German film released a few months earlier in 1914), directed by Rudolf Meinert and starring Alwin Neuss as Holmes; that film also is not known to have survived. If you find either film in your basement or attic, keep in mind that they were made on nitrate film, which is extremely flammable (it has essentially the same chemical composition as guncotton), and may even auto-ignite.

For those who haven't figured out the Doylean reference in the television adaptation of "The Big Four": Conan Doyle self-experimented with the drug gelsemium, and in 1879 wrote about the results in the British Medical Journal; the unusual poison used in the television episode was gelsemine.

The new owners of the Crowborough Cross Pub, located in the heart of Crowborough, asked residents of the town to consider new names for the establishment, including Willet's Cross, the Red Cross Inn, and the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; in June the owners announced that they had decided to keep the name the Crowborough Cross. But you can still have a drink (or two) at the Conan Doyle in Edinburgh.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has provided details on the next rover NASA will send to Mars, in 2020; the press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/oxrv26g>. The payload proposals include a spectrometer called SHERLOC (an acronym for Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals); go to <www.tinyurl.com/onfxzqx> to read the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's detailed description of SHERLOC. The instrument, named by deputy principal investigator Rohit Bhartia, is indeed a tip-of-the-deerstalker to Sherlock Holmes: if you look closely at the shadow cast on the surface of Mars, you will see a thoroughly familiar profile. It should be noted that NASA has not asked people to rename the instrument so that the acronym will end with the letter K.



Brandon Daniel spotted the Kings Wild Project (a collection of products designed and produced by artist Jackson Robinson) <www.tinyurl.com/15g62m2>; search for [sherlock] to see their sets of attractive Sherlock Holmes playing cards (and a dealer's coin). The decks have nicely and appropriately decorated boxes, backs, court cards and jokers, and you can see excellent images at the web-site.

Aug 14 #3 Watson's Tin Box will host the eighth "Scintillation of Scions" on June 12-13, 2015, at the Sheraton Baltimore-Washington Airport. It's an entertaining gathering of both local and far-flung Sherlockians, with a fine list of speakers. More information's available from Jacquelynn Morris (3042 Old Channel Road, Laurel, MD 20724); the Scintillation sold out last year, and has moved to a slightly larger venue, but you are advised to register sooner rather than later <www.scintillation.org>.

I'm not sure that 221b Con ("a con for all things Sherlockian") in Atlanta in 2013 was the first of its kind, but there have been more since then, including GridLOCK DC, in Alexandria, Va., this month <www.gridlockdc.com>, when 195 fans turned out for the fun and games. Some of the conventioners were old hands, but the vast majority were young (high school, college, and professional) and female, and fans of film and television (both "Sherlock" and "Elementary"); informal polling at panels revealed that about half had not (yet) read all of the Canon. There was some imaginative cosplay, table games (including Nea Dodson's Sherlockian version of Fluxx, and an assortment of vendors, and it was nice to find a younger generation interested in the Canon as well as in its dramatizations. The older generation(s) had a chance to learn some new vocabulary, including "headcanon" (Baring-Gould's SHERLOCK HOLMES OF BAKER STREET is headcanon); "cosplay" is costume play, and you can look Fluxx up at Wikipedia.

On Oct. 14 Great Britain will issue a set of stamps honoring eight significant Prime Ministers; one of them being William Gladstone, who held the office four times, and is believed by some Sherlockian scholars to have been the real Lord Bellinger (in "The Second Stain").



Michael A. Hoey died on Aug. 17. He was the son of Dennis Hoey, who played Lestrade in Universal's "Sherlock Holmes" series, and had a long career in Hollywood as an editor, director, and writer. His memoirs ELVIS, SHERLOCK & ME were published in 2007 (with the subtitle "How I survived growing up in Hollywood"), and his SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE FABULOUS FACES (2012) was an affectionate look at the supporting actors in what he called "William Roy Neill's stock company."

Winston Churchill also is in the British set of stamps honoring significant Prime Ministers. He served in office twice, corresponded with Conan Doyle, and appears as a character in many Sherlockian pastiches. John McAleer reported in his biography REX STOUT that in Dec. 1931 Stout, then a prospective bridegroom, had "a night out with the boys" at a private club where Churchill was one of the guests (at half-past one, Stout remembered, Churchill "was sipping bourbon and discussing Sherlock Holmes with me and three other men." According to Stout, "Churchill knew the Holmes stories fairly well and thought them 'perfect entertainment.'")



Jennie Paton reports that the eighth and final program in the Russian television series that stars Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin) is now available with English subtitles at YouTube; it's their version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and has little to do with Conan Doyle's story, but there are two nice jokes at the end <www.tinyurl.com/q7pe7n4>.

Aug 14 #4 There was some discussion on the Hounds of the Internet mailing list this month about the failure of many histories of science fiction to credit Conan Doyle for writing in THE LOST WORLD about explorers finding dinosaurs alive and well in modern times, and Denny Dobry reported that Edward Douglas Fawcett's book SWALLOWED BY AN EARTHQUAKE (1894) also included an encounter live dinosaurs (in an underground world). It is interesting that Conan Doyle met Fawcett's brother, the noted explorer Col. Percy H. Fawcett, in 1910; there's more about this in Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and in David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009).

The next book to be published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press will be SHERLOCKIAN SATURDAYS AT THE PRATT, edited by William Hyder; it's a selection from the many papers (both scholarly and pseudoscholarly), presented at the annual gatherings at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore from 1980 to the present. The book will be available for order (\$21.95) starting Sept. 10 <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Strictly for the purists (and there are at least a few left): spelling usage now calls for optical CDs and DVDs being discs, and magnetic floppies being disks.

Stewart McPherson's LOST WORLDS OF THE GUIANA HIGHLANDS (2008) is now out of print, but it received an enthusiastic review in Country Life (Jan. 7, 2009), at hand from John Baesch. The tepuis at Mount Roraima are thought to be as close as one can get now to the Lost World of Conan Doyle.

Alexander Orlov has reported a nicely Sherlockian excuse to visit Saint Petersburg: a map of locations where scenes were filmed for the Russian series starring Vasili Livanov and Vitali Solomin. It's interactive (you can click on locations to bring up imagery <www.221b.ru/geo/geo-spb.htm>, and of course it's helpful if you can read Russian (but Google Translate is as always a useful assistant).

Photography is not permitted at the "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" (now at COSI in Columbus, Ohio), but exceptions are made: you can see a slide show, thanks to WHY's Artworks, at <www.tinyurl.com/qgtrfpw>, and get an idea of how well designed the exhibition is.

The summer issue of The Magic Door (the newsletter published by The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library) honors the new Arthur Conan Doyle Room, with descriptions of the room and of the festivities that celebrated the opening. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

I don't recall any mention of Joseph Joachim by Sherlockian scholars, but there seems to be a connection, noted by John Baesch: John Fowler wrote a letter to the BBC Music Magazine (Christmas 2013) pointing out that Joachim was a violin virtuoso, and the first to record music for unaccompanied violin; he made five recordings in 1903, one of them being the recording heard by the villains in "The Mazarin Stone". If you'd like to hear some of the recordings, there's a web-site at <www.josephjoachim.com>.

Aug 14 #5 MX Publishing continues to offer interesting pastiches. David Ruffle's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE LYME REGIS TRIALS (2012; 125 pp., \$9.95) brings Holmes and Watson back to back to the coastal town for an investigation of mysterious goings-on (there's also an account of what happened in the Grosvenor Square furniture van). Charlotte Anne Walters' CHARLIE MILVERTON AND OTHER SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES (2014; 138 pp., \$11.95) is a retelling of five Canonical tales, set in modern times. Amy Thomas' THE DETECTIVE, THE WOMAN, AND THE SILENT HIVE (2014; 192 pp., \$16.95), the third in her series about Irene Adler, has her coming to London in search of Holmes' assistance involving a mystery triggered by one of Holmes' old cases. Fred Thursfield's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ESCAPE ARTIST (2014; 200 pp., \$14.95) has Watson's widow Mary and Sherlock Holmes in New York, and assisting Harry and Bess Houdini in solving a mystery created by a villainous spiritualist. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SKULL OF KOHADA KOHEIJI AND OTHER STORIES (2013; 193 pp., \$16.95) has five macabre mysteries, with one of them involving a seance also attended by Dr. Arthur Conan Doyle. SHERLOCK HOLMES AND YOUNG WINSTON: THE DEADWOOD STAGE (2012; 226 pp., \$16.95) is the first of Hogan's four novels that feature Holmes, Watson, and their new assistant: 12-year-old Winston Spencer-Churchill, who is a quick learner, precocious (as might be expected), and often amusing; Hogan's web-site is at <www.mikehoganbooks.co.uk>. J. Andrew Taylor's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE: THE WORMWOOD SCRUBS ENIGMA (2012; 140 pp., \$9.95) begins with a locked snow-covered field mystery: two headless prison guards are found near Wormwood Scrubbs, with no traces of a perpetrator; Holmes and Watson discover the solution.

The Ice Bucket Challenge has gone viral. It's intended to raise awareness of and collect funds for research on ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis), and Benedict Cumberbatch has participated: there's a 3-minute video available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/o7vhy6k>.

Lyndsay Faye (who is proud of her Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars as "Kitty Winter") has some interesting things to say about her namesake at the Baker Street Babes web-site <www.tinyurl.com/pzzxu69>.

The Langham Hotel, mentioned more than once in the Canon, and the site of the famous dinner at which Conan Doyle was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four", is offering an "exclusive commemoration package for Sherlock Holmes aficionados." Their "Sherlock Holmes Package" costs £329 per night for two people, including an English breakfast and two tickets to the exhibition at the Museum of London, and you can upgrade to the Arthur Conan Doyle suite at £529 per night. Read all about it at the hotel's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/paszmv4>, where you may (or may not) still find the hotel media center's statement that it was at the Langham that "the famous series of Sherlock Holmes mysteries was born."

Empire Online reported (Aug. 21) that Nicholas Rowe, who starred in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), will appear again as Holmes in "Mr. Holmes" (the new title for "A Slight Trick of the Mind"). Ian McKellen stars in the new film as an aged Holmes, and Rowe will have a cameo as a younger Holmes.

Aug 14 #6 Fans of Jeremy Brett and David Burke and Edward Hardwicke (and the Granada series) will welcome the news that the entire series has now been released by MPI Home Video on Blu-ray (\$59.98 for the disc with the first 13 episodes). Blu-ray is a digital optical-disc data-storage format that provides higher definition and requires a special player.

HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK, by Daniel Smith (New York: MJF Books, 2012; 192 pp., \$15.95), is a do-it-yourself guide to improving "your powers of observation, memory, and deduction" (with riddles and tests and solutions).

The 55th annual running of The Chicago Silver Blaze will take place at the Hawthorne Race Course on Oct. 18. All the details are available from Susan Z. Diamond (16W603 3rd Avenue, Bensenville, IL 60106); her e-mail address is <szdiamond@comcast.net>.

The "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" opens at the Saint Louis Science Center in Saint Louis, Mo., on Oct. 9, and their web-site's up and running <www.slsc.org/sherlock-holmes>.

"I have done a new cat," T. S. Eliot once wrote, "modeled on the late Professor Moriarty, but he doesn't seem very popular, too sophisticated, perhaps." That was in a letter to Frank Morley, cited by David E. Chinitz in A COMPANION TO T. S. ELIOT (John Wiley and Sons, 2009, p. 231). Thanks to Alexander Orlov for noting this direct reference to "Macavity the Mystery Cat", which actress Kelsey Williams reads (with artwork from various sources) in a YouTube video uploaded <www.tinyurl.com/q8k9poq> by Ross K. Foad.

Thomas Mengert's THE CONFESSIONS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE THEOLOGICAL ODYSSEY OF THE GREAT DETECTIVE: VOLUME 1: THE WAGER AT REICHENBACH FALLS (Keyport: Victorian Gentlemen's Press, 2014; 230 pp., \$24.95) is the first of seven volumes offering an alternative account of the adventures of Holmes and Watson, with a lot of philosophy (religious and otherwise). The complete work will total more than 820,000 words (more than the Canon itself); there's a sample from the book, and two video interviews with the author, at <www.tinyurl.com/owhjfk>.

The Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, Calif., opened in 1925 and is still operating, carefully restored, complete with Wurlitzer organ, and screening a full schedule of classic films <www.stanfordtheatre.org>. On Thursdays and Fridays into October they're showing weekly double features pairing the Fox and Universal "Sherlock Holmes" and Fox "Charlie Chan" films.

Internet fandom is awash with hopeful comment about a possible "Doctor Who" cross-over with "Sherlock" (Stephen Moffat and Mark Gatiss are showrunners for both series), and that may or may not happen, some day. In the meantime, there were Sherlockian echoes in "Doctor Who: The Snowmen" (broadcast on Dec. 25, 2012), and Les Klinger was the first to report many additional echoes in "Deep Breath" (the new season's first episode, broadcast on Aug. 23; Madame Vastra, the Victorian lizard lady, and Inspector Gregson are involved, and there are mentions of the Conk-Singleton forgery case and the Camberwell poisoner. If you're able to watch the BBC on-line, there's an 11-minute "Doctor Who Extra: Deep Breath" <www.tinyurl.com/mnofkjf> with a brief glimpse of a deerstalker (but not on the Doctor).

Aug 14 #7 There are many options available to authors who don't care if their work is not published in what now are called "dead tree books" by the many people who are happy to use e-books. One of those options is BookBaby, with an interesting web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qjdve2y>; it's a partner of Booktrack, which has published an "enhanced" version of "The Speckled Band" (Mar 12 #1).

Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.vincentstarrett.com> is well worth visiting frequently: his most recent entries are a two-part piece on "The World's Most Famous Bookplate" (and it's a fine example of how much an energetic researcher can discover).

Howard Ostrom, continuing his research on Sherlock Holmes on stage, screen, and television, has a new two-part essay ("Who's on First, It's Not So Elementary") about the first Sherlock Holmes performers in more than 40 countries; it's nicely illustrated, and you can read it at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/mwdhy5g>.

Walter Harmidarow's THE FINAL SOLUTION (Oakville: LTDBooks, 2001; 155 pp., \$18.99) pits Holmes and Watson against Moriarty; Holmes is found red-handed at the scene of murder, and Watson suffers personal tragedy, but they eventually prevail. It's out of print, but copies are available from the author for \$15.00 <walterharmidarow@bell.net>.

L.A. Theatre Works recorded "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) in June, with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson, and you'll be able to purchase a CD or download at their web-site <www.latw.org> on Sept. 15. The national broadcast is scheduled for Oct. 25, when they'll also stream the show at their web-site; details at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.

The Sherlock Breakfast Club and The Curious Collectors of Baker Street are planning an "All-Holmes' Eve" celebration in Brentwood (a suburb of Los Angeles) on Oct. 25, with food, a costume party and contest, and entertainment, ranging from strictly Canonical to wildly imaginative. Details will be announced at their Meetup web-page <www.tinyurl.com/ltxaumq>.

"The Carlton Club will find me," said Sir James Damery (in "The Illustrious Client"). The Carlton Club was founded in 1832, and now offers reciprocity to members of 137 clubs in 36 countries; if you'd like to see what it looks like now, visit the web-site <www.carltonclub.co.uk>. John Baesch spotted a handsome advertisement for the Carlton in Country Life (Oct. 9, 2013).

The Common Core standards, widely used for teaching language, literature, and mathematics, have received a lot of publicity, some favorable and some unfavorable. If you would like to see how Sherlock Holmes was used in this year's New York Regents High School Examination in English Language Arts, it's nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nld46rc>. Try your hand at testing your reading comprehension of something written by Arthur Conan Doyle. Or Langston Hughes. Or Carl Sagan. Thanks to Christopher Blau for finding the link to the exam. A Washington Post web-site blog (June 27) <www.tinyurl.com/n8doqxc> offers an explanation by two state educators of why they think the new exam is not a good test of college readiness.

Aug 14 #8 The BBC's "Sherlock" television series collected four Creative Arts Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences ("His Last Vow" was nominated in the Miniseries or Movie category): Cinematography, Single-Picture Editing, Music Composition, and Sound Editing. And Primetime Emmy Awards were won by Benedict Cumberbatch (Best Actor), Martin Freeman (Best Supporting Actor), and Best Writing (Steven Moffat).

And there's no shortage of productions of Sherlockian plays, some old and some new. Ken Ludwig's Gillette play "Postmortem" (recently rewritten as the comedy "The Game's Afoot") is being performed at the Tater Patch Players Theatre in Jasper, Ga., until Sept. 6 <www.taterpatchplayers.org>.

The West End Studio Theatre in Santa Cruz, Calif., has included "Sherlock Holmes" in its schedule of classes, starting Sept. 10; it's a "teen production" for grades 7-12, and there will be public performances on Dec. 5-6, at the Broadway Playhouse <www.westperformingarts.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Canary Girls" (a new play by Keith Digby and John Clark) will be produced at the Kenton Theatre in Henley-on-Thames on Sept. 18-27 <www.kentontheatre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" (dramatized by Anthony Dodge and Marcia Milgrom Dodge from Nicholas Meyer's novel) will be performed at Theatre Burlington in Burlington, Ont. <www.theatreburlington.on.ca> Sept. 19-Oct. 4.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Philip Grecian) will be performed at the Break Room Restaurant and Dinner Theater in Topeka, Kan., Sept. 19-27 <www.breakroomdowntown.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Richard Rose) will be produced at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., from Sept. 25 to Oct. 12 <www.bartertheatre.com>.

The LifeHouse Theater will produce Tim Kelly's play "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in Redlands, Calif., Oct. 25-Nov. 16 <www.lifehousetheater.com>.

The East Haddam Stage Company will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Speckled Band" at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, Conn., on Oct. 29.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Masters of Crime" (a new play by C. P. Stancich) is scheduled by the Theatre Company of Lafayette at the Mary Miller Theatre in Lafayette, Colo., Oct. 31-Nov. 23 <www.tclstage.org>.

The Lamplighters Music Theatre specializes in productions of Gilbert & Sullivan, and this year's champagne gala and auction will be a satire titled "Sherlock Who?, or A Scandal in Barataria" at the Palace of Fine Arts Theatre in San Francisco, Nov. 2, and at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts on Nov. 9 <www.lamplighters.org>.

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

Sep 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The saga continues: the Conan Doyle Estate has filed a petition for a Writ of Certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking it to review the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals decision that copyright protects only characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still under copyright. As always, you can read the documents in the case at www.free-sherlock.com. The Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions a year, and accepts (and hears oral arguments) in fewer than 100 cases.

Alan Rettig has reported a nice discovery by his friend Bruce Louiselle: a Sherlock Holmes Pub in the Grand Hotel in Hellesylt (a small village on the west central coast of Norway www.tinyurl.com/qyyyypmu).

The "Victorian Fiction" section of the latest issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has E. W. Hornung's "Gentlemen and Players" (edited with an introduction and notes by Eduardo Zinna). Hornung, Conan Doyle's brother-in-law, created Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman, and Zinna offers both a fine review of Hornung's life and work, and nicely helpful annotations to the story. Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); for information on how to subscribe, contact editor Eduardo Zinna at editorez@yahoo.co.uk.

It's "Erie's downtown party headquarters! The home of rock-n-roll!" according to the Facebook page for Sherlock's/Park Place in Erie, Pa. The photographs at Yelp suggest that it's a lively venue.

More and more Sherlockian societies are using web-sites to make their history available, among them the Pleasant Places of Florida www.ppofl.net; click on "Publications" to see scans of their newsletter Communications all the way back to the first issue (Mar. 1972), as well as their round-robin pastiches and much more.

The latest result of Howard Ostrom's continuing Sherlockian exploration is "Talk to the Animals, Sherlock; or, Animaltry, My Dear Watson" (a nicely illustrated exploration of the animals who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes in various media); it's amusing and instructive to see how many different animals have appeared in Sherlockian roles. You can read it for yourself at www.nplh.co.uk/animaltry.html.

Oscar Ross reports an upcoming event at the Belfast Comedy Festival on Oct. 3: Crazy Cat Comedy will present "No Sith, Sherlock" (billed as "an intergalactic night of Star Wars themed murder mystery comedy") that apparently is Sherlockian only for the punning title www.tinyurl.com/my8hgwa.

The John H. Watson Society has announced the names of winners of its Second Annual Treasure Hunt (Jun 14 #3): the Open Team competition was won (again) by the Sound of the Baskervilles (of Seattle) with a perfect score, and the Open Individual competition by Denny Dobry (also again). You can find the details at the society's web-site www.tinyurl.com/pq4hyfz, and the questions (and answers) at www.tinyurl.com/osorwt6. Next year's event will be launched at noon on Aug. 1, 2015, and almost certainly will be even more difficult than this year's competition.

Sep 14 #2 There were 443 people dressed as Sherlock Holmes at Temple New-sam in Leeds on Aug. 31 to help the campaign to raise funds for the Yorkshire Brain Research Centre, setting a new Guinness World Record. Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue sent a video message that's available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/n98x3cj>, and contributed a signed copy of the script for "The Empty Hearse" as a prize for the "best dressed Sherlock". There are lots of photographs accompanying the report by the Daily Mirror (Aug. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/qe9x8f2>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES VS. HARRY HOUDINI is a new five-issue comic-book mini-series due from Dynamite Entertainment in October. Anthony Del Col and Conor McCreery are the writers, and Carlos Furuzono the artist, and the web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/n8yxy63>.



"Celtic New Bhoys Murarak Wakaso Posts Bizarre Tribute to Sherlock Holmes After Mistaking Detective Outfit as Parkhead Tradition" was the headline on a story in the Glasgow Daily Record (Aug. 31): Wakaso, newly arrived from Ghana to join Glasgow Celtic, thought he was shown in local costume in a fan's photoshopped photograph, and reposted it on Instagram.

Translating some of the strange words: Celtic is the Glasgow football team, bhoys is a Celtic fan (or tough or thug), and football, of course, is what Americans call soccer. Instagram, now owned by Facebook, is a service that allows people to share video and photographs on social media.

The second season of "Elementary" has been released (discounted to \$39.84 at Amazon). And there's a "Elementary 2015 Wall Calendar" (discounted to \$13.49).

William Gillette's (non-Sherlockian) play "Too Much Johnson" has been made into films in 1919, directed by Donald Crisp, and again in 1938, directed by Orson Welles for a planned Mercury Theatre stage-and-screen production; the play was performed briefly without the film, which was never shown to the public. But a copy of the film, discovered in Italy in 2008, has been restored (Aug 13 #4), and (thanks to the National Film Preservation Foundation) a 66-minute work print of the film now is available on the Internet, with informative film notes by Scott Simmon, at <www.tinyurl.com/msppnrk>.

The Museum of London exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" opens on Oct. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/mp263ux>, and there already is tie-in merchandise: Christys' Hats and Lovat Mill have launched a new tweed inspired by Sherlock Holmes, and deerstalkers are available at Christys' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/kfasfqo>. And there's an interesting blog, with a short trailer, at <www.tinyurl.com/k48o8z8>.

There now are six books in Andrew Lane's YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES series, the latest being KNIFE EDGE (London: Macmillan, 2013; 356 pp., £12.99), which brings Sherlock back to England, where he continues his struggle with the Paradol Chamber. The next book in the series will be STONE COLD, due this month. Lane has a web-site <www.youngsherlock.com>, where you'll also find information about his LOST WORLD, which features Caleb Challenger (grandson of Professor George Edward Challenger).

Sep 14 #3 Many of you will now have seen "Houdini" (the television film that aired in two two-hour episodes on the History Channel this month), but some of you have not, so I will avoid spoilers, except to say "don't believe everything you see." Nicholas Meyer's script draws heavily from THE SECRET LIFE OF HOUDINI: THE MAKING OF AMERICA'S FIRST SUPERHERO, by William Kalush and Larry Sloman (2006), which presents problems if you know a lot about Houdini and are annoyed when fiction is mixed with fact. Conan Doyle is in the film, played by David Calder; Lady Doyle is played by Linda Marlowe.

John Cox comments on the film in great detail at his excellent web-site at "Wild About Harry" <wildabouthoudini.com>; there are a lot of spoilers, so you might want to see the film before going to the web-site. He notes that an extended version of the film was broadcast in Britain; American who want to see the additional 26 minutes will need to buy the two-disc DVD set.

Further to the report (Mar 04 #2) on THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK: EXPERIENCES OF A DETECTIVE IN VICTORIAN EDINBURGH, by James McGovan [a pseudonym of William C. Honeyman], a story by Tom Hunt in the Wellington Dominion Post (Sept. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/pr5649u> tells of a direct link between Honeyman and Conan Doyle: Norval Scrymgeour wrote in The Scotsman (Nov. 1930) about a meeting with Conan Doyle: "He told me that when a student at Edinburgh University he read with zest the detective stories of James McGovan, and although he did not say so, I took it that these then immensely popular sensations, as much as the queer foible of his teach teacher, the eccentric Bell, influenced him towards evolving the logical processes that in time flowered in the Sherlock Holmes stories." THE MCGOVAN CASEBOOK, reissued in 2003, is still in print.



Kudos to Bev Wolov for spotting the "Sherlock Coffee" mug (and for giving it to me as a birthday present). It may still be available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/k7jr7ec>.

Maxim Jakubowski, a prolific author and editor of anthologies, has issued a call for submissions to THE MAMMOTH BOOK OF PROFESSOR MORIARTY ADVENTURES, to be published by Constable Robinson; visit his blog <www.tinyurl.com/meza8ke> for more information.



Fans of 2048 (the fairly addictive computer game that runs on smart phones as well as computers) may not know that there are versions of the game keyed to the BBC series "Sherlock" easily found on-line, one of them at <www.tinyurl.com/nzd8qq2>. If none of the versions available suits you, there's a link that allows you can make your own.

"How Watson Learned the Trick" (an amusing story handwritten by Conan Doyle in 1922 in the miniature book now found in the Queen's Dolls' House Library at Windsor Castle) will be published for the first time as a miniature book on Oct. 2, by Walker Books in collaboration with the Royal Collection Trust (£12.99); you can read the announcement at <www.tinyurl.com/mcp6w27>, and see images of the new edition on-line at the web-sites of Amazon, Waterstones, and other retailers.

Sep 14 #4 William Atkins' *THE MOOR* (London: Faber & Faber, 2014; 371 pp., £18.99) is a delightful book: the moors encompass much more than Dartmoor, and Atkins writes vividly about the landscape and the people who have lived in and on it, with passing mentions of Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson and Baring-Gould. The "names on the land" are fascinating, and so is the land itself.

Don Hobbs (aka The Maniac Collector), not content with merely pursuing foreign translations of the Canon, also blogs about them, and other things, at Inspector Lestrade's Blotter Page <www.tinyurl.com/qamstup>.

Petr Kopl's *SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA* (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 159 pp., \$16.95) is an imaginative comic-book adaptation of more than one story, with spectacular full-color artwork and a preface by Aleš Kolo-drubec. First published in Czech and now translated into English, it's a welcome sample of Kopl's "Victoria Regina" series. He has an interesting web-site at <www.petrkopl.cz> (if your computer runs Google Translate you can pretend you're fluent in Czech, and if it doesn't you can pretend you are); the publisher's at <www.mxpublishing.com> <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Another MX title is *PROJECT TWO, TO ONE, BE: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A HOUSE OF LIGHT, SHADOWS, AND VIEWS* (2014; 162 pp., \$16.95); edited by Carrie Carlson and Lynn Gale, it's an anthology of tributes to Undershaw, with a foreword by Laurie R. King, and essays, photographs, and artwork by other supporters of the campaign to preserve Conan Doyle's home.

This Sherlock Holmes is a 3-year-old Appaloosa gelding, resident in Sunnyside, Wash., and offered for sale this month for \$550; his owner says she named his because of his "serious and inquisitive personality." You can see more photographs at <www.tinyurl.com/nxsb9x3>.



Further to the report (Nov 12 #1) that Scotland Yard was to be sold, it has gone on the market with an asking price of £250 million (significantly more than the £150 million reported previously). And City Hall hopes that the sale might raise more than £300 million, according to a story in the Guardian (Sept. 2). But it's not the historic Great Scotland Yard, but rather New Scotland Yard, which has served as police headquarters since 1967.

There has been quite a bit of publicity for Russell Edwards' new book *NAMING JACK THE RIPPER*, who turns out to be Aaron Kosminsky, at least according to the author. Donald Rumbelow, who has a long record of expertise in Jack the Ripper research, is skeptical, and Lyndsay Faye, who did a lot of research for her pastiche *DUST AND SHADOW* (2009) is even more so, and explains her objections at her blog <www.tinyurl.co/kj8p4ak>.

"The history of the mega franchise as we've come to recognize it--a bundle of different intellectual properties or a story world that is used across multiple mediums--arguably began with Sherlock Holmes." According to David Forbes, who also suggests that Conan Doyle's resurrection of Sherlock Holmes was a response to "the Victorian version of a hashtag Twitter campaign." This from an essay he posted on Sept. 8 at the Forbes web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/k93zeax>.

Sep 14 #5 Further to the discussion of Joseph Joachim (Aug 14 #4), Laura Kuhn has noted that the violin virtuoso is mentioned by Jeremy Brett in the Granada series: in "The Resident Patient" Holmes says that he made a slight error in recalling Joachim's credenza in the Beethoven Violin Concerto (Holmes and Watson had seen and heard Joachim in concert the previous evening).

Sarah-Lambert Cook presides over a "Pen, Lens, and Paintbrush" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/px5hvyr>, where she reported (Sept. 11) on her recent visit to the Reichenbach Falls, with lots of colorful photographs, including one showing an amusing "Sherlock cut-out" available at the Falls for those who want their picture taken there in Sherlockian costume.



FAN PHENOMENA: SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Tom Ue and Jonathan Cranfield, is the latest in a series that's published by Intellect Books (Bristol/Chicago, 2014; 153 pp., £15.50/\$22.00); the contributors examine the many ways that enthusiasm for the Sherlock Holmes stories has been manifested over the years: there are interviews with authors who include Anthony Horowitz, Ellie Ann Soderstrom, and Jonathan Barnes; plus interesting articles such as Russell Merritt's carefully-researched "Holmes and the Snake Skin Suits: Fighting for Survival on 50s Television" (history for which the world is now prepared). You'll find the publisher's web-site at <www.intellectbooks.com>.

"He's the Sherlock Holmes of entertainment, if Sherlock Holmes had a flair for comedy." That's forensic mindreader Colin Cloud, whose web-site is at <www.colincloud.com>.

Alfred Weiner wants to sell an assortment of Sherlockiana (including a set of 16-2/3 rpm recordings of Basil Rathbone reading four stories, issued by the Audio Book Co. in 1958); he's at <almar@stny.rr.com>, and you can request a copy of his sales list from him.

Irene's Cabinet is the annual anthology edited by Beth Austin for Watson's Tin Box, and this year's issue (50 pp.) offers (as always) an interesting mix of Sherlockian and Doylean poetry and prose, including Hanna Al-Kowski's imaginative winning essay for this year's Clarkson Prize, which honors the late Steve Clarkson and is sponsored by the society for seventh-graders in Howard County, Md. It's nicely done, including the cover art: Holmes' certificate of proficiency from the British Bee-Keepers' Association (from the collection of the late Paul Churchill). The cost is \$15.00 postpaid, from Beth Austin (9455 Chadburn Place, Gaithersburg, MD 20886).

People who fondly remember the Livanov/Solomin television series will enjoy the insights in Zlata Serysheva's blog "The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and His Friend the Soviet Censorship" <www.tinyurl.com/nqa785b>.

Admirers of Conan Doyle know that his grandfather John Doyle was noted for his political caricatures (signed with his pen name HB). He was a painter as well, and an oil-on-canvas painting of a moonlit landscape, attributed to him, will be at auction at Auctionata in Berlin on Oct. 6, with a starting bid of £3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/lo6dxh9>.

Sep 14 #6 BBC Home Entertainment is getting ready to release a "Sherlock Limited Edition Gift Set" (\$197.50) in a Blu-ray/DVD combination, with the first three seasons, new commentary, never-before-seen outtakes, a deleted scene, busts of Holmes and Watson, and two collectible art cards. And it's discounted to \$138.25 at Amazon.

I reported (Aug 14 #2) on the British Film Institute's search for a copy of "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), noting that it wasn't the first feature-length Sherlock Holmes film, and that "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1914), released a few months earlier, was not known to have survived. But it has survived: a copy was found in the Moscow film archive, and has been screened at European films festivals, but the film is not yet available on commercial DVD; Russell Merritt, who has seen the film, reports that it's "arguably the zaniest "Hound" ever made" and that "you won't soon forget Holmes disguised as Stapleton struggling with Stapleton disguised as Holmes in a fight broken up by Barrymore hidden in a suit of armor."

One wonders what Conan Doyle would have thought about the campaign for the independence of Scotland (he did, after all, favor Home Rule for Ireland). W. Gordon Smith, in a tribute to the late Eddie Boyd, recalled a story that Boyd once told on a weekly program broadcast by BBC Scotland: "Once upon a time there was a Scotsman, and Englishman, and an Irishman. His name was Conan Doyle."

But there's also Holmes' comment about a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes (in "The Noble Bachelor"). If this month's vote had been for independence, that would have launched consideration of revising the Union Jack to remove Scotland's blue, leaving only red and white.

Marvin E. Aronson ("Penrose Fisher") died on Sept. 6. He was chief medical examiner in Philadelphia from 1971 to 1985, and then was a medical consultant. Marv was a long-time and dedicated member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches, and drew upon his expertise in forensic pathology in his contributions to The Baker Street Journal and in his article on "Sherlock Holmes: Father of Forensic Pathology" in Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia (July 1978). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.

"He Who Laughs: Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Serial Chuckler" is the title of Joe Queenan's essay in the Weekly Standard (Sept. 15), and it's a piece that would have delighted John Bennett Shaw. There are quotes from Leigh Ashton-Hinds' THE HOUSE OF SUPPRESSED MIRTH: CHUCKLING IN LATE-VICTORIAN LITERATURE, and Adele Piggott-Gynne's SHERLOCK HOLMES, BOOTYMASTER, and you can read it all at <www.tinyurl.com/qf9q4se>.

The Waverley Borough Council has voted unanimously to approve plans to convert Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Jul 14 #5). John Michael Gibson appeared at the hearing to testify against the proposal, but his opposition was in vain. Norman Stromsoy, CEO of Stepping Stones, said at the hearing that the school's plans for Undershaw had the backing of two of Conan Doyle's relatives, one of them his great nephew Richard Doyle, who wrote in a letter to the school that "I don't believe that Undershaw should be preserved in aspic, but lived in and laughed in."

Sep 14 #7 Broadway World ran a report (Aug. 28) that Sherlock Holmes may be headed to Broadway: Tony Award nominated producer Antonio R. Marion ("Big Fish" and "Evita") is said "to be shepherding the project that is currently in the development stage." The new play will be accompanied by a live orchestra, and the show is rumored to have workshop productions planned for this fall both in New York and the U.K.

Sarah Rosenbaum spotted the Olde Book Pillow Classics at ThinkGeek; one of them is Sherlockian (\$17.99) <www.thinkgeek.com/product/1545/?srp=1>, and it "will look great in your reading nook."

There has been a lot of Internet publicity for "The Great Ace Attorney" (an addition to the Japanese Nintendo 3DS series from Capcom); the new game is set in the Meiji period, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are in the cast of characters. You can see artwork at <www.capcom.co.jp/dai-gyatuken> (the text's in Japanese) and read comments at <www.tinyurl.com/qdtnvxw> (in English). There's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/n4puuse>.

This may be a first for Sherlockian collectors: Warpzone Prints uses a 3D printer to make an assortment of "geeky themed cookie cutters," and Holmes and Watson are included (based on the BBC's "Sherlock" series). There's a Sherlock Profiles Cookie Cutter Set (\$7.00), and a Sherlock Portraits Cookie Cutter Set (\$10.00) <www.warpzoneprints.com>.

The Wessex Press' conference "From Gillette to Brett IV: Basil, Benedict, and Beyond" at Indiana University in Bloomington on Sept. 12-14 went quite well, by all accounts. See the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/qbyqj34> for details on the festivities, and Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog for longer reports by Tim Greer, Ann Margaret Lewis, and Ray Betzner <www.ihearofsherlock.com>.

The Barbican Centre in London says it "exists to inspire people to discover and love the arts," and it has a wonderful series of "Landmark silent films about the world's greatest detective" next year: they'll screen Eille Norwood's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1921) on Feb. 15, three short films from his series for Stoll (1921-1923) on Mar. 8, and his "The Sign of Four" (1923) on Mar. 29. Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/owkf24p>.

Hayakawa Shobo, one of Japan's leading publishers of mysteries, has a cafeteria called Christie on the ground floor of their building; it's named for one of their authors, of course, but occasionally it is renamed for temporary exhibitions honoring other authors, and this year it was the Pub Sherlock Holmes from July 30 to Aug. 29, when because it was so popular, it was extended to Sept. 12. Mitch Higurashi advised them on the exhibition, the food menu and cocktails, and items offered for sale; there's a colorful report on the Pub at the Dramafever web-site <www.tinyurl.com/q9zj2jt>.

Derham Groves, who teaches architecture at the University of Melbourne set his students the task of designing a Conan Doyle Mystery Theatre last year, and the results of his students' work have been published as SPARKS 4; the 106-page booklet has the details of the assignment, and photographs of the imaginative results. Derham <derham@unimelb.edu.au> will be happy to send you a copy of the booklet.

Sep 14 #8 THE PHILOSOPHY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Philip Tallon and David Baggett (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2012; 206 pp., \$40.00), is part of the Press' "The Philosophy of Popular Culture" series; the academic articles range from Dorothy L. Sayers' "Aristotle on Detective Fiction" to Andrew Terjesen's "Was It Morally Wrong to Kill Off Sherlock Holmes?", with some interesting stops along the way.

L.A. Theatre Works recorded "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) in June (Aug 14 #7), with Seamus Dever as Holmes and Geoffrey Arend as Watson, and it's now available on two CDs (\$29.99) or as a download (\$4.99) at <www.store.latw.org>. It's an energetic, interesting, and amusing production. The set includes a 10-minute "live audience talkback" with Les Klinger; there will be a national broadcast on Oct. 25, when they also will stream the show at their web-site; details at <www.latw.org/radio.html>.

And as usual, there's theater on-going and upcoming: The Red Monkey Theater Group will present "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (a new dramatization by Tal Aviezer), at the College of Mount Saint Vincent in Riverdale, N.Y., Oct. 4-18 <www.redmonkeytheater.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the McLean Community Center in McLean, Va., through Oct. 12 <www.mcleanplayers.org>. It also will be produced at the Boathouse Theatre in Blenheim, New Zealand, Nov. 27-Dec. 6 <www.boathousetheatre.co.nz>, and at the Carpenter Square Theatre in Oklahoma City, from Nov. 28 through Dec. 20 <www.carpentersquare.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes" (a new dramatization by Jeff Sanders) is playing at the Northwest Children's Theater in Portland, Ore., through Oct. 26; their web-site's at <www.nwcts.org>.

"Holmes and Watson: A Scandal in Bohemia and The Final Problem" (dramatized by Terry McCabe) will be performed at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Nov. 7-Dec. 14 <www.citylit.org>.

C. P. Stancich's new play "Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea" will be performed at Camino Real Playhouse in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Nov. 14-23 <www.caminorealplayhouse.org>.

Craig Hewlett's pantomime "Young Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Dick Whittington's Cat" is scheduled by Morpheus Theatre in Calgary, Alta., Dec. 5-14 <www.morpheustheatre.ca>.

Jamie L. Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Mar. 6-15, 2015 <www.dorsetplayers.org>.

Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" will be performed at the Spokane Civic Theater in Spokane, Wash., Apr. 10 to 26, 2015 <www.spokanecivictheater.com>.

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

Oct 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland" was delightful; the Reichenbach Irregulars presented a splendid conference in Davos last month <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>, and provided a welcome excuse for sightseeing. My first visit to Switzerland was in 1966, to attend the party that Adrian Conan Doyle gave to inaugurate the Château de Lucens, and this time I was able to see much more, including both Reichenbach Falls, spectacular scenery, and both Sherlock Holmes Museums.

And yes, there are two Reichenbach Falls, one of them where Sherlock Holmes and Professor Moriarty met for the last time, and the other at Giessbach, where Jeremy Brett battled Eric Porter in the Granada series. As for the two Sherlock Holmes Museums, they are both delightful: one is in Meiringen <www.sherlockholmes.ch>, and the other in Lucens <www.tinyurl.com/n2atqwx>, where one can view the sitting-room formerly at the Château as well as some fascinating relics of Conan Doyle and his family.

This year's Sherlock Holmes Society of London's Christmas Card is as usual both interesting colorful, showing a poster for the first London production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes"; you can see an image and order the card at <www.tinyurl.com/nveom62>

IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus, 2014; 260 pp., \$24.95), is a welcome sequel to their earlier anthology A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2), again with stories that were "inspired by the Holmes Canon" and that range from the Victorian era to very modern times, with Michael Dirda's "By Any Other Name" well worth the price of admission.

The Mysterious Bookshop is publishing a limited edition of IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, specially bound and signed by all contributors; \$150.00 for the numbered edition <www.tinyurl.com/mlaghw4>. A more expensive lettered edition is already sold out.

Prose 'n Cons, a new quarterly edited by Stephanie Hoover "for fans of mystery, crime, and suspense," costs \$14.00 per year (digital)/\$29.00 per year (print and digital); the 38-page first issue (fall/winter 2014) includes an article by E.J. Wagner ("The Field of Forensic Science...and What We Must Do to Improve It"), an interview with Ian Kern about The Mysterious Bookshop <www.prose-n-cons.com> (Box 4921, Harrisburg, PA 17111).

"221B Baker Street: Fictional Evaluation" is an interesting estimation by Natalie Grigson of the price of Sherlock Holmes' apartment if it were offered for sale today <www.tinyurl.com/mtqu88f>. £1,691,028, in case you're in the market, and she explains why.

Michelle Spring and Laurie R. King, both quite successful authors (Spring is British and King is American), have edited CRIME AND THRILLER WRITING: A WRITERS' & ARTISTS' COMPANION (London: Bloomsbury, 2013; 279 pp., \$25.95); it's an interesting and useful guide that they describe as "a collection of Things We Wish We'd Known When We Started," and it includes both their own suggestions and commentary by 26 guest contributors.

Oct 14 #2 Further to the items on metal plates apparently created in 1940 by way of celebrating Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (Feb 13 #5 and May 13 #4): two of the plates were offered at Heritage Auctions in Beverly Hills on Oct. 8, estimated at \$9,200-\$13,800, and sold for \$7,187.50 each (including the buyer's premium). There are images and descriptions of the plates at the Heritage Auctions web-site <www.tinyurl.com/koooucgs> and <www.tinyurl.com/nejtllj>. A third plate was sold to a private collector last year.

"Sherlock Holmes Character Held on Forgery Charge" was the headline on the story at the KOIN-TV web-site on Sept. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/mequlw9> about Quentin G. Stanhope, who was being held in Portland, Ore., on first-degree forgery, first-degree theft, and identity theft charges. Quentin G. Stanhope is a "spy character in a Sherlock Holmes book," the story explained, but didn't say which Sherlock Holmes book. It didn't take authorities long to identify the perpetrator as Gerard Marcel Beaudoin III, who had been using the Stanhope alias since 2005. A story in the Lincoln County Dispatch (Sept. 16) noted that a large collection of Sherlock Holmes literature was found in Beaudoin's home and office. Beaudoin is now being held in Lincoln City jail on \$2 million bond.

The third Sherlock Seattle Convention will be held at the Broadway Performance Center in Seattle, Jan. 9-11 <www.sherlock-seattle.org>; the guest of honor, mentalist Joe Riggs (known as "The Real Sherlock Holmes"), has his own web-site at <www.theworldofjoeriggs.com>.

Reported: Leslie S. Klinger's THE NEW ANNOTATED H. P. LOVECRAFT (New York: Liveright, 2014; 928 pp., \$39.95); Lovecraft was a fine writer of weird and supernatural fiction, as well as a friend of August Derleth and an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Neil Gaiman has suggested that "Annotator Les Klinger is the man you want to have by your side, as you explore the Lovecraftian Darkness."

Donald A. Redmond ("Good Old Index") died on Oct. 22. Described by his son Chris as a library scientist, Meccano genius, churchman, and family patriarch, Don was the author of SHERLOCK HOLMES: A STUDY IN SOURCES (1982) and SHERLOCK HOLMES AMONG THE PIRATES (1990), and for many years prepared the annual indexes for The Baker Street Journal. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969, and their Two-Shilling Award in 1994.

If you are still wondering which Sherlock Holmes book Quentin G. Stanhope can be found in, there actually are four, although the character does not have a middle initial. Stanhope is a British spy in four of Carole Nelson Douglas' "Irene Adler" novels, appearing first in IRENE AT LARGE (1992).

Curtis Armstrong's fans will recall that he quoted from the Canon (as God's scribe Metatron) in the "Meta Fiction" episode of the CW series "Supernatural" (Apr 14 #2). He guest-starred again in the "Reichenbach" episode on Oct. 14, but hopes that the episode title promised Sherlockian content were not fulfilled. Curtis explains that "the author of the script had read an article which mentioned that I was a BSI, and put it in as a private joke."

Oct 14 #3 Some years ago (Jun 11 #5) The Mysterious Press and Open Road launched MysteriousPress.com, offering a long list of new and classic crime, mystery, suspense, and espionage. The Mysterious Press.com Classic list includes the first eight volumes of the Canon, with a new introduction by Otto Penzler aimed at very casual readers; it's the same introduction in each volume. Go to <www.tinyurl.com/new38aw> to see all of the 44 titles now available in the series.

Irwin F. Deutsch ("The Intricate Matter from Marseilles") died on Sept. 8. He wrote a Letter to Baker Street at the age of 15, published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948, founded The Reigate Squires of Scarsdale, N.Y., and went on to be a lawyer in Washington and New York before moving to Florida. Irv received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1962.

A (non-Sherlockian) watercolour by Sidney Paget of "figures on a path" will be offered at auction on Nov. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/pez69f3>.

The Museum of London's exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die" opened on Oct. 17; there was a lot of publicity in the press and on television for the first major Sherlock Holmes exhibition in London since the Festival of Britain in 1951, and the new exhibition offers a chance to view some wonderful things. Randall Stock offers an overview at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/qbvql43>, with links to video and recommended news articles, and the Museum has its own web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mj3nldl>. The exhibition is open through Apr. 12, and the Museum's shop <www.museumoflondonshop.co.uk> offers a wide range of Sherlockian merchandise.

"Start the Week" is a 45-minute series broadcast by BBC Radio 4; their program "Crime Stories and Ghost Stories" (Oct. 13) featured a panel that included Alex Werner (Head of the Museum of London's History Collections; you can listen to the broadcast at <www.tinyurl.com/opoo3nv>.

BBC Radio 4 Extra is celebrating the exhibition with "The Holmes Service" a (a series of broadcasts on Saturdays from Oct. 18 to Nov. 15, featuring repeats of dramatizations and documentaries); they will also be available for listening on-line <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02814f2>. Other Sherlockian and Doylean programs will be found in the series "In Search of Sherlock" at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0285193>.

If you're wondering about the Sherlock Holmes exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951 was like, a delightful 3-minute video can be seen at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/nu458so>; you can see Denis Conan Doyle and Arthur Wontner, and Jean Conan Doyle (in glasses, behind the left shoulder of the Mayor of Marylebone).

"Sherlock Holmes, Unlikely Style Icon" is the title of an article spotted by Alice Wright in The Atlantic (Oct. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/nfy4xuh>, with discussion of the many ways Holmes has influenced (and continues to influence) fashion, with links to articles in other magazines, comments on Watson's wardrobe (well, Lucy Liu's wardrobe), and an interesting and colorful 15-minute video about the new Sherlock Holmes tweed commissioned by the Museum of London.

Oct 14 #4 "The Sting of Death" (1955), a one-hour dramatization for television of H. F. Heard's A TASTE FOR HONEY that featured Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, is included in the three-DVD set SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION, and it's now, spotted by Keith Stump and reported by Michael Halm, also available on-line at <www.hulu.com/watch/121619>.

Daniel P. Griffin ("General de Merville") died on Apr. 25, 2012. He was a product marketing manager in the Norden Division of United Aircraft and pioneered in the field of analog to digital conversion. He contributed to our literature, was appointed Ambassador Cockroach in the Worshipful Company of Ailing Cockroaches (a literary society that honored Guy Gilpatrick's "Glen-cannon" series), and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1968.

The University of Nebraska at Omaha has issued a call for papers for "Lippincott's Legacy" (a literary conference honoring the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray" scheduled for May 29-31; it's open to academicians and enthusiasts, and the deadline for submissions is Feb. 20; additional information about the conference is available at <www.lippincottslegacy.org>.

Rodney A. Mannion ("Shoscombe Old Place") died on Sept. 23, 2013. He was a physician, and entered the world of Sherlockians thanks to one of his patients, Jay Finley Christ. A member of Hugo's Companions and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), Dr. Mannion was awarded his Investiture by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1969.

William Gillette's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) has long been considered the Holy Grail for Sherlockians, and at long last it has been discovered: a nitrate dupe negative, with French flash titles and color annotations, was found in the vaults of the Cinémathèque française, and it is now being restored in collaboration with the San Francisco Silent Film Festival. Russell Merritt reports that there are mysteries yet to be solved, including how and when the film got to France (since trans-Atlantic shipping was at a minimum during the war), and whether it actually was shown in France (at the end of one reel there's an announcement that the film was to be shown as a four-part weekly serial. The European premiere will be at a film festival in Paris in January, and the American premiere (with English titles) will be at a film festival in San Francisco in May.

The Green Bag, a law journal based in Washington, publishes an annual "Almanac & Reader" of good legal writing, each year with additional material. The theme for the additional material in 2015 will be "The Norwood Builder" and they have issued a call for annotations on the story, with a deadline of Dec. 24. Details at <www.greenbag.org/callNBldr.pdf>.

The new miniature-book edition of Conan Doyle's parody "How Watson Learned the Trick" (Sep 14 #3) is a delightful production, even though it's not a true facsimile: to avoid over-using the original book and damaging it, just enough pages were scanned to capture all of the letters needed, and a special font was created to produce the new miniature book. Randall Stock has prepared an excellent web-page on both the original and the new editions at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/n9369dr>.

Oct 14 #5 Arthur Morrison created Martin Hewitt to fill the gap created in the pages of The Strand Magazine after Holmes and Moriarty perished at the Reichenbach; Hewitt, the first of many "rivals of Sherlock Holmes," appeared in 25 stories published in the Strand, Windsor Magazine, and London Magazine. David Marcum has concluded that Hewitt actually was Sherlock Holmes, beginning his career in 1876, has "Holmes-ed" and edited the stories in three volumes of SHERLOCK HOLMES IN MONTAGUE STREET (London: MX Publishing, 2014; 237/243/241 pp., \$16.95 per volume); it's an interesting proposition, and he has carried it out well. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

More from MX: Derrick Belanger has edited two volumes of A STUDY IN TERROR: SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S REVOLUTIONARY STORIES OF FEAR AND THE SUPERNATURAL (2014; 274+288 pp., \$16.95 each); the non-Sherlockian stories, with interesting introductions and commentary (including Chuck Davis on "Aviation and the Horror of the Heights"; the editor on "Arthur Conan Doyle and the Mary Celeste Mystery" and "The Making of the Modern Mummy"; and Joel K. Jensen on "Horror and The Mystery of Cloomber").

Petr Macek's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE ADVENTURE OF THE COLD-SERVED REVENGE (2014; 227 pp., \$16.95) opened with Watson summoned by Mrs. Hudson to Fulworth to provide medical assistance to Holmes, who has suffered a coronary; he recovers, and they are launched on an investigation that takes them from Venice to Scotland in pursuit of a mysterious villain.

Charles Press has edited A BEDSIDE BOOK OF EARLY SHERLOCKIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES (2014; 352 pp., \$19.95), an anthology that offers a welcome selection from the almost 400 parodies and pastiches published during Conan Doyle's life. Sherlockians today use the word "pastiche" to include a multitude of sins: actual pastiches, and parodies, and homages. This anthology shows how much fun people had with Sherlock Holmes, from 1891 onward.

David Ruffle's HOLMES AND WATSON: END PEACE (2012; 119 pp., \$9.95) presents Watson in 1929, in hospital and at the end of his life, in a warm and reminiscent conversation with Holmes; it's a nice concept, well written. Geri Schear's A BIASED JUDGEMENT: THE SHERLOCK HOLMES DIARIES: 1897 (2014; 319 pp., \$18.95) is Holmes' own account of a complicated case that involves a dire threat to the Empire, and some surprises; the attempt to capture the voice of Holmes is quite successful. Daniel D. Victor's THE FINAL PAGE OF BAKER STREET (2014; 229 pp., \$14.95) has a young Raymond Chandler serving as Billy, and assisting Holmes and Watson in solving a mystery in 1903.

Thomas M. Russo ("The Boscombe Valley Mystery") died on Apr. 18. He had a 40-year career in the U.S. Air Force and was a member of the P.O.B.O.B. Motorcycle Club, Hugo's Companions, and The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic). He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

The Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the Museum of London isn't the only literary attraction in London at the moment: the British Library's "Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination" is running through Jan. 20. Billed as "the UK's biggest ever Gothic exhibition," it traces the history of the Gothic movement over 250 years <www.tinyurl.com/nveom62>; one of the 200 objects on display is a vampire-slaying kit.

Oct 14 #6 Sherlock Holmes' 161st birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 9, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 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 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 Alan Bradley, co-author of MS. HOLMES OF BAKER STREET (2004), the thoroughly controversial "truth about Sherlock Holmes", and the author of the award-winning "Flavia de Luce" series <www.flaviadeluce.com>; the sixth volume (THE DEAD IN THEIR VAULTED ARCHES) was published last January. The lecture will cost \$11.00; seating is limited, and you're advised to reserve early (details below); tickets won't be sold at the door.

The Baker Street Babes invite one and all to their "Daintiest (Bee) Under Your Bonnet Charity Ball/Sussex Flapper Party" which starts at 8:00 pm at The Players (16 Gramercy Park South), offering a buffet dinner, cash bar, live music, prizes, toasts, and entertainment, with formal attire and Sherlockian costume strongly encouraged. The cost is \$45.00, and proceeds will benefit the Wounded Warriors Project. More information is available from Lyndsay Faye <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com> and at the Babe's web-site at <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.

Otto Penzler's traditional open house on Friday 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 \$47.00 for chicken or salmon (\$52.00 for prime rib). Checks can be sent to Susan Rice (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) <susan221b@gmail.com>.

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); \$85.00 (checks or PayPal), and details are available from Christopher Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816 <gaslightgal@gmail.com>; information about the Gala is at <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.

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 18 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 14 #7 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) in the Vanderbilt Suite (on the second floor of the Roosevelt Hotel at 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's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:15 am, with Wodehousean entertainment that will include the premier performance of "The Riddle of the Refurbished Room". Additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.

The Baker Street Irregulars' annual reception, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will be held from 1:15 to 4:15 in the grand ballroom on the 22nd floor of the Yale Club at 50 Vanderbilt Avenue (across the street from just north of Grand Central Station); there will be a cocktail-party buffet and an open bar (wine, beer, juice, and soft drinks), and the traditional (and perhaps unusual) entertainment; the cost is \$69.00 (details below) or \$79.00 after Nov. 29 or at the door. A warning for drivers: the Yale Club block of Vanderbilt Avenue is only one lane only due to construction, and one-way only northbound.

For those who wish to continue partying, Chrys Kegley of The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub in a private room on the second floor (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); additional 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 their informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at a venue yet to be determined; it's open to all, and more information will be available in the next issue of this newsletter.

Space is limited at the William Gillette Luncheon and at the Gaslight Gala on Friday, and early reservations are advised if you wish to attend these events.

Arrangements have been made for a block of rooms at the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) at a special tax-free rate of \$179.00 per night (single or double room); the special rate is available only for reservations made through the Baker Street Irregulars by Nov. 22. Guest cards for the Club's second-floor lounge are available to all Sherlockians, and it's a fine venue for socializing and relaxing.

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> after Nov. 8 and click on BSI Weekend, or contact Mary Ann Bradley <mabmfw@aol.com>.

Oct 14 #8 Other hotels offer reasonable (according to 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.expedia.com>, and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

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>. News about additional events will be found in next month's issue of this newsletter.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson appear in a political advertisement supporting the North Dakota Clean Water, Wildlife, and Parks Amendment (aka Measure 5) that would amend the state constitution to earmark five percent of the state's oil extraction tax revenue for environmental protection. You will find arguments pro and con at Ballotpedia <www.tinyurl.com/ppd6y8c>, where all content must be "neutral, accurate, and verifiable," and you can watch the 1-minute video at <www.tinyurl.com/lu39tdh>.

Sherlockians of a certain age fondly recall the appearance of Laura Lyons as Playboy's "Miss February 1976"; she now is Laura Aldridge, featured in New York magazine (Oct. 20) in Noreen Malone's article on "The View from a Centerfold" <www.tinyurl.com/kh7fa5g>.

Lloyd W. Brown Jr. died on Oct. 13. Bill was a professor of journalism at the University of South Carolina, a stalwart member of The Hansom Wheels, and the author of a long series of one-act radio plays, filled with broad humor and excellent puns, performed by the society and published in three volumes over the years as THE UNKNOWN SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Jennie C. Paton has noted that Tom Baker's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1982) has been issued as a commercial DVD (\$30.99) with audio commentary by Baker, and an image gallery <www.tinyurl.com/o6grsky>. The DVD is from Australia, and in PAL format.

Finally, nicely in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for "the best Sherlock Holmes books and DVDs of the year" is on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm>.

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

Nov 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

There's more information about the birthday festivities in New York in January: The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will hold an informal brunch on Sunday, from 11:30 to 3:00, at the Churchill Tavern (45 East 28th Street); \$25.00 payable by cash or check at the door. The brunch is open to everyone, but reservations are requested: e-mail to <lyndsayfaye@hotmail.com>.

The Supreme Court has denied the Conan Doyle Estate's petition asking them to consider the Estate's appeal of a lower court's decision that copyright protects only the characters and story elements unique to the ten stories still protected by copyright. The denial was not unexpected: the Supreme Court receives about 10,000 petitions each year and accepts fewer than 100 cases. You can read the documents in the case at <www.free-sherlock.com>. John Rabe interviewed Les Klinger for KPCC-FM's "Off-Ramp" on Nov. 3, and you can listen to a 6-minute audio at <www.tinyurl.com/q2klx1w>; look for the "Listen Now" button at the right.

The October issue of the electronic journal Ripperologist has Neil Bell's interesting article "'So Help Me God': Becoming a Victorian Policeman" (it wasn't all that easy to become a policeman in the 1880s), Adam Wood's kind remembrance of Camille Wolff (who died on Sept. 4, aged 102, and whose Grey House Books was a great resource for Sherlockian collectors), and Jon Rees' guest editorial "'Eighteen Out of Twelve Apostles Are Buried in Spain': The Problem with Ripper Relics" (with discussion of Russell Edwards' new book NAMING JACK THE RIPPER). Ripperologist is devoted to all aspects of Jack the Ripper (who is mentioned in Hornung's story); for information on how to subscribe, contact editor Eduardo Zinna at <editorez@yahoo.co.uk>.

Sorry about that: the article on "The Field of Forensic Science...and What We Must Do to Improve It" in Prose 'n Cons (Oct 14 #1) was written by Stephanie Hoover.

There were rumors in 1991 of a Sherlock Holmes television series starring Stephen Fry as Holmes and Hugh Laurie as Watson, and a more valid report in 2004 of pilot script for a television series that never was produced, but of course it's well known that Hugh Laurie's performance as Gregory House was modeled after Holmes, and that Stephen Fry played Mycroft in the film "Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows". "Fry and Laurie Reunited" was a 69-minute program that was broadcast on cable television in Britain in 2010, and now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p2fqarr>.

Reported: Michael Sims, The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker in Jan. 2011, has edited THE PHANTOM COACH (New York: Bloomsbury USA, 2014; 320 pp., \$17.00); it's subtitled "a connoisseur's collection of Victorian ghost stories," and includes Conan Doyle's "The Captain of the Pole-Star".

Congratulations (again) to Dan Stashower, who won an Anthony Award at Bouchercon for THE HOUR OF PERIL: THE SECRET PLOT TO MURDER LINCOLN BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR (best critical or non-fiction work), making this his second hat trick (he also won the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar and Malice Domestic's Agatha for the book). His first hat trick came in 2008, for ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: A LIFE IN LETTERS.

Nov 14 #2 Arthur Conan Doyle lectured at the Norwich Free Academy in Connecticut in 1894, and he paid a return visit to Norwich on Nov. 1, impersonated by Jeff Bradway in an imaginative program arranged by The Men on the Tor. You can read more about the event (and see some video) at <www.tinyurl.com/lnzolfx> and <www.tinyurl.com/maxmx4x>.

Ian Fraser died on Oct. 31. He was a director, composer, and conductor for musicals on stage and television, winning 11 Emmy Awards, and he was musical supervisor for Ron Moody's "Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" (1988).

It isn't often that a brief announcement in The Times results in worldwide headlines, but this one, published on Nov. 5, certainly did: "Forthcoming Marriages: Mr. B. T. Cumberbatch and Miss S. I. Hunter. The engagement is announced between Benedict, son of Wanda and Timothy Cumberbatch of London, and Sophie, daughter of Katharine Hunter of Edinburgh and Charles Hunter of London." They were photographed together at a French Open tennis match in June <www.tinyurl.com/o4famgv>.

Thanks to the wonders of digitization, you can read Conan Doyle's interesting article on "Mr. Stevenson's Methods in Fiction" (published in The National Review, Jan. 1890, and reprinted in The Living Age (Feb. 15, 1890) at <www.tinyurl.com/mlkkmqn>.

"I just wish it could take selfies and sign autographs," said Benedict Cumberbatch, when he was unveiled at Madame Tussauds last month. His waxwork appearance was de-as "premiere ready" by Tussauds.



Anthony Richards reports two new items from Baker Street Studios Limited: Roger Riccard's pastiche SHERLOCK HOLMES & THE CASE OF THE TWAIN PAPERS and J. P. Sperati's game A SHERLOCK HOLMES MONOPOLY. The publisher's web-site is at <www.baker-street-studios.com>.

BBC Radio 4 now makes its programs available on-line for four weeks, so you have a chance to listen to Sir Ian McKellen reading "The Valley of Fear" as abridged by Neville Teller in ten 15-minute episodes; the "Book at Bedtime" series began on Nov. 10 <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04nrqsr>. BBC Radio 4 also broadcast Val McDermid reading from her new book FORENSICS: THE ANATOMY OF CRIME in five 10-minute episodes in their "Book of the Week" series beginning on Nov. 10 <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04nrh0s>.

People who have made presentations over the years at Bob Thomalen's "Autumn in Baker Street" gathering can now purchase CDs with video of their presentations for \$10.00 postpaid; contact Francine Kitts at <fkitts@aol.com>.

THE BOARDWALK, edited by Nancy Sakaduski (Lewes: Cat & Mouse Press, 2014; 223 pp., \$15.95), is an anthology of the winning stories from the Rehoboth Beach Reads Short Story Contest sponsored by Browseabout Books for fiction or non-fiction related to Rehoboth Beach in Delaware. Joseph Crossen won first place with "The Case of the Artist's Stain"; the artist Howard Pyle (who illustrated some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian stories) spent many summers in Rehoboth Beach, and Holmes and Watson visit to solve a case of forgery. The publisher's at <www.catandmousepress.com>.

Nov 14 #3 Alan Rettig has reported a "Literary London Map" created by the graphic artist Dex in collaboration with interior designer Anna Burles: it's a graphic rendition of the city's literary history, with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson duly honored. Their shop is Run for the Hills <www.runforthehills.bigcartel.com>, and they also offer an imaginative "A Study in Sherlock".

Alan is the extremely helpful web-master for the Red Circle of Washington's web-site, where he has reported on his discovery of two Sherlockian quizzes at an on-line dating web-site called OkCupid that uses a math-based matching system to help you find other people who share your interests. You'll find the details in the Inner Circle at <www.redcircledc.org>.



The new movie "Paddington" is being promoted all over London with 50 life-size (3'6") statues of Paddington Bear, designed by celebrities. Benedict Cumberbatch's statue is, as might be expected installed near the Museum of London, home of the on-going exhibition "Sherlock Holmes: The Man Who Never Lived and Will Never Die". The statues will eventually be auctioned to benefit charity. Paddington Bear first appeared in 1958, and is featured in more than 20 books written by Michael Bond, and Paddington Bear has his own web-site at <www.paddington.com>.

The statues of Paddington Bear will be auctioned by Christie's on-line at their web-site from Dec. 10 to Jan. 15, with bids starting at £500; you can sign up for further information at <www.tinyurl.com/q7on235>.

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 Mahony & Sons in Vancouver on Oct. 22, welcomed by members of The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia. Our next meetings will be in 2015 in Denver on June 3, and Baltimore on Nov. 4.

Raphael Ravenscroft died on Oct. 19. He played the saxophone solo on the original 1978 track of Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street" and reportedly was paid only £27 for the session, with a check that bounced. Ravenscroft went on to work with icons such as Pink Floyd, Abba, and Marvin Gaye; in 2011 he recorded a tribute "Forgiveness" to commemorate Rafferty's funeral. Christopher Roden reported in 2000 that he had heard from Rafferty that he had titled the song in reference to the street in London.

Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer who alleged that Russian state officials had carried out large-scale theft, died in prison in Moscow in 2009 after being held without trial for eleven months <www.tinyurl.com/yg6735m>; his death received world-wide publicity, and eventually resulted in enactment of the Magnitsky Act in the U.S., which imposed sanctions on Russian officials believed to be responsible for his death <www.tinyurl.com/c7s3gs9>. Alexander Orlov reports a 25-minute documentary ("The Letter M") narrated by Vasily Livanov (who won high praise as Sherlock Holmes in the 1979-1986 Russian television series); the "M" is Moriarty, and the video presents arguments for a complicated world-wide conspiracy managed by William Browder (a noted critic of Vladimir Putin). There's a voice-over translation into English, and you can the video at <www.tinyurl.com/qyw452k>.

Nov 14 #4 The "Books About Town" project (May 14 #5) that created trails of benches shaped as open books in London was quite successful, raising £251,000 for the National Literary Trust when the BookBenches were auctioned on Oct. 7; the highest bid for a bench was £9,500 (for Jeeves and Wooster). The Sherlock Holmes BookBench brought £4,000. There's a project web-site at <www.booksabouttown.org.uk>.

Sir Sidney Chapman died on Oct. 9. He was a Tory member of parliament for many years, and his obituary in The Times noted that he could claim to have planted the seed that led to the growing of more than 20 million trees in Britain over five decades, and that he had sponsored the annual dinner of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London in the House of Commons, adding that "many deerstalkers were in evidence," and that "by the end of the evening a pall of pipe smoke would envelop the tables."

Just the thing for your favorite Sherlockian: the Valextra Sherlock Holmes Bag. Valextra, based in Milan offers a redesigned briefcase protected by a patented three-dial safe-style lock, for only £3,900; there's a nice photograph at the Financial Times' web-site <www.tinyurl.com/nfqnbvp>.



There's an addition to the list of Sherlock Holmes/Doctor Who crossovers: "Exterminentry" is the title of the artwork on a mug created by Carol Mallas that shows Doctor Who's Daleks as Holmes and Watson; it's available (\$11.46 plus shipping from the U.K.) at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/lnlpd2f>.

The BBC Books series of tie-in editions of the Canon has now reached seven volumes, each with "Sherlock" cover art and introductions that are both interesting and entertaining (£4.99 each): the introductions are by Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Steve Thompson (who has written three episodes). It's nice to see the BBC using the television series to attract readers to the original stories. Still to come: THE VALLEY OF FEAR and THE CASEBOOK OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

An alert for Los Angelenos: Les Klinger will be featured at a book-reading and signing for IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES at Contrapuntal Hall in Los Angeles on Dec. 13; tea, cookies, and champagne. It's free, but reservations are recommended. Details at <www.lesklingersigning.bpt.me>.

Steve Tribe offers the background and inside story of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, complete with interviews with the principals, color photographs on every page, images of deleted scenes, and much more, in SHERLOCK: CHRONICLES (London: BBC Books, 2014; 320 pp., £25.00); it's a splendid book, and a grand way to understand and how much enthusiasm, and hard work, the creators, cast, and crew have brought to the series, and why it is so popular. Recommended.

Production is underway on ITV's three-part dramatization of Julian Barnes' novel ARTHUR & GEORGE (May 14 #3). The cast includes Martin Clunes as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Arsher Ali as George Edalji, and Hattie Morahan as Jean Leckie, and the Daily Mail ran a story on Nov. 12 with colorful on-set photographs of Clunes in costume <www.tinyurl.com/nhravev>.

Nov 14 #5 Daniel Smith's excellent THE SHERLOCK HOLMES COMPANION: AN ELEMENTARY GUIDE, first published in 2009 (Feb 10 #4), now has a second edition (London: Aurum Press, 2014; 224 pp., £16.99/\$27.99), brought up to date; it's an interesting, attractive, and useful book, with summaries for each of the stories, essays on Conan Doyle, Holmes, and the Canon, interviews with actors and authors, and splendid artwork and illustrations, many in full color. It's nicely done indeed, and suitable for both beginners and old hands. Recommended.



Here's the logo for Shopping Sherlock, an on-line shopping app that "instantly finds the best deals and lowest prices on millions of products"; the app is free, but there's also a system of usage and team commissions if you want to become an affiliate and persuade others to be affiliates, so it's a shopping pyramid scheme. Details at <www.shoppingsherlock.com>.

William Bruce Briggs died on June 11. Bill was an engineer, a sports fan, and an enthusiastic Sherlockian, presiding over McMurdo's Camp, which was both a Sherlockian society and an extensive and imaginative web-site that's still live and well worth exploring <www.mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com>.

David Stuart Davies will be one of the speakers (on "221B Baker Street") at the Crime Writers Festival in New Delhi, Jan. 17-18; their web-site is at <www.crimewritersfestival.com>.

Chris Caswell, former owner of the Baker Street Emporium, now offers a variety of Sherlockiana at Sherlock's Home at Etsy, one of his items being an (empty) bottle of Sherlock's Claret commissioned by the Emporium in 1995; <www.tinyurl.com/kxvzxba>. The magic word "Scuttlebutt" will get you a 10% discount.

People who buy British books should keep the Book Depository in mind: owned by Amazon, it offers Amazon-style discounts and free shipping to the U.S., and this is quite useful for books like Steve Tribe's SHERLOCK: CHRONICLES (Nov 14 #4), which so far doesn't have an American edition. See for yourself at <www.bookdepository.com>.

Evy Herzog reports that the Easton Press is offering a leather-bound signed edition of Nicholas Meyer's THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION for \$99.00; details at <www.tinyurl.com/k7vqokq>. You can search for [sherlock holmes] to see other Sherlockian titles.

WHITE FIRE, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2013; 368 pp., \$27.00), is the seventh in their series of suspense novels about FBI special agent Pendergast; it begins with their account of the dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde, proceeds to modern-day Colorado, and involves (among other things) a search for the manuscript of the long-lost last Sherlock Holmes story.

The Spanish artist Marco Navas is offering a "Sherlockians" collection of twelve 7-cm figurines of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and others from the Canon, hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted for €35.00 each; details at <www.marconavas.com> or by e-mail <marconavas@telecable.es>.

Nov 14 #6 And there's plenty of theatrics to consider: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot; or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Barn Community Playhouse in Tillamook, Ore., through Dec. 6; their web-site's at <www.tillamooktheater.com>. And at the Rochester Repertory Theatre, Rochester, Minn., through Dec. 6 <www.rochesterrep.org>, at the Vertigo Theatre, Calgary, Alta., through Dec. 7 <www.vertigotheatre.com>, at the Knoxville Downtown, Knoxville, Tenn., through Dec. 14; their web-site is at <www.theatreknoxville.com>. Also at the Santa Paula Theater Center, Santa Paula, Calif., until Dec. 21 <www.santapaulatheatercenter.org> and the Live Theatre Workshop, Tucson, Ariz., through Dec. 28 <www.livetheatreworkshop.org>. It's also coming up at TheatreWorks, Milford, Conn., Dec. 5-Jan. 3 <www.theatreworks.us>, and at Community Players, Beatrice, Neb., Dec. 11-14 <www.beatricecommunityplayers.com>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is being performed at the Lower Columbia College's Rose Center in Longview, Wash., through Dec. 6 <www.lcc.ctc.edu>. And it's scheduled at the Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., Jan. 30-Feb. 15, 2015 <www.theatrikos.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is being produced at the Repertory East Playhouse in Santa Clarita, Calif., through Dec. 13 <www.repeastplayhouse.org>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is being performed at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Texas, through Dec. 21; their web-site's at <www.austinplayhouse.com>.

John Longenbaugh's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol" is playing at the Chemainus Theatre Festival in Chemainus, B.C., through Dec. 22 <www.chemainustheatrefestival.ca>.

Bob and Barry Cryer's new play "Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Corker" is set in the kitchen at 221B Baker Street, and will be presented at Wilton's Music Hall in London, Dec. 2-31 <www.wiltons.org.uk>. The subtitled of the play is "Your Goose Is Cooked, Mr. Holmes..."

"Sherlock Holmes in Brentwood" (the new play-reading series curated and introduced by Les Klinger) will reprise Bonnie MacBird's version of "The Blue Carbuncle" at the Contrapuntal Performance Hall in Brentwood (Los Angeles) on Dec. 6 and 7 <www.brownpapertickets.com/event/940506>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Musical" will be performed at the Owen Street Community Arts Centre in Atherstone (Warwickshire), Dec. 11-12; presented by the Leading Players, written by R. Sandland and J. Kitchen, and adapted by Dawn Teagles <www.oscacentre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will have its second production at the McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton, N.J., Mar. 10-29, 2015 <www.mccarter.org>.

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

Dec 14 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Breaking news (as CNN and other networks like to proclaim): The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have announced that their ASH Wednesday dinner at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, Jan. 7, will be held at Annie Moore's (50 East 43rd Street, between Madison and Vanderbilt Avenues). O'Casey's, established in 1974 and where the ASH have met for years, has abruptly closed.

Scott Monty advises on "How to Get the Most Out of the #BSI Weekend" at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/l3ekamc>, offering a "series of tips for the veteran attendees and the newbies alike." And yes, there's a #BSIWeekend hashtag that people who understand what hashtags are can follow "to get real-time updates on the weekend festivities on the social network of their choice." Oh for the days when people called the # an octothorpe.

Welcome news for people who don't read Swedish: Mattias Boström has reported that the German publisher Bertelsmann has purchased translation rights for his FRÅN HOLMES TILL SHERLOCK [FROM HOLMES TO SHERLOCK] (Aug 13 #4) and that a German translation is underway. And there are plans for a translation into English with publication possible in 2016.

TopFoto <www.topfoto.co.uk> is a British agency that offers access to some three and a half million images, many of them quite interesting; search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] to see what's available.

Alexander Orlov has reported "The Return of Mukhtar", a Russian 45-minute television series (2007) about a police investigation team that includes a brave and loyal dog (Mukhtar); one of the episodes was called "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and Alexander reports many Sherlockian allusions in the program, which you can view (in Russian) at <www.tinyurl.com/n8d2nqr>.

"He was always Sherlock Holmes-ian. He was Basil Rathbone. In other words he was always musing about something." Adam West, in an interview reported by Digital Spy (Nov. 12), occasioned by the release of the Blu-ray set of "Batman: The Complete TV Series".

The Museum of London has posted some nice video at YouTube, by way of publicizing their on-going exhibition <www.tinyurl.com/ns8s66n>, including an interesting three-minute "Sir Ian McKellen on Sherlock Holmes".

Bob Byrne presides over an interesting blog called "Black Gate: Adventures in Fantasy Literature" and casts his net widely, recently posting on "The Public Life of Sherlock Holmes: Solar Pons" <www.tinyurl.com/mjudnrk>, including a link to his Solar Pons web-site <www.solarpons.com>, where you'll find the latest (Nov. 2014) issue of The Solar Pons Gazette.

P. D. James died on Nov. 27. Highly regarded for her mystery novels featuring Chief Inspector Dalgleish, she also wrote science fiction, a sequel to Jane Austen's PRIDE AND PREJUDICE, an introduction to the Random House/Vintage Books edition of THE COMPLETE SHERLOCK HOLMES (2009), and an interesting chapter about "The Tenant of 221B Baker Street and the Parish Priest from Cobhole in Essex" in her TALKING ABOUT DETECTIVE FICTION (2009).

Dec 14 #2 Graham Moore's pastiche THE SHERLOCKIAN (Nov 10 #8), published in Britain as THE HOLMES AFFAIR (Feb 11 #1), was a N.Y. Times best seller; if you have been wondering what he has been doing since then, he has written the screenplay for "The Imitation Game" (the new film that stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Alan Turing).

Heuer Publishing <www.hitplays.com> offers scripts of four Sherlock Holmes plays. Three of them are two-act plays by C. P. Stancich: "Sherlock Holmes and the Devil of Dooms Moor" (2008), "Sherlock Holmes and the Spinsters of Blackmead" (2010), and "Sherlock Holmes: John Watson's Body" (2012); \$7.50 each. And Roy C. Booth's 10-minute one-act play "The Unmasking of Sherlock Holmes" (2007) can be read without charge at their web-site.

Tom Tierney died on July 12. Credited in his N.Y. Times obituary as having almost single-handedly revived the lost art of paper-doll making, he created more than 400 paper-dolls books, including a delightful SHERLOCK HOLMES PAPER DOLLS (2009); it's still in print and available at <www.amazon.com>.

Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and then disappeared into the Amazon jungle, is discussed by Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's THE ANNOTATED LOST WORLD (1996) and David Grann's THE LOST CITY OF Z (2009); Radio Times reported earlier this year that Benedict Cumberbatch will star in the film based on Grann's book, with production scheduled to begin early next year in Belfast.

Stu Shiffman died on Nov. 26. He was an inspired artist who contributed to the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and of science fiction, an enthusiastic member of The Sound of the Baskervilles in Seattle, and for many years a frequent poster to The Hounds of the Internet, for whom he created an impressive logo <www.sherlockian.net/hounds>.



Holmes on the Range (previously known as The Desert Prospectors of Arizona) have created a magnifying-glass tie/lapel pin for the society with Sherlock Holmes' initials on the handle; it's 20 mm long and available to everyone for \$5.00 postpaid (or in exchange for a pin from another society). Bob StClair <bobstclair@gmail.com> will be happy to provide more information.

Further to the report (Mar 11 #6) that the Roundabout Theatre Company production of Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes" includes a scene in which the hero, trying to escape capture aboard ship, appears on deck in disguise with Inverness, deerstalker, calabash pipe, and an absurd beard, there is video of the entire show at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/m3ajjtx>; the 2-minute Sherlockian scene stars at 57:13.

The Scottish Book Trust celebrated Book Week Scotland last month by asking people to vote in an on-line poll for the nation's favorite literary character, and the winner was Francis Crawford of Lymond, followed by Begbie, Detective Inspector Rebus, and then Sherlock Holmes. Frances Crawford appears in the late Dorothy Dunnett's Lymond Chronicles, and it is possible that there was a campaign by fans of Crawford, who was described as an exile, a scholar, a soldier, a musician, a master of disguise, an outlaw, and a noble, in six novels set in 16th-century Europe.

Dec 14 #3 George Sturm ("Neil Gibson") died on Nov. 25. He was a special agent for the FBI, and enthusiastic about both Sherlock Holmes and the Civil War, writing for The Baker Street Journal about a Civil War antecedent for the Porlock cipher. George also was a dedicated member of Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.

Kelvin I. Jones has written and published a long list of books and articles about Sherlock Holmes, and about horror, supernatural, and crime, over the years, and many of them are available now as e-books. There are descriptions and much more at his web-site <www.cunningcrimebooks.co.uk>.

Ashvin Rajan reports that there's a biography of Prof. Moriarty on-line in the MacTutor History of Mathematics Archive <www.tinyurl.com/pgcqk4v>, and (thanks to the wonders of digitization) you can read H. W. Gould's article "The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" (1972) <www.tinyurl.com/myywbcl>, and Bradley E. Schaefer's article on "Sherlock Holmes and Some Astronomical Connections" (1993) <www.tinyurl.com/ox3tjo3>.

Sherlock to the rescue: KLM's commercial shows how they use a dog detective to find owners of forgotten items left on planes <www.tinyurl.com/mxd22s3>. The commercial was spotted by Eric Blau, but (alas) it's only a commercial: KLM doesn't really have a dog who really does that.

The late John Ruyle, a delightful humorist and a skilled printer who wrote, printed, bound, and published a long series of parodies that featuring Turlock Loams and Dr. Fatso, also presided over the Quaker Street Irregulars and is sadly missed. THE CANON OF TURLOCK HOLMES, with commentary by Ray and Greta de Groat and an introduction by Michael Kean, offers a nice look at John's delightful work, and it has been published by George Vanderburgh (203; 262 pp., \$30.00). The publisher's address is Box 50, R.R.4, Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0, Canada <www.batteredbox.com>.

"Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me" is an amusing series broadcast by National Public Radio, and Samantha Wolov reports that the program that aired on Nov. 8 was partly Sherlockian: "Elementary, My Dear (Dale) Watson" featured country singer Dale Watson answering questions about Sherlock Holmes. You can listen to the program at <www.tinyurl.com/l6hl7cz>.

The California Artists Radio Theatre was founded more than 50 years ago by Peggy Webber, who worked with Rathbone and Bruce on their old radio series, and adapted, produced, and directed the CART productions of Gillette's play "Sherlock Holmes" and Conan Doyle's story "Selecting a Ghost" Jul 05 #1). Those recordings, and many other non-Sherlockian productions, are available on CDs and as downloads at their web-site <www.cartradio.com>.

Alexander Orlov has reported that Yuri Grymov's dramatization of "The Lost World" is now playing in Moscow (in Russian), and it's grand that the Internet makes both information and a video preview so easily available: the URLs are <www.tinyurl.com/jwkrw4w> and <www.tinyurl.com/maytw86>. Google Translate will help with the text. This isn't the first dramatization of the story: there's at least one other, by Nobby Dimon, and it was performed at the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch in 2003 <www.tinyurl.com/m6oej7a>.

Dec 14 #4 Samuel M. Gerber ("The Final Problem") died on Jan. 9. He had a long career with the American Cyanamid Company, specializing in the chemistry and technology of dyes, and it was his enjoyment of Sherlock Holmes, he explained, that led to his interest in forensic chemistry. He lectured often on "Sherlock Holmes, Chemist" and edited CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM SHERLOCK HOLMES TO TODAY'S COURTROOM (1983), and co-edited MORE CHEMISTRY AND CRIME: FROM MARSH ARSENIC TEST TO DNA PROFILE (1997). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1980.

The artist Charles Wysocki (1928-2002) specialized in Americana, and there is a web-site at <www.charleswyssocki.com> that shows his work. His print "Hound of the Baskervilles" was published in 1997 (Sep 10 #7), and now is available as a 1000-piece jigsaw puzzle (\$13.95).

Collectors may own one or both of the editions of THE BLUE CARBUNCLE published by The Baker Street Irregulars in 1948. Christopher Morley's introduction is delightful, and so is a discovery reported by William R. Cochran in the December issue of The Camden House Journal (published by The Occupants of the Empty House): a book dealer once offered a copy of the trade edition, noting that "A contemporary member of the BSI reveals, in a long inscription, that the BSI remaindered these volumes at \$1.00 each and he is thus sending them as Christmas cards." The inscription is dated in 1950, but the dealer didn't identify who it was wrote it. Does anyone have one of these Christmas-card copies?

Jerry Margolin spotted Sherlockian cover art on the reissue CD album "Has Anyone Here Seen Sigfried?" recorded by a progressive rock band called Pavlov's Dog in 1977 but not released officially until 2007; also available as MP3 downloads, the songs can be sampled at Amazon.



Arguments about the preservation of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, continue: the DFN Foundation plans to convert the house into a school (Sep 14 #6), but the BBC reported (Dec. 14) that English Heritage has said that a proposed extension might mean the building "no longer warranted its listed status," and the Victorian Society also has opposed the conversion. David Forbes-Nixon said in response that "we can do something very special to preserve the existing house," adding that "we can create the best special needs school in the south of England and it would be a wonderful site to do that." The BBC story <www.tinyurl.com/kguv8jf> includes a rendering of the house and the proposed extension.

The WCRS [Written Communications Radio Service] RadioStage presented original radio dramas for a radio reading service for the blind between 2000 and 2004, including "The Sherlock Holmes Assignment" (30 minutes). The program was written by Michael Elliott and David Binkley, and you can listen to it at <www.reallybadmovie.weebly.com/daves-radio-plays.html>.

The Sherlockian Calendar, maintained by Ron Fish and Sue and Ben Vizoskie, is at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>; it's a helpful list of upcoming Sherlockian events, for anyone who would like to know what's happening when and where; you can contact Ron at <ronf404@aol.com> if you would like to have a meeting or conference listed.

Dec 14 #5 "The Rivals" is a 30-minute series that began on BBC Radio 4 in 2011: "Inspector Lestrade was made to look a fool in the Sherlock Holmes stories," and he is now writing his memoirs while working with Holmes' rivals. Phil Attwell reports four new programs, beginning on Dec. 31 with Ernest Bramah's "The Knight's Cross Signal Problem"; you can listen to all four of the new programs at <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04vkmhh>, and you can purchase earlier programs from iTunes.

There's now a trade paperback edition of Michael Robertson's MORIARTY RETURNS A LETTER (New York: Minotaur, 2014; 263 pp., \$15.99); it's the fourth in his series about Reggie Heath, the London barrister who has offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires him to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail (Dec 13 #6), and it's nicely done indeed.

Ian Stewart's PROFESSOR STEWART'S CASEBOOK OF MATHEMATICAL MYSTERIES (New York: Basic Books, 2014; 307 pp., \$16.99) is his third collection of mathematical puzzles, tricks, curiosities, and problems, many of them involving Hemlock Soames and Dr. John Watsup, who live across the street from Holmes and Watson and add a lot of humor. Here's your chance to learn all about hexakosioihexekontahexaphobia, and much more.

Alexander Orlov has noted the BBC Genome Product <www.genome.ch.bbc.co.uk>, which "contains the BBC listings information which the BBC printed in Radio Times between 1923 and 2009," and will be useful to those who want to track down programs broadcast by the BBC in those years.

The Beeman's Christmas Annual for 2014 is a 36-page booklet offering tributes to the late Wally Walthen and a series of scholarly papers devoted to "The Musgrave Ritual", all by members of The Occupants of the Empty House; the cost of the Annual plus all twelve issues of The Camden House Journal for 2015 is \$21.00 postpaid, and checks (payable to the society) should be sent to: The Camden House Journal, Box 21, Zeigler, IL 62999.

Further to the report (Sep 14 #7) that producer Antonio R. Marion was said developing a new Sherlock Holmes play, he has now announced that "Sherlock Holmes" will be coming to Broadway in 2017: the play will be written by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel and will offer "a new and deeply theatrical exploration of the mind of the famous detective, while remaining faithful to the mysterious world created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle."

Robert Veld, author of the excellent THE STRAND MAGAZINE & SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #3), is now researching copies of the Royal Edition of the Strand; at least three issues are known (Mar. 1891, Dec. 1892, and Dec. 1893), and he would appreciate hearing from anyone who owns these or other issues of the Royal Edition (which was printed on heavy paper and specially bound). His e-mail address is <robveld@bigpond.com>.

Warren Randall has formed a new Sherlockian society, The Khyber By-Passers, with membership open to those who have undergone heart surgery, know someone who has done so, and (at the request of Bob Katz) are pathologists or share the society's morbid interests. Warren notes that the actions of Violet de Merville caused her father to suffer a broken heart, thus justifying the name of the society. You can contact Warren at <whirly@aol.com>.

Dec 14 #6 Further to the report (Sep 14 #4) about the pending sale of New Scotland Yard, the site has been sold to Abu Dhabi Investment Group for £370 million, well over the asking price of £250 million, and the site will become a "mixed-use residential development." It's not the historic Great Scotland Yard, well-known to Sherlock Holmes; New Scotland Yard has served as police headquarters since 1967. Proceeds from the sale will be invested in new technology for police officers, including body cameras and tablet computers.

THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Beverly: Rockport Publishers, 2014; 320 pp., \$25.00) is the latest in the publisher's "Classics Reimagined" series, offering a dozen cases colorfully illustrated by Sophia Martineck. Visit her web-site <www.martineck.com/e/projekt.php?number=170> to see her imaginative approach to the stories.

Jennie Paton has noted the latest from World Wrestling Entertainment: Sherlock Holmes vs. Vladimir Putin. Well, actually, it's from Ultimate Destiny Wrestling; you can watch the video at <www.tinyurl.com/kt6xazj>.

In case you're seeking a belated Christmas present for a Sherlockian collector: a copy of the Bazaar Number of The Student (Nov. 20, 1896) with the first appearance of Conan Doyle's parody "The Field Bazaar" will be offered at auction at Lyon & Turnbull in Edinburgh on Jan. 28, estimated at £1,000-£1,200, with a starting bid of £900 <www.tinyurl.com/nrmbsq7>.

David Harnois has recorded "A Scandal in Bohemia" for his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" web-site <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>, where you can listen to the 44-minute dramatized reading; it's nicely done, and "The Red-Headed League" is scheduled for January.

"Thank you Arthur Conan Doyle for creating the enigmatic character of Sherlock Holmes. It has always been an inspiration to us." That's from the opening credits of the new Indian film "Samrat & Co."; you can see a trailer at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/p9tbksc>, and while the DVD (in Hindi with English subtitles) is not yet available here, you might find it at eBay. The film's an interesting modern mystery, with hints of Robert Downey Jr., Benedict Cumberbatch, and even a bit of Tony Shalhoub.

"Includes a rules & solutions book, case cards, a detective's notebook, & an egg timer," according to the box that contains THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUZZLE CASE (New York: Sterling Innovation, 2014; \$12.95); the case cards present 120 puzzles and riddles, and they make for a nice parlor game.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: A SELECTION OF HIS GREATEST CASES (London: Arcturus, 2014; 372 pp., \$24.95) offers "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and a dozen short stories, with some of Sidney Paget's illustrations and an appreciative introduction by Martin Edwards; cloth-bound and in a handsome slipcase.

Judith Freeman's useful index to The Serpentine Muse (published by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes since 1975) is available from her by e-mail as an Excel spreadsheet <judith-freeman@hotmail.com>, and the ASH web-site <www.ash-nyc.com> has information on subscribing to the Muse (back issues are unfortunately not available).

Dec 14 #7 The Order of Canada was established in 1967 to recognize outstanding merit or distinguished service, and one of its newest members is Peter Calamai, who was honored "for his achievements as a science journalist and for his contributions to the cause of literacy." Congratulations to Peter Calamai, now C.M. as well as B.S.I.

INVESTIGATING SHERLOCK HOLMES: SOLVED & UNSOLVED MYSTERIES (Oakville: Mosaic Press, 2014; 239 pp., \$17.95) is a collection of Sherlockian scholarship by Hartley R. Nathan and Clifford S. Goldfarb (with assistance from Joseph Kessel and John Linsenmeyer), and it's nice indeed to have the results of their investigations conveniently available; they have focused on the many Jewish aspects of the Canon, with side trips into lawyering, restaurants, and weaponry, and they present their discoveries with careful attention and with considerable humor.

Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" continues to offer interesting content, including podcasts recorded by Scott and Burt Wolder. Their latest podcast (#72) was posted on Blue Carbuncle Day, and they invite you to celebrate a belated Christmas by listening to "The Sherlockian Tannenbaum" at <www.tinyurl.com/mwpqcu>.

Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's THE BODY SNATCHERS AFFAIR (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2014; 219 pp., \$25.99), the third book in their entertaining series; once again they're occasionally assisted (and annoyed) by Sherlock Holmes (or a man who claims to be Holmes).

Paul Laudiero's amusing SH*T ROUGH DRAFTS (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014; 135 pp., \$12.95), is subtitled "pop culture's favorite books, movies, and TV shows as they might have been, and The Classics include one-page alternatives for "The Speckled Band", "The Red-Headed League", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

Colin Mochrie, most famous for his appearances on the television improvisation program "Whose Line Is It Anyway?", has obviously enjoyed writing NOT QUITE THE CLASSICS (New York: Diversion Books, 2013; 192 pp., \$14.99); he bookends the first and last lines of classic books and poems around his own versions, one of which ("A Study in Ha Ha") is Sherlockian.

Fred Thursfeld's SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE TERRIBLE SECRET (London: MX Publishing, 2012; 183 pp., \$14.95) offers a capsule history of the First World War, and an account of Holmes' pursuit of an exotic dancer in hopes of retrieving the dire scientific secret she received from a Swiss patent clerk in Zurich. Mike Hogan's SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SCOTTISH QUESTION (2014; 196 pp., \$14.95) involves Holmes and Watson in a pursuit of the long-lost Crown of Scotland and a battle against Scots nationalists. And Gary Lovisi's THE MYSTERY SURROUNDING WATSON'S LOST DISPATCH BOX (2014; 152 pp., \$9.95) is a story set in modern Boston, where a bookstore owner finds an author's copy of The Strand Magazine and what appears to be a page torn from Watson's diary, and quickly becomes involved with drug dealers and corrupt politicians and police; he's assisted by a street-smart young man, and they use Sherlockian methods in their investigation. The publisher's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Dec 14 #8 The Guardian reported (Dec. 10) that BBC Worldwide (the commercial arm of the BBC) has struck a deal with Kuwait-backed London Resort Company Holdings that allows BBC programs and characters to be "brought to life" at a new £2 billion theme park and holiday resort that's planned to be built by the Thames estuary in north Kent, scheduled to open in 2020. The Guardian's story was headlined "Sherlock World?"

And as usual, there's Sherlockian theater afoot: Michael Mendenian and John Weagly's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" is playing at the Raven Theatre in Chicago through Jan. 4 <www.raventheatre.com>.

Katie Forgette's play "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" is being performed at the Jericho Arts Centre in Vancouver, B.C., through Jan. 10 <www.jerichoartscentre.com>.

Daniel and Tom Clarkson's "Potted Sherlock" ("all 60 Sherlock Holmes stories in just 80 elementary minutes") is running at the Vaudeville Theatre in London through Jan. 11 <www.pottedsherlock.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be produced at B Street Theatre in Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 6 through Feb. 7 <www.bstreettheatre.org>; this Watson is the "trustworthy side-kick to Sherlock Holmes, loyal engineer who built Bell's first telephone, unstoppable super-computer that became reigning "Jeopardy!" champ, and amiable techno-dweeb who, in the present day is looking for love." There's a five-minute video about the play's background at <www.tinyurl.com/phd7ahv>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Flint Community Players in Flint, Mich., Jan. 29-Feb. 8; their web-site is at <www.flintcommunityplayers.com>. Also at Theatre 98 in Fairhope, Alaska, July 23-Aug. 2, 2015 <www.theatre98.org>, and at the Cannery Stage in Penticton, B.C., Nov. 12-Dec. 15, 2015 <www.manyhatstheatre.com>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is scheduled at the Doris Harper-White Community Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., Jan. 30 to Feb. 15, 2015 <www.theatrkos.com>. Also at the Magenta Theater in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 25-Oct. 10 <www.magentatheater.com>.

Anthony and Marcia Milgrom Dodge's "Sherlock Holmes and the West End Horror" is scheduled by the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., July 29-Aug. 6, 2015 <www.cortlandrep.org>.

"The Modern Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" offers an interesting approach to the Canon, with the Jet City Improv responding to an audience member's presentation of a mystery; the theater is in Seattle, and performances are from Jan. 8 to Feb. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/oqljxxc>.

Alden Nowlan and Walter Learning's "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" on the schedule at the Scarborough Guild Theatre in Scarborough, Ont., Jan. 9-24 <www.theatrescarborough.com>.

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