

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 169th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 4 to 8; reports on many if not most of the goings-on posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society's web-site is at <www.acdsociety.com>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was Dr. Lakshmi Krishnan, who suggested that the medical practice of diagnosis cannot be understood without examining its linkage with detective fiction; her paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal, and her book *The Doctor and the Detective* will be published this year.

On Friday the well-attended William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of William Gillette's curtain-raiser "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", and the presentation of the annual Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") to Evelyn Herzog.

Then Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Lou Lewis offered the first toast to Joan Blankenstein as *The Woman*. The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Betsy Rosenblatt and Dan Stashower. The annual Morley-Montgomery Award went posthumously to Nicholas Utechin, and Mike Kean announced that Steve Rothman was retiring after a record 23 years as the editor of the Baker Street Journal; the new editor of the BSJ is Dan Andriacco, and Steve will be the editor emeritus.

The BSI's new Birthday Honours were awarded to Cindy Brown ("Sam Brown"), Elaine Coppola ("Syracuse"), Erika Dowell ("A First Folio Shakespeare"), Takahiko Endo ("James Armitage"), David Harnois ("James Boswell"), Palle Schantz Lauridsen ("The Royal Family of Scandinavia"), Dore Nash ("The Three Garridebs"), James O'Leary ("James, the Son of the Grimpen Postmaster"), Roberta Pearson ("Nottingham"), Lee Shackelford ("Woodman's Lee"), and John Sherwood ("The Imperial Theatre"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Greg Ruby.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the traditional opportunity for dealers to help people who wanted to add to their collections, and at the Saturday luncheon and reception the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prize was an etched glass salver with matching glasses and coasters, created by Danna Mancini.

The second annual meeting of the Literary Agents was held via Zoom on Sunday morning; you are welcome to watch video of the proceedings at the "Doings of Doyle" page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/3ncb9h2w>. And for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

Jan 23 #2 There's more about the festivities at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/5284d3rf>. Scott and Burt Wolder also discuss the goings-on at <www.tinyurl.com/bp7386rm>. And you can plan ahead: the next annual dinner will be on Jan. 12, 2024, celebrating Sherlock Holmes' 170th birthday and the 90th (granite) anniversary of the founding of the BSI. Anyone who would like to have information about future events (and much more) is welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.

The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: *The Haven Horror* is the newest addition to the Manuscript Series (211 pp., \$39.95); edited by Phillip Bergem, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Retired Colourman", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).

Stimulating Medicine, edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg (225 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled "More Nerve and Knowledge: Doctors, Medicine, and the Sherlockian Canon"; it's the next title in the BSI's Professions Series, and a second volume, so to speak, accompanying their first title in the series, and the anthology continues to explore the many medical aspects of the Canon. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Don't delay: Neil Brand's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" with Mark Gatiss as Sherlock Holmes (Dec 22 #6) will be available at the BBC Radio 3 web-site <www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001h56s> only until Feb. 20 (and it's nicely done indeed).

As noted in last month's issue, all of the Sherlock Holmes stories now are in the public domain. You can visit Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/2s4ck3s4> to listen to them interview Les Klinger, Betsy Rosenblatt, and Ashley Polasek about the significance of the end of Canonical copyright protection.

Radio Times reported on Jan. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/257fh4ks> on the new Audible radio drama "The Baker Street Four" (based on the graphic-novel series *Les Quatre de Baker Street*), with Peterson Joseph as Sherlock Holmes and Bill Nighy as the Baker Street Irregulars' faithful cat Watson. You can listen to a sample from the recording at <www.tinyurl.com/mr3nnkrb>.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> kindly offers (via e-mail) his new 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 are Investitured Irregulars).

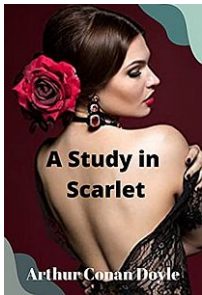
Further to the discussion of ChatGPT (Dec 22 #4), Dave Taylor, who has an interesting technology blog at <www.askdavetaylor.com>, asks his readers, "If you read every book Arthur Conan Doyle ever wrote and remembered every single sentence, do you think you could write new Sherlock Holmes stories in his style?" <www.tinyurl.com/2yuu4dbw>. And provides some intriguing insight for people who pursue pastiches.

Jan 23 #3 The script for David MacGregor's comedy "The Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is now available from TRW Plays (\$12.95 print/\$9.00 digital) <www.trwplays.com/david-macgregor>; MacGregor has great fun with Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who has moved into 221B Baker Street and is pretending to be Mrs. Hudson for the sake of propriety). This time they're involved with Nikola Tesla and Thomas Alva Edison, and (again) the villainous daughter of Prof. Moriarty.

Reginald Goodman's *The Willesden Harpooning: A Holmes Before Watson Novel* (2022; 224 pp., \$7.81) offers a look at Holmes when he was trying to find his vocation as a consulting detective, finding he had a lot to learn before he could establish himself; he solves one mystery easily, and then is confronted with another that is far more difficult.

"Why write a Victorian mystery?" is the question answered by Will Thomas, author of the series of novels about Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewelyn in a post at Criminal Element (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/3rzzfuvck>; *Heart of the Nile*, the latest in the long series, is due from Minotaur in the spring.

The fall issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site at <www.bsitrust.org>. with news about the Trust's activities. You're more than welcome to explore the Trust's web-site to read past issues.



"Don't judge a book by its cover," someone once said. Karen Murdock has noted a new digital edition of *A Study in Scarlet* offered at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/v69zdx5> for only \$3.00. One does wonder: Alice Charpentier? Lucy Ferrier?

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) you can now do that easily, thanks to Steve Mason, who provides an updated compilation each month and makes it available to one and all at the Beacon Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ys63328a>.

The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Elizabeth Elwood's mystery involving a Sherlockian theater production; Steve Steinbock's reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column about a mystery that intrigued Conan Doyle; John Shen Yen Nee and S. J. Rozan's pastiche "The Killing of Henry Davenport"; an editorial happy birthday from Janet Hutchins; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Reigate Squires"; and an Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Can the Cat Catch the Rat?" by Steve Hockensmith.

What do Frankenstein, Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, Tarzan, the Count of Monte Cristo, and Pinocchio have in common? They are primordial literary myths, according to the novelist Gabriel García Márquez, quoted in an article in the Wall Street Journal (Dec. 27), noted by Karen Murdock. Can you name the authors who created all of those primordial literary myths?

Jan 23 #4 When in Norway: you can stay at the Union Hotel in Øye, where you can "step inside a world treasuring the olden times, when traveling meant introspective discovery, long days of reading and hiking adventures in tweed" <www.unionoye.no>. The hotel boasts that Conan Doyle was one of many celebrities who stayed there, and "fell in love with our country right here, within these walls." It's certainly picturesque, but easy to get to only if you're on a ship cruising in the Hjørundfjord.

Jules Tasca's play "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" was first performed in 2014 and has had many local productions since then; the script's available from Dramatic Publishing (\$10.95) <www.dramaticpublishing.com>. The evening consists of one-act dramatizations of two Canonical stories ("The Noble Bachelor" and "Charles Augustus Milverton") and his new one-act play "The Disappearance of Adam" (which is nicely imaginative and far more than a mere pastiche). The publisher offers many other Sherlockian plays.

Ron Fish continues to publicize meetings of Sherlockian societies via his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; it's a great way to find out what's happening, where and when. You can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send information about upcoming meetings to him at <ronf404@aol.com>.

For those who like word-search puzzles: *Brain Games: Sherlock Holmes Word Search* (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2018; 192 pp. \$12.98).

The lists of Sherlockian societies that I used to maintain on my old computer are now sadly out of date, but there's still an easy way to for you to find Sherlockian societies and their contacts: Mike McSwiggin prepares annual listings of contact information for "Sherlockian Groups and Societies" for publication in the Baker Street Almanac, and the 2021 listing is available on-line at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html> (it's a large file, so be patient while it downloads); the 2022 listing should be available soon. Mike also presides over a handy-dandy interactive map of geographical Sherlockian societies at the web-site of the Beacon Society, at <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html>.

"Pulp Friction" is how Heritage Auctions described what they called "one of the sauciest (and spiciest!) troves of pulp magazines ever assembled" <www.tinyurl.com/55zsrpa8>; there may not be any Sherlockian pulps in the upcoming auctions, but do take a look at some of the covers.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received their Doctorate in Sherlockiana. There also are annual Re-Certification exams for those who want to continue on, and there is more information about the Program at <www.tinyurl.com/4s6jtn35>.

The December issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from and about the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life."

Jan 23 #5 J. Allen St. John was an author, artist, and illustrator, perhaps best known for his illustration of Edgar Rice Burroughs' novels, but he also created a spectacular image of Holmes and Watson for the Chicago Sunday Tribune's Magazine of Books (Feb. 13, 1949) to accompany Vincent Starrett's review of John Dickson Carr's *The Life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* <www.pinterest.com/pin/338332990729622515>. Lauren Stump at Shasta/Phoenix offers some of his (non-Sherlockian) original artwork at <www.shastaphoenixart.com/availableartwork>, and Stephen D. Korshak's *The Paintings of J. Allen St. John: Grand Master of Fantasy*.

St. John earlier illustrated "A Scandal in Bohemia" for the anthology *With All My Love* (1945); that artwork can be found on the cover of Baker Street Miscellanea (autumn 1982) and in an article in the winter 1982 issue.

Regulation & Imagination: Legal & Literary Perspectives on Fox-Hunting is the thoroughly misleading title of a delightful book edited by Ross E. Davies (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2021; 131 pp., \$65.00). It's actually an exploration of Conan Doyle's "The King of the Foxes" and offers a full-color reprint of the first publication of the story in *The Windsor Magazine*, a facsimile of the manuscript with a transcription and annotations, and essays about the history of the manuscript, illustrators, fox-hunting, and much more, by Doylean scholars and enthusiasts; do not neglect the illustrations on the front and back of the dust jacket, explained in detail on the jacket flaps. The publisher's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3v8ahmyw> has links to two of the essays, and information on how to order the book.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 14-16 <www.221bcon.com>, and you are welcome to apply to be on one or more of their panels <www.221bcon.com/panels>.



It would be nice indeed if the U.S. Postal Service were to issue a stamp to honor the new book about "The King of the Foxes", but in fact it's only a nice coincidence that a new 40¢ stamp shows a red fox. That's the rate for bulk mail (pre-sorted circulars, newsletters, and catalogs), and the stamps available in rolls of 3,000 and 10,000; it will be difficult to find them in post offices, but the Postal Service is well aware that there still are some people who collect stamps, and you can purchase 20-stamp sheets at the USPS web-site <www.tinyurl.com/36puatuf>.

"Tide: For Detectives with Sensitive Skin" is a new television commercial <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nxPyxgh9xgA> reported by Jerry Margolin and found on-line by Jennie Paton.

Further to the recommendation of Anthony Horowitz's "Magpie Murders" television series (Dec 22 #1), the book from which he adapted the series also is nicely done; the solutions to the murders are the same, but it's interesting to see what Horowitz did when he adapted the book for television.

Jerry Margolin has reported a nicely Sherlockian (and affordable) collectible available in Oregon <www.oregonlottery.org/scratch-its/cash-hunt>; the question for collectors is: do you keep it in mint condition?

Jan 23 #6 The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2022 takes "International Holmes" as its theme, with a nice mix of essays, articles, pastiches, poetry, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 107-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$11.00 postpaid); ask Phillip <pgbergem@gmail.com> if you're in time to order, and he'll tell you how to pay. Back issues for some earlier years, and conference books, also are available.

Gillette Castle is currently closed for tours, and work is underway on renovating the castle's terrace; tours will resume on May 27. In the meantime, Susan Dahlinger reports, there's a virtual tour available on-line at the Gillette Castle State Park web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc38p73j>. The web-site of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park also is well worth exploring <www.gillettecastlefriends.org>.

The Parallel Case of St. Louis has announced their "Holmes in the Heartland" conference on July 28-30; more information is available at their web-site <www.parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>.

The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers full reports on the Jubilee@221B conference, news from the Library and the Collection, and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Maurice Breslow's *Full Circle: Sherlock Holmes's Greatest Challenge Ever* (Altona: Friesen Press, 2022; 115 pp., \$14.99) presents Holmes with a dire problem: Conan Doyle has decided to dispose of Holmes at the Reichenbach. Their worlds collide, and overlap, and the novella provides an intriguing solution.

Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle in the Newspapers, Volume 6, October 1894, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Mark Alberstat (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2023; 258 pp., \$38.95), continues the series launched in 2015; the first volume covered ten years, and this one reprints only some of the articles published in the month that saw Conan Doyle on his highly-publicized tour in the United States.

Also from Gasogene: *You Know My Methods, Watson*, edited by Andy and Shelly Gage (Indianapolis: Illustrious Clients, 2023; 113 pp., \$19.99) is the society's third case-notes, offering a fine mix of articles, toasts, poetry, drama, and explorations of the history of the Clients. The *Sherlock Holmes Review: 2022 Sherlockian Annual* (78 pp., \$24.95) has a wide variety of new articles and reminiscences, Canonical and Sherlockian interesting (Steve Doyle has an especially nice story in the Collectors' Corner.) And while it's not new, Christopher Redmond's *A Quick Succession of Subjects* (2016; 276 pp., \$19.95), a collection of lectures and speeches from 1978 to 2015, includes "Advice from Professor Moriarty on the Presentation of Sherlockian Papers" (which will be of interest and value to anyone who is considering speechifying about Sherlock Holmes). Gasogene's books can be ordered at <www.gasogenebooks.com>.

Jan 23 #7 Do you think copyright protection in the U.S. is complicated? Canada has just changed its regulations to provide protection for 70 (rather than 50) years from the death of the author. Fear not: Conan Doyle's works went into public domain in Canada in 1980, and even if the new regulations were retroaction, his protection would have ended in 2000. The CBC explained it all on Jan. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2zz5cp>.

The December issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, offers detailed reports on the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes (at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul through Apr. 2) and the mini-conference held last October), celebrations of A. A. Milne and D. Martin Dakin, and news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter can be requested from Timothy Johnson, #15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <johns976@umn.com>. Planning's underway for a full-scale conference in Minneapolis in 2024.

Linda Bailey's *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock* (Tundra Book Group, 2022; 56 pp., \$18.99) is written for children aged 5-9 years, and it's a delightful introduction to the life and work of Conan Doyle, enhanced by Isabelle Follath's colorful artwork.

A recent article in *The Times* reported on "the 22 poshest villages in the UK," and one of them was Forest Row, which was described as "a beacon of progressiveness" and "a posh hippy enclave sloshing with private wealth." Obviously it has changed since Holmes and Watson stayed at the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (in "Black Peter").

Howard Ostrom's "Silent Doyle: Non-Sherlockian Conan Doyle and the Silent Film Era" <www.nplh.co.uk/silentdoyle.html> is an informative and nicely-illustrated discussion of the subject; it is unfortunate that most of the films are not known to have survived.

It is getting harder and harder to find open-stack libraries, in which it is possible to browse the shelves, but one of the best and largest is the Mui Ho Fine Arts Library at Cornell University <www.tinyurl.com/55npb48y>.

Piers Haggard died on Jan. 11. He began his theatrical career in Britain in 1960 as an assistant director at the Royal Court, then moved to film and television, and was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours in 2016; he directed the "Madame Sara" episode of the ITV series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1971).

The Baker Street Irregulars in Oxfordshire: they were the Special Operations Executive (SOE), who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because during WW2 their headquarters were at 64 Baker Street. They were also called "the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" and sometimes it was said that SOE stood for "Stately 'omes of England" after the many country homes and estates they used during the war. One of those stately homes was still used by the intelligence services until the 1970s, when it was sold and carefully restored; it's now on the market again (at £6,000,000), and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/djvaz7vc>.

Jan 23 #8 Will Thomas' *Fierce Poison* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 294 pp., \$27.99) is the next in his grand series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; it's 1893, and the story puts them and their friends in dire peril at the hands of a mysterious poisoner. The tale's well told, and the supporting characters are as interesting as the stars; the book is an excellent addition to the series.

The last Sherlock Holmes stories aren't the only things to enter the public domain this year. Here's something you may not have thought was protected by copyright: <www.tinyurl.com/sxtbbfmr>.

"The only thing needed to be a Sherlockian is a curious mind and the free edition of *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* - Nick Martorelli, interviewed by Robb Nunn on his "Interesting Though Elementary" blog, which continues to offer a fine mix of essays and interviews <www.tinyurl.com/5ym74vsk>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Reno Little Theater in Reno, Nev., through Feb. 12 <www.renolittletheater.org>. It's also due at the Theatre Off The Square in Weatherford, Tex., on Feb. 3-19 <www.theatreoffthesquare.org>; and at the Olathe West Theatre in Olathe, Kan., Mar. 3-4 <www.owtheatre.com>.

The new musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Poisonwood" will be performed at the Other Palace in London, Feb. 2-4 <www.theturbinetheatre.com>.

Joshua L. Peugh's new musical "My Dear Watson" was performed at The Grandel in St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 27-28, and it will be streamed on-line, Feb. 3-5 <www.kranzbergartsfoundation.org/the-grandel>.

The Red Throated League (of the Norwegian Explorers) will perform "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 4 <www.mnhs.org/event/9630>.

Lesley Hart will discuss her "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Lipstick, Ketchup and Blood" (with excerpts performed by Deirde Davis) at the Pitlochry Festival Theatre in Pitlochry, Perthshire, on Feb. 12 (it's her adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet") <www.pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com>.

Samuel Safa's "Sherlock Holmes: l'Aventure Musicale" will be performed at the 13eme Art theater in Paris, Feb. 18-Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2s4dwdx>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Lakeland Cultural Arts Center in Littleton, N.C., Mar. 24-Apr. 1 <www.lakelandcac.org>.

"Baker Street Irregulars" (by Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus) is to be performed at the Kettering Children's Theatre in Kettering, Ohio, from Mar. 24 to Apr. 2 <www.playkettering.org>.

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

The splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the collection of Glen Miranker opened with suitable fanfare at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis on Feb. 13, and it will be on display until May 5. Special events are scheduled for Mar. 16 and Apr. 20, and you can watch Tim Johnson interviewing Glen about the exhibition at www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjprpshwYQrg.

There's still time to visit Moscow to see the State Museum of the History of Russian Literature's exhibition "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes in Russia" www.tinyurl.com/4n8yy2nm, which closes on Mar. 26. There's more information about the exhibition at www.goslitmuz.ru/poster/16438. And if you can't get to Moscow, Howard Ostrom has noted that there is a nice video tour at www.tinyurl.com/bdmmhax.

If you'd like to know more about the life and work of the late Nick Utechin, you can listen to his interview at the Baker Street Irregulars Trust oral-history project at their web-site www.tinyurl.com/3whrpkt2.

Bookforum, launched in 1994 as a literary supplement to Artforum magazine and considered by some as "the cool-kid sibling of older publication like the N.Y. Review of Books," has ceased publication. There still is an on-line archive, where you can read articles such as Audrey Woolen's "Neither Fairy nor Foul" about the Cottingley photographs in the June/July/August issue www.tinyurl.com/394frz56.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation reported (on Jan. 20) the twelve winners of their "name a snowplow" competition; they included "The Blizzard of Oz", "Luke Snowwalker", and "Sherlock Snowmes". See them all at www.tinyurl.com/y9h973dv.

"A Study in Sherlock" is the title of an auction due on Apr. 20 at Potter & Potter www.potterauctions.com; it's "the first sale from Robert Hess' collection of Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle" including original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more.

"Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Wins Fight to Evict Brother from flm Home in 10-Year Feud" was the headline on a story in the Daily Mirror (Feb. 1) www.tinyurl.com/bdfwjbbm. John Aidiniantz, who now controls the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, has won the latest lawsuit in a decade-long feud that has involved more than 100 court appearance and resulted in more than £2.5 million in costs and court orders in a legal war that started as a battle over profits from the Museum, which continues to claim that it's at 221B Baker Street.

John Cleese starred as Sherlock Holmes (with William Rushton as Dr. Watson) in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" (a 30-minute program in the BBC-1's "Comedy Playhouse", broadcast in 1973); you can watch their antics on-line at www.tinyurl.com/2v5n565m (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

Feb 23 #2 Demolition has begun at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel, a local paper reported on Nov. 24, 2022 <www.tinyurl.com/3xx7cfts>. Conan Doyle is said to have designed both the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph noted on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that Sir Arthur's design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

Why should presidents and former presidents and vice presidents be the only ones to have fun? Now you all can join the the club.



"When Katherine Mansfield died everybody said, 'We have lost a writer of exquisite short stories,' and so we did. We have still, fortunately, other writers not less good, and one thinks of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his 'Sherlock Holmes,' or, again, of Mr. Perceval Gibbon and of Mr. Stacy Aumonier, whose extraordinary lightness of touch gives readability to everything he writes." A quote from the chapter on "Short Stories of Quality" in James Milne's *A London Book Window* (1924), kindly reported by Mattias Boström; the book's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ez8w6hjc>. And one wonders; has anyone actually read a short story written by more than one of those four authors?

The winter 2022/2023 issue of *Canadian Holmes* is a special issue honoring the late Peter Calamai, reprinting eight of his delightful contributions to our pseudo-scholarship. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Bob Coghill on vacation in New Zealand, found the Holmes Café in Waitara <www.facebook.com/SHolmes-Coffee-More-309768106026323>; it was closed at the time, so he didn't get to sample the food and drinks.

Five Miles to Anywhere is a Sherlockian society that holds monthly on-line discussions, and makes recordings of their meetings available at Derrick Belanger's YouTube, where you can see both their interesting speakers, and how much fun they have <www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zJ4A>. The society also has a Facebook page, but doesn't yet have a theme song; they might want to adopt <www.youtube.com/watch?v=vaD_B_C2RwI>.

Howard Ostrom has reported S. V. Mukhin's interesting Conan Doyle web-site <www.conan-doyle.narod.ru>; it's in Russian (Google Translate can be quite helpful), and is an excellent example of what people are doing to make Conan Doyle and Holmes available in other languages.

Moriarty has returned: Daniel Davis, who played Moriarty in two episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" will be seen in the role again in the third season of "Picard" (which began streaming on Paramount+ beginning on Feb. 16); Robert Ryan reported on the new season of the series on the Inverse web-site (Jan. 25) <www.tinyurl.com/mwby8hj6>.

Feb 23 #3 The portable Goyard writing desk designed for Conan Doyle (Aug 18 #1) has been advertised yet again, discounted to \$106,720 (plus shipping from Hong Kong) <www.tinyurl.com/59zd5sae>. It's not the desk actually owned by Conan Doyle, but rather one of the additional six made by Goyard; Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog offers a detailed and illustrated report on the desk <www.tinyurl.com/ywnn6yc4>.

KD Sherrinford's *Song for Someone* (Extasy Books, 2022; 369 pp., \$13.25) is the first in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series; it's a romantic novel, with young Charlotte Saporì reading diaries kept by her mother and father and discovering that she's the daughter of Irene Adler and Sherlock Holmes, and learning about the complicated history of their relationship. The story continues in *Christmas at the Saporìs* (2022; 82 pp., \$7.00) with Mycroft on hand to complicate things. Sherrinford has a Facebook page at <www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf>, and you can read more about the author and her two books at <www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhwh>.

"The Great MLB Jersey Caper" was the headline on a story at the Sports Illustrated web-site on Feb. 27 <www.tinyurl.com/yc73bhjd>, kindly forwarded by Ross Davies. According to the colorful and detailed report, "Baseball had somehow stumbled into a locked-room mystery, more Agatha Christie than Christy Mathewson, more Sherlock Holmes than Homer Bailey," and it's a grand mystery indeed, not just because the missing jerseys cost \$250 each.



Due on CBS-TV (perhaps): "Shortly after the death of his friend and partner Sherlock Holmes at the hands of Moriarty, Dr. John Watson resumes his medical career as the head of a clinic dedicated to treating rare genetic disorders, only to uncover a startling secret that puts him in the cross-hairs of Moriarty once again." CBS has opened a writers room for a series proposed by Craig Sweeney, who worked on the network's "Elementary" series for five years, most of them as executive producer, and targeted for the 2024-2025 season. Opening a writers room means that the network wants to see scripts before approving a pilot.

"September, 1925. Russell and Holmes cross Europe to the village outside Paris where his son, Damian Adler, has settled to paint. But Damian has fled, and while Holmes goes after him, Russell begins to look into the secrets of Holmes' own past, beginning with an intriguing lantern with figures that seem to dance." If you want to know more, you'll need to read Laurie R. King's next novel *The Lantern's Dance*, due early next year.

Memories and Adventures, edited by Douglas Kerr (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022; 342 pp., £150.00/\$230.00), is the first volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, which will offer the text of the books; detailed introductions; comparisons of the manuscripts (if available), first serial appearances, and first editions; explanatory notes; and (for *Memories and Adventures*) occasional corrections of errors made by Conan Doyle in remembering his life and work. It's a grand project indeed, and *Memories and Adventures* is a splendid start. *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* is due next, to be followed by *Round the Red Lamp*.

Feb 23 #4 The imaginative life-size bronze sculpture by Irena Sedlecká that shows Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the spirit of Sherlock Holmes <www.tinyurl.com/y2sevea2>, on display in the Garden of Heroes and Villains created by the late Felix Dennis in Dorsington, Stratford-upon-Avon, in Warwickshire, is not easy to see, but the Garden will be open to the public during a guided walk on Aug. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/yd7tjmph>.

Jennie Paton reports an update to the video "Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games" which now covers 2002-2023 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1UnD5sYGJTM>.

Mark Godburn advertised (it has been sold) a "rare Victorian book, in its dust jacket, a book that reportedly introduced the first non-white detective in Victorian fiction." The book is Headon Hill's *The Divinations of Kala Persad* (Ward, Lock & Bowden, 1895), a first edition, in a dust jacket, with advertising on the jacket flaps that includes *A Study in Scarlet* (possibly the earliest surviving reference to the book on a dust jacket). Does anyone know of an earlier dust jacket with Canonical advertising?

Mark buys, sells, and collects and researches early dust jackets, and is the author of *Nineteenth-Century Dust-Jackets* (2016) (still available from the Oak Knoll Press <www.oakknoll.com>. He'd be glad to hear from anyone who shares his enthusiasm, at <markrgodburn@gmail.com>.

The late Jim French's "Imagination Theatre" radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" began 25 years ago, and is still on the air. Larry Albert has played Dr. Watson on every program, and you can hear recent shows at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/2p88z22j>. You can also purchase MP3 downloads of the "Further Adventures" (and all of the Canonical stories as "The Classic Adventures") at <www.tinyurl.com/28a8tfj6>. M. J. Elliott has been writing scripts for about 20 years, and has done the entire Canon, as well as many other stories.

"Brian and Charles" (2002) is a splendid and amusing film about Brian (a lonely inventor) and Charles (his robot); Charles appears in Sherlockian costume in about ten minutes of the film, Howard Ostrom reports, and you get a very brief glimpse of him in the trailer <www.youtube.com/4hzvcmzx>. It's available on Amazon Prime and on Blu-ray in the U.S., and on DVD only in the U.K.

"Workplace Return Should Be Elementary, My Dear Prime Minister" read the headline on Matthew Lau's column in the [Toronto] Financial Post on Feb. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/w5vbf39n>, kindly reported by Cliff Goldfarb. And the column's nicely Sherlockian.

Graeme Malcolm died on Jan. 10. Born in Scotland, he moved to the U.S. in his early twenties and began recording for the American Federation for the Blind's talking-books program; he went on to record 168 audiobooks, and to act on stage and in television and films. Malcolm also was an understudy for Frank Langella as Sherlock Holmes in a 1987 production of Charles Marowitz's play "Sherlock's Last Case", and his recordings include the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in America* and two Canonical stories (all of them now available from Audible, where you can hear samples at <www.audible.com>.

Feb 23 #5 Joe Coppola reports that amateur radio operators holding extra-class licenses can ask the Federal Communications Commission for vanity call signs, and he has just been authorized to use K1BSI. K3BSI may still be available from the FCC. If you would like to join the Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society (for licensed amateur radio operators), you can contact Ron Fish at <ronf404@aol.com>.

Max Alvarez has noted an interesting web-site <www.movie-locations.com>, where searches for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turn up some hits.

Bibliotopus continues to offer important and (unusual) material at their web-site, and their current offers include a complete run of single issues of the Strand Magazine with all 58 stories published in the magazine (for \$85,000) <www.tinyurl.com/2cwbwwys>. They recently offered the manuscript of "His Last Bow" (for \$200,000) <www.tinyurl.com/236uh9wp>, and while it sold quickly, they've kept the description up at the web-site. Mark Hime, who founded the company in the mid-1970s, still presides over the catalog descriptions ("blame no one else," he says), and it's well worth reading what he writes, about his offers, his philosophy, and more.



"The Terror of Blue John Gap" continues to entertain geologists who admire Conan Doyle's fiction, because it includes both an interesting mineral and a monster that turns out to be a Pleistocene cave bear. Dana Martin Batory and William A. S. Sarjeant suggested in 1994 that the Terror was not, in fact, a cave bear, but rather a great scimitar cat, and it's nice that the Royal Mail issued a set of stamps in 2006 honoring Ice Age Animals that included both a cave bear and a sabre-tooth cat.



Marian Mistery and JD Singh have announced that they are going to retire, and will soon be closing the Sleuth of Baker Street in Toronto after 40 years of service to readers all over the world from one of the last remaining mystery-specialist bookstores; you can read the latest (and last) issue of their newsletter Merchant of Menace on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/mryjtv8e>.

Southsea Stories and Beyond, edited by Matt Wingett (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2022; 447 pp., £25.00 hardback/£15.00 paperback), offers a preface by Andrew Lycett and reprints of all the short stories not included in collections during Conan Doyle's lifetime; it has two additional stories ("The Haunted Grange of Goresthorpe" and "The Blood-Stone Tragedy") that are not in *Uncollected Stories* (edited by John Michael Gibson and Richard Lancelyn Green in 1982), and Wingett's added commentary discusses the many echoes of Southsea and Portsmouth found in the stories. The best price is available at the publisher's web-site at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.

There's an amusing story about Wingett's book: because of the deep rivalry between the Portsmouth (blue) and Southsea (red) football teams, some of the shopkeepers in Portsmouth said their customers refused to purchase the book in its red dust jacket, so he made up a small supply in blue jackets, and you're welcome to order either or both.

Feb 23 #6 The Perseverance rover entered its extended-mission phase on Mars on Jan. 7. Designed to last one Martian year (687 Earth days), the rover reached that milestone on Jan. 6, and is still exploring Jezero Crater. SHERLOC also is continuing to perform well; it has its own entry at Wikipedia (with a mention of WATSON) <www.tinyurl.com/5f6xnrwx> and <www.tinyurl.com/2p9xteja>

"Sherlock Holmes was the first fictional sleuth to use a magnifying glass" (according to a recent post to the Mental Floss web-site from Jake Rossen and Kat Long) <www.tinyurl.com/42v6vjfx>. That might even be true. Can anyone cite an earlier magnifying glass used by a fictional sleuth?

Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman ("unrepentant Doyleans and Sherlockians") continue their interesting on-line discussions of Conan Doyle's writings, at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest posts are an interview with Martin Edwards (about "Conan Doyle and Crime Fiction") and an examination of "The Final Problem".



Sherlock and Holmes were adopted by the South African Association for Marine Biological Research, according to the Independent On-Line <www.tinyurl.com/2fdf7vze>. Sherlock and Holmes are African penguins (yes indeed, there are African penguins <www.tinyurl.com/2ez83uhf>.

The Lord Chamberlain's Office is where the script for Conan Doyle's play "The Crown Diamond" was discovered (he eventually turned it into the short story "The Mazarin Stone"); British plays no longer are required to be licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and the British Library now has all of the new plays performed in Britain from 1824 to 1968 as submitted to the Lord Chamberlain. They're now available to researchers, and you can read more about it at <www.tinyurl.com/yc8dcfdk>.

Sherlock has been granted a patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. That's Sherlock Biosciences, and the company says that it's now the leader in CRISPR-based diagnostics. CRISPR and SHERLOCK are acronyms (May 20 #4), and the company's press release is at <www.tinyurl.com/n86zb2dk>. An article in GEN Edge (Feb. 22) may or may not be helpful in explaining all of this.

Frank Emerson's *Sherlock Holmes and the Unmasking of the Whitechapel Horror* (London: MX Publishing, 2023; 166 pp., \$12.95) has Holmes and Watson pursuing the Ripper, assisted by Chief Inspector Abberline, and after 15 years they track the Ripper down and bring him to justice and the gallows.

The Baker Street Journal's 2022 Christmas Annual offers a grand survey, by Julie McKuras and Sonia Fetherston, of "Women on the Periphery of the BSI, 1940-1960"; four of them are on display in full color on the cover: Edith Meiser, Lillian de la Torre, and Sylvia Porter (top to bottom at the left, and Coe Glade at the right). The Annual is part of the annual subscription to the BSJ (if you aren't a subscriber, you should search for someone who is, and borrow it). You're welcome to subscribe to the BSJ, and receive the 2023 Christmas Annual, at <www.tinyurl.com/5fvmdf86>.

Feb 23 #7 "After getting a taste for blood, Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet set off to find a new source for food. It's not long before their bloody rampage begins." That's the premise of the new film "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" that was quick to take advantage of the end of copyright protection for A. A. Milne's iconic characters. A detailed report on the film in Variety (Feb. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/2ayn2z4h> notes that at one point a horror Sherlock Holmes film was considered, but that seems to have been shelved: the company's next project is described as "Jurassic Park" meets "Bambi".

An excellent way to add good books to your library while saving money is patronize discounters who specialize in publishers' remainders: Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com> is one of them: a recent search for [sherlock holmes] turned up Andrew Lycett's *Conan Doyle's Wide World: Sherlock Holmes and Beyond* (\$9.98) and Mike Ashley's *Adventures in the Strand: Arthur Conan Doyle & The Strand Magazine* (\$5.98), among others.

William Crick has launched a new on-line "Sherlock Holmes Forum" available at <www.sherlockholmesforum.org>, and welcomes one and all.



I hear of Sherlock everywhere: Howard Ostrom found an image of the F-86E Sabre flown by Maj. James Robinson Risner with the 366th Squadron in Korea in Jan. 1953, with artwork that shows Bugs Bunny looking for a discharge. He retired as a Brigadier General after serving in three wars, and his entry at Wikipedia is well worth reading.



One of the (few) nice things about the pandemic is the opportunity to attend meetings of distant Sherlockian societies via the Internet and YouTube: some societies have posted their virtual meetings on YouTube channels. One of those societies is the Sydney Passengers (posting from Australia) <www.youtube.com/@sydneypassengers3476>. The Red Circle of Washington also has a YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/nhfveysp>; other societies are welcome to let me know about their meeting videos.

Alexander Orlov has noted that there is a Moriarty Hotel in Krasnodar (in southern Russia). And a Sherlock Holmes Hostel. So it's more expensive for admirers of the Professor.

The August Derleth Society was founded in the late 1970s and continues to celebrate the many-faceted literary career of the creator of Solar Pons. Membership costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of their newsletter *Sage of Sac Prairie*; the latest issue offers Derrick Belanger's article about the first annual Luther Norris PSI Dinner, held during the January birthday festivities in New York, to honor the founder of the Praed Street Irregulars. You can find Derrick at <www.belangerbooks.com>, and the August Derleth Society at <www.augustderleth.org>. Luther founded the PSI in 1966, edited and published the *Pontine Dossier*, and held delightful annual dinners in Los Angeles (attended by some people who are willing and able to tell stories about those festivities).

Feb 23 #8 Paul Thomas Miller's "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has a thoroughly amusing Sherlockian web-site <www.sites.google.com/site/doylsrotarycoffin>. Take a look at the article about his "Holmes Parody, Pastiche, and Drama Adaptation Tolerance Increaser Game"

"Baker Street Elementary" is a long-running on-line comic strip created by Joe Faye, Rusty Mason, and Steve Mason, now in its ninth year, and all of their amusing strips (and their six comic books) are available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <www.tinyurl.com/ms76ytj8>.

"Emmerdale Star Dominic Brunt Thought He Saw a Cottingley Fairy" was the headline on a Yahoo! News story (Jan. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/mr3t3n5e>. The actor lived at Cottingley Beck in Bradford, where Elsie Wright and Frances Griffiths took five photographs of what appeared to be real fairies. According to Brunt, when he lived at the Cottingley Fairies house, he looked out a window and thought he saw a fairy, and "my heart stopped. But when I looked closer it was a dragonfly!"

Larry Millett's *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*, published in 2002, was the fifth in his series of pastiches about Sherlock Holmes in Minnesota; he was interviewed on WYSO-FM that year <www.tinyurl.com/y5pttskp>.

And now for some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Mantorville Opera House in Mantorville, Minn., Mar. 17-Apr. 2 <www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com>; also at the Thousand Islands Playhouse in Gananoque, Ont., June 2-24 <1000islandsplayhouse.com>; the John Goodman Amphitheatre at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo., on July 7-14 <www.tenttheatre.missouristate.edu>; and at the Milam Community Theater in Cameron, Tex., July 22-30 <www.milamcommunitytheater.com> and the Cedar Street Playhouse in Rolla, Mo., July 27-Aug. 6 (that web-site's at <www.ozarkactorstheatre.org>).

David Stuart Davies' "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" will be performed at The White Bear Theatre in London, Mar. 21-25 <www.whitebeartheatre.co.uk> by Nigel Miles-Thomas; it's then due at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June. The two-act one-man play was written by Davies for Roger Llewellyn, who toured the play in many countries after it debuted in 1999; he died in 2019, and the play has now been revived by Miles-Thomas.

Jon Jory's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Way Off Broadway Theatre in Prattville, Ala., Apr.13-30 <www.facebook.com/prattvillewobt>.

"The Hound of the Bursquervilles" (billed as "a burlesque mystery") will be produced at the Clocktower Cabaret in Denver, Colo., May 4-25; web-site at <[www./ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613](http://www.ci.ovationtix.com/35628/production/1144613)>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" is due at the Foothills Playhouse in Easley, S.C., Oct. 27-Nov. 5 <www.easleychamber.net>.

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

There's still a lot of interest in movie posters: the Ricky Jay Collection offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Feb. 25 included a rare (and colorful) one-sheet poster <www.tinyurl.com/5bmt5dyb> for the 1923 two-reel and long-lost silent film "Is Conan Doyle Right?" (an expose of fraudulent mediums); it sold for \$9,600 (including the buyer's premium).

The British dealer Brought to Book is offering the bound first volume of The Strand Magazine in a dust jacket (£15,000); the first volume contains a non-Sherlockian story by Conan Doyle ("The Voice of Science"), but it's the dust jacket that's truly rare <www.tinyurl.com/2p8yeu34>; early volume of the magazine in dust jackets have been reported, but here's an opportunity to see what one looks like.

Russell Merritt ("The Trepoff Murder") died on Mar. 3. He was a film historian and scholar who taught for many years in the Film Studies and Media Department at the University of California in Berkeley, and was the last person alive who read his first Sherlock Holmes story ("A Study in Scarlet") in a copy of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. You can learn much more about his life and career by listening to his interview for the Baker Street Irregulars Oral History Program at <www.tinyurl.com/59x5tydd>. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1960.

If you'd like to see how much fun Russell had as a film historian, watch his talk about "How Movies Coped When the Wrong People Went to See Them" <www.nitrateville.com/viewtopic.php?f=1&p=273753>. You might also want to watch his interview on Steve Doyle's podcast The Fortnightly Dispatch, at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWZTc8Nyxss>.

Leonard Goldberg's *The Wayward Prince* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2023; 336 pp., \$28.00), the seventh title in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr., is set during the Great War, and they are tasked with finding a royal prince who has vanished in the midst of London and may have been kidnapped by the Germans. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

The Deadline web-site has reported (Mar. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/2cz5th2w> on plans for a sequel to the film "Pokémon: Detective Pikachu" (2019). Pokémon was created in 1996, and more than 440 million video games have been sold, and a 25-season animated series is licensed in 177 countries. The first film, with a budget of \$150 million, grossed \$433 million worldwide, so it's likely that the sequel will be produced.

Derrick Belanger has reported that the Praed Street Irregulars will hold a Zoom meeting on June 3; the PSI, founded many years ago by Luther Norris for admirers of August Derleth's writings about Solar Pons, is of course an homage to the Baker Street Irregulars, in the same way Pons was an homage to Holmes. If you'd like to attend the meeting, just send a message to Derrick at <[derrick@belangerbooks](mailto:derrick@belangerbooks.com)>.com; you can also ask to join his Solar Pons e-mail list.

Mar 23 #2 Will Thomas' *Heart of the Nile* (New York: Minotaur, 2022; 320 pp., \$27.99) is the latest in the fine series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and (now) partner Thomas Llewelyn; the mystery begins in the British Museum in 1893, with the murder of a volunteer researcher who has found a treasure in what may be Cleopatra's mummy. It's an excellent addition to the series, which offers interesting problems and strong characters, and while it's not really Sherlockian, it's all great fun.

"Two Pipe Problems" was a delightful British radio series broadcast by BBC Radio 4, that starred Richard Briers as William Parnes/Sherlock Holmes and Stanley Baxter as Sandy Boyle/Dr. Watson. "Feisty thespians William and Stanley, the self-styled Holmes and Watson of their retirement community, galvanize the other inmates of The Old Beeches, home for terminally resting members of the entertainment community, as they leave no commode unconquered in their quest to solve their own 'two pipe problems.'" Howard Ostrom has reported two episodes ("Marriage at The Old Beeches" and "Have You Come Far?") on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=agie8ZsCVsk> (they first aired on Apr. 27 and 28, 2009).

An interesting Sherlockian book was offered at auction at PBS Galleries this month: Basil Rathbone's copy of the Trilogy Dinner first edition of *Profile by Gaslight*, edited by Edgar W. Smith (1944); it was estimated at \$500-\$800, and it sold for \$600 (\$750 including the buyer's premium).

Sherlock Holmes: Das letzte Problem (2022) was an impressive graphic novel for younger readers, illustrated by Hans Binder, who also adapted the story into German for publication in Switzerland, and it is now available in English as *Sherlock Holmes: The Final Problem* (New York: NorthSouth Books, 2023; 56 pp., \$18.95) <www.northsouth.com>.

The Beacon Society (created in 2003 to support teaching Sherlock Holmes to young people) has published a new issue of its "not-so-quarterly newsletter" <www.tinyurl.com/nhepfkcf> (scroll down to "Society Newsletter") with reports on current activities.

Ian Jarvis' *Cat Flap* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 335 pp., \$18.95) features Bernard Quist, a modern-day consulting detective, and a variety of names (for characters and places) taken from the Canon; otherwise it's not Sherlockian, and it's more a thriller than a mystery, with many twists and turns and evil villains.

One of the many nice things that make the N.Y. Times a great newspaper is their "Overlooked" feature ("a series of obituaries about remarkable people whose deaths, beginning in 1851 went unreported in The Times"), and on Mar. 13 they had a delightful remembrance for Dilys Winn, who died in 2016 <www.tinyurl.com/2njr69xn> (in case you can get through their pay-wall). In 1972 she opened Murder Ink, the world's first bookshop devoted solely to mystery fiction, in New York went on to edit *Murder Ink: A Mystery Lover's Companion*, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978. She appeared on the television series "To Tell the Truth" in 1972, and you can see the program on YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jqj7spy>.

Mar 23 #3 Sherry Thomas' *A Tempest at Sea* (New York: Berkley, 2023; 249 pp., \$17.00), the seventh in her "Lady Sherlock" series about the exploits of Charlotte Holmes, no longer pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes but now in hiding after faking her death in order to escape from Prof. Moriarty; she's now carefully disguised as an elderly lady, at sea on her way to Gibraltar, hoping to recover a document stolen by German spies, and forced to solve two murders while avoiding Moriarty's minions. The author's web-site (offering a sample from the book) is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

Burney Mattinson died on Feb. 27. He worked as an animator, producer, director, and story artist for Walt Disney Animation Studios for 70 years, and was the longest-serving employee int the company's history. His many credits included "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986), on which he worked as writer, producer, and director.



The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of ten stamps showing some of the most popular flowers grown in gardens across the U.K. (they're also the first stamps to feature the silhouette of HM King Charles III); two of them are Canonical: the iris in one story ("Silver Blaze") and the rose in three ("The Engineer's Thumb", "The Naval Treaty", and "The Hound of the Baskervilles") (four, if you include the rose-water in "The Sign of the Four").



There's no longer a legal right to wild camp on Dartmoor, the last place in England and Wales where people had the right to "freely sleep beneath the stars," the National Geographic re-reported (Mar. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/yc588zyw>. Wild camping is "pitching your tent away from all infrastructure, carrying all of your equipment, and leaving no trace," essentially what Sherlock Holmes did in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (except that he didn't have a tent). The High Court has ruled in a legal challenge brought by a hedge-fund manager who is Dartmoor's sixth-largest land-owner that "open-air recreation" includes riding horses and hiking, but not camping. The Dartmoor National Park authority already has spent £100,000 fighting the court case, and is considering an appeal that might cost that much more again.

Ray Betzner's latest exploration in his "Studies in Starrett" blog is an examination of "Rathbone, Eliot, and Woodworth (But Not in That Order)", inspired by his pursuit of the Brothers of the Book; it's a grand example of the strange things one can turn up when research is involved. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/mr424spe>.

The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild provides a safe haven for those devoted to determining the dates of Sherlock Holmes' cases; Bruce Harris is one of the Guild's most active members, and in his new *The Duration Debate* (2023; 120 pp., \$9.95 at Amazon) he has turned his attention to how long it took Holmes to solve each of the sixty Canonical cases, reviewing and commenting on the conclusions of nine earlier chronologists, and occasionally revising his previous datings. If you'd like to know more about the Guild, their web-site's at <www.bkeefauver5.wixsite.com/sherlockchronoguild>.

Mar 23 #4 There's a wide variety of Sherlockian playing cards available now, including a deck issued by Laurence King in the U.K. last year, with artwork by Doug John Miller and a booklet written by Nicholas Utechin (£12.99); details at <www.tinyurl.com/mdt8xdy5>. It's also available in the U.S. (\$14.99) from PBS <www.shop.pbs.org/WE5242.html>, among other sources; kindly reported by John Garcia.

If you have not heard Stephen Fry reading the Sherlock Holmes stories at Audible, Jennie Paton has reported finding some recordings on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/@professorjamesmoriarty1887/videos>, along with some of the programs in the BBC Radio 4 series that starred Clive Merrison and Michael Williams.

The latest issue (#31) of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine offers the usual nice selection of Sherlockian articles and non-Sherlockian fiction, and Kim Newman's continuing "Screen of the Crime" reviews of some of the more unusual Sherlockian film and television available on YouTube, as well as striking cover art by Estevan; \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com>.

The Bilge Pump, the newsletter edited by Steve Mason for the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*, recently offered Denny Dobry's delightful contribution "You Might Be a Sherlockian If ..." in the March issue, which you can read on-line at <www.dfw-sherlock.org/the-bilge-pump-newsletter.html>.

Thomas Wixon, having lost his library to Hurricane Katrina, has decided to focus on something more portable: bookplates. He is trying to assemble a complete set of Vincent Starrett's bookplates, and you're welcome to contact him <twixon@gmail.com> to see what he has, in case you have a duplicate of a bookplate he doesn't.

The "Sherlock Holmes Weekend" in Cape May, N.J., will feature a new play "Send in the Clowns" at the La Mer Beachfront Resort on Apr. 14-16. The next weekend will include "The Other Consulting Detective" on Nov. 3-5 and 10-12 <www.tinyurl.com/yckscvuu>.

Steve Doyle's "The Fortnightly Dispatch" has returned for its fourth season, with a program about the public Sherlock Holmes collections in North America, interviewing Erika Dowell (the Lilly Library), Tim Johnson (the University of Minnesota), and Jessie Amaolo (the Toronto Public Library); it's all on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=EG_b4dpq3sE>.

The Baker Street Journal's 2023 Christmas Annual will be a tribute to John Bennett Shaw. The Annual is included in subscriptions to the BSJ, and not available otherwise; you can read all about (and subscribe to) the BSJ at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-baker-street-journal>.

There has been next to no publicity in English for "Mademoiselle Holmes" (and not much in French); it's a French television mini-series going into production for broadcast on TF1, with six 52-minute episodes. The stars of the series are Lola Dewaere as Charlie Holmes (descended from Sherlock Holmes) and Tom Villa as her Watson.

Mar 23 #5 The catalog for "A Study in Scarlet: The Curious Collection of Robert Hess" at auction Potter & Potter on Apr. 20, is now on-line at their web-site <www.potteructions.com> as a full-color PDF. The 281 lots are only the first part of his collection, which is spectacular. The items also are on-line at Invaluable <www.tinyurl.com/bdcvf84a>, and it is grand to be able explore his original illustration art, first editions, signed photos, letters, movie posters, items from the Jeremy Brett Estate, an original street sign from Baker Street, and much more. And of course to have a chance to bid on things.

Fans of the late MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] will enjoy the work of Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pohl at RiffTrax <www.rifftax.com>; the latest Sherlockian film they have parodied is "The Scarlet Claw" (1944).

The splendid exhibition of "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the collection of Glen Miranker, on display at the Elmer L. Anderson Library at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, closes on May 5, when it will return to Glen's shelves in San Francisco. You can watch and (listen to) Glen interviewed by Richard Sveum at <www.tinyurl.com/2htx83pa>.

"Holmes, Miss Marple, and Poe follows Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and August Poe, who have formed the most in-demand private investigating firm in present-day New York City. They make a formidable team with differing approaches to crime-solving," the Deadline web-site noted on Mar. 21, "and each claims to be distantly related to three of the greatest mystery writers of all time—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Agatha Christie, and Edgar Allan Poe. But who are they really?" <www.tinyurl.com/y4a9fb29>. Best-selling author James Patterson has signed a first-look deal with Skydance Television that includes a possible television series based on a soon-to-be published book (that's not yet forecast at Amazon).

Heritage Auctions is offering some original artwork by James Allen St. John on Apr. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29>, stating that it shows Holmes and Watson, and that it was published as an illustration in the Baker Street Irregulars edition of *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* (1948). That's not correct: it wasn't, and it's unlikely that it shows Holmes and Watson. But does anyone know whether, and when and where, it actually was published?



"Trichy cigars were once a Churchill favourite. Now, it's choked by taxes in a room of 3," according to the Indian web-site ThePrint, posted on Mar. 22 <www.tinyurl.com/5n8h2heu>, with mention of Sherlock Holmes. There is more about Trichinopoly cigars, and the Canon, at a different Indian web-site <www.beyondtravel.com/india/trichinopoly-cigar-india>.

A. J. Low's *Sherlock Sam and the Missing Heirloom in Katong*, published in Singapore in 2012, was the first in a long series about Singapore's greatest kid detective, assisted by a robot Watson (Mar 13 #2), with a blog at <www.sherlocksam.wordpress.com>. There's now "Sherlock Sam: The Musical!" (with script by Jo Tan and score by Elaine Chan), due at the Capitol Theatre in Singapore on May 11-20 <www.tinyurl.com/bdh2yjpw>.

Mar 23 #6 Does anyone have a copy of a single issue of The Strand Magazine with covers printed on white (rather than light blue) paper, and with BRITISH EDITION and the price and date in the box at lower left? Please advise.

Theatrical news: David MacGregor's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the Elusive Ear" will be performed at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Mar. 28-Apr. 8 <www.repertorynp.co.nz>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" will be performed at the Southwest Missouri State University Fine Arts Theatre in Marshal, Mo., Apr. 1-2 <www.tinyurl.com/ya28ww5x>.

"Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (by K. C. Brown and Arne Zaslove) will be performed at the Abilene Community Theatre in Abilene, Tex., Apr. 7-16; web-site at <www.onthestage.tickets/abilene-community-theatre>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" will be performed at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., May 5-28; web-site at <www.bakerstreetwest.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes Showcase" (Tal Aviezer's dramatizations of "The Dancing Men" and "The Dying Detective") will be performed at the Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack, N.Y., on July 16 <www.elmwoodplayhouse.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Dorset Playhouse in Dorset, Vt., Aug. 11-26 <www.dorsettheatrefestival.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Cape Cod Center for the Arts in Dennis, Mass., Aug. 30-Sept. 9 <www.capeplayhouse.com>; and at the Omaha Community Playhouse in Omaha, Neb., Mar. 8-38 <www.omahaplayhouse.com>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Historic Arcade Theatre in Fort Myers, Fla., Nov. 28-Dec. 17 <www.floridarep.org>.

This newsletter doesn't make the comics pages all that often, but here's Bassett's "Red and Rover" (Mar. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/2f7mwa43>:



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"The Pepsodent Show Starring Bob Hope" (broadcast by NBC) was one of the most listened-to series during World War II, and Howard Ostrom has found on-line www.youtube.com/watch?v=aiZ_LMtEFyY the program that was broadcast on Jan. 28, 1941, when Hope played straight man to guest star Basil Rathbone, who can be heard in a (non-Sherlockian) skit at 7:50.

Jennie Paton has reported an interesting video in which Anthony Horowitz explains that he was inspired to be a mystery writer by reading a collection of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and then goes on to discuss "The Art of the Murder Mystery Twist" www.tinyurl.com/sry3a3sk.

Steve Doyle's new season of "The Fortnightly Dispatch" continues with his interview with Terence Faherty, discussing the Sherlockian films of Basil Rathbone; it's on-line at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dm0GB99iudE.

Save the date: the next major event in Minneapolis will be a conference on July 26-28, 2024, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. If you would like to enroll on their mailing list, contact Dick Sveum sveumr@gmail.com.

Geri Schear's *Sherlock Holmes and the Other Woman* (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 325 pp., \$16.95) is her second pastiche told by Sherlock Holmes, who with his wife Beatrice (a god-daughter of Her Majesty) becomes involved in a desperate (and complicated) battle against a malevolent enemy in 1898. *Return to Reichenbach* (2016; 330 pp., \$16.95), the next in the series, has Holmes and Watson and Beatrice pitted against a mysterious villain who may have supernatural powers, in a dire and bitter contest that brings Holmes back to the scene of his battle with Moriarty. The author has a web-site at www.rycardus.wordpress.com.

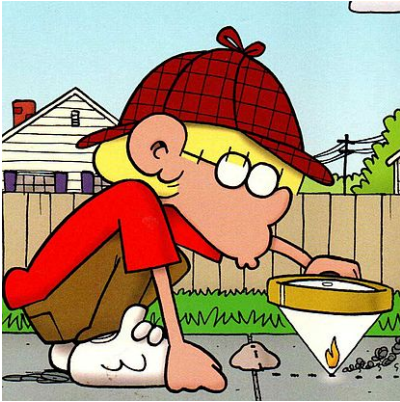
When in Chicago: you can visit the Claudia restaurant, named by chef Trevor Teich in honor of his mother, and work your way through the bar menu, which offers seven fancy (and expensive) cocktails that he has named for Sherlock Holmes stories www.claudiarestaurant.com/menu-1. Claudia's one of seven restaurants named for women that were reviewed by Nicole Schnitzler in the Chicago Tribune (Mar. 28) www.inyurl.com/mreurd.

"Have you ever heard a conch shell trumpet, Queen Victoria's voice, or the call of the bare-faced go-away-bird?" That's the question posed at British Library's web-site www.tinyurl.com/yckwry9w, to introduce people to their new "Sounds" web-site, where you can listen to "Conan Doyle Speaking" (the recording made in London by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for His Master's Voice on May 14, 1930) www.tinyurl.com/2p9bzhf2.

Randall Stock came in first with an identification of the artwork by James Allen St. John at Heritage Auctions on Apr. 25 www.tinyurl.com/mtemcm29 (Mar 23 #5): it's from the anthology *Favorite Mystery Stories*, edited by Marjorie Barrows (Chicago: Spencer Press, 1953), which included "The Blue Carbuncle" and "The Red-Headed League", both illustrated by St. John. It is cited by Ron De Waal in *The Universal Sherlock Holmes*.

Apr 23 #2 The Oxford University Press has announced its new nine-volume Oxford World's Classics edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories with a video webinar with four of the editors <www.tinyurl.com/ykqvfhah>. The first four volumes (*A Study in Scarlet*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*) are due for release in May. This will be a new edition, rather than a reprint of *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes* (1993.)

"Sherlock Holmes: The Awakened" is the latest video game from Frogwares, with a trailer at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=J181zTVgnn4>. Gamers will find plenty of reviews on the Internet, by people who play such games. It has been described as a blend of Conan Doyle and Lovecraft, and there's more information at the Frogwares web-site <www.frogwares.com>.



Bill Amend's *Encyclopedias Brown and White* (from Andrews McMeel, 2001) offers a collection of his "Foxtrot" comic strips, with Jason Fox in colorful Sherlockian costume on the cover, and as an investigator in amusing sequence. It's out of print, of course, but copies are available on-line. Other Sherlockian strips will be found Amend's *May the Force Be with Us, Please* (1994) and his *Take Us to Your Mall* (1995).

Reported: Jonathan Payne's *Citizen Orlov* (CamCat, 2023) is set in an unnamed Central European kingdom at the end of WWI (according to the review in *Publishers Weekly*, Apr. 24), and "the blend of action and picaresque buffoonery flatteringly calls Conan Doyle's Brigadier Gerard tales to mind." It is nice indeed to see that one of Conan Doyle's other delightful characters is not forgotten.

A more recent Sherlockian comic strip was Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" on Apr. 9 <www.gocomics.com/bignate/2023/04/09>.

And Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" (now in reruns) was Sherlockian on Apr. 13 <www.peanuts.com>; it's a reprint from Apr. 15, 1976.

Mark your calendar for Sept. 23, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter (and play in) his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It is well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. You can see colorful images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html> from his similar event in 2021.

John Kelly wrote in his Washington Post column on Oct. 28, 2004, that "As we narrow down all the don'ts, as Sherlock Holmes said, 'We're left with the answer.'" <www.tinyurl.com/mraafeuz>. So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that? Not in the Canon, but possibly in a pastiche or play or film; does anyone recognize the quote?

Apr 23 #3 The PeepingMoon web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2p84nk45> reported on plans for a Bollywood adaptation of the BBC "Sherlock" television series, "contextualized for Indian culture and milieu" and set in present-day Kolkata and Bihar, starring Kay Kay Menon as Holmes and Ranvi Shorey as Watson; the series has been greenlit by BBC Studios (the principal commercial subsidiary of the BBC) and was scheduled to go into production on Apr. 3. Jennie Paton found a television news report (in Bengali) about the series at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-DT536mrDU>.

The question (Feb 23 #2) was whether anyone has read stories by more than one of four authors (Katherine Mansfield, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Perceval Gibbon, and Stacy Aumonier). Yes, Otto Penzler notes, he has read stories by them all, because he was reading stories that might be included in one of his many anthologies. "They weren't bad," he reports.

Howard Ostrom recently revised his essay on "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" to include a status of Holmes made from twigs, discovered by Alison Corbett in a "Story Stroll" in Rozelle Park in Ayr, Scotland. You can read his illustrated essay at <www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-statues.html>.

"The Carlton Club will find me," Sir James Damery said (in "The Illustrious Client"); you can read about the nearby Reform Club in a nicely illustrated article at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24k5cywm>.

David Timson, a British actor credited with more than a thousand programs for BBC Radio Drama, has recorded the entire Canon for Naxos Audiobooks, was featured in a recent BlogCritics interview that includes video from one of his recording sessions <www.tinyurl.com/4rr94pyb>.

For the completist: there's yet another fancy gift edition of the Canon: *The Complete Sherlock Holmes Collection* (London: Welbeck Publishing Group, 2022, 1095 pp., \$34.95), with an introduction by Ryan Callander (for The Sherlock Holmes Museum) and illustrations by Patrick Knowles, available in the U.S. apparently only from Barnes & Noble <www.tinyurl.com/4a2pee7d>.

The introduction gives some interesting (to say the least) history of 221B Baker Street, noting that it "stands today exactly as Sherlock Holmes left it in 1904," and that "it is due to tremendous fortune and the fortitude of hard-working people that this building has been preserved as a monument to both a cultural giant and a way of life from days gone by." And 221B operated as a lodging house "even after the first incarnation of The Sherlock Holmes Museum opened in the late 1930s" and then "the landlady would show the study and the adjacent bedroom as the Museum, while tenants still lived upstairs."

Actually, it was on June 4, 1989, that Martin Bailey reported in the Observer that John Aidiniantz had asked the Westminster City Council to re-allocate the address to the house at 239 Baker Street, where he wanted to set up a "Sherlock Holmes Centre". He had earlier advertised in Country Life: "Investor/sleeping partner required with £2.5 million. World famous London landmark for sale. May suit titled person with cultural and historical interests."

Apr 23 #4 Jeremy Brett made his television debut as Sherlock Holmes in "A Scandal in Bohemia" on Apr. 24, 1984, not all that long after he appeared as Ernest Finley in the "Ace's Valet" segment of an episode of "The Love Boat" that aired on Feb. 25, 1984. Jennie Paton has found brief footage from the segment at www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3oBdA7pPjQ; you can watch the entire episode at www.youtube.com/watch?v=DQf4FolcQf0.

There were many interesting items offered in the auction of Bob Hess' collection ("A Study in Sherlock") at Potter & Potter Auctions in Chicago on Apr. 20, including a note written by Conan Doyle on his calling card; estimated at \$600-\$800, it sold for \$1,100 (plus a 20% buyer's premium and sales tax). There was spirited bidding by dealers and collectors, and you can explore the catalog at www.potterauctions.com; the prices realized should be posted soon.

This year's annual meeting of the American Library Association (in Chicago) will include a gathering of the Sub-Librarians Scion on the afternoon of Sunday, June 25 www.tinyurl.com/2w3jpuuc. Information about the venue will be available from Beth Gallego bethgallego@gmail.com.

The spring issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) offers a previously unpublished article about cocaine ("A pathological and morbid process") written by the late Donald A. Redmond and recently discovered in his files, Brian Clark's in-depth discussion of fishing in the Canon, and much more. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US/CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid www.torontobootmakers.com.

Anne Perry died on Apr. 10. She was an accomplished author of mysteries, (with book sales of 26 million copies worldwide), winner of an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 2000, and guest of honor at Bouchercon in 2013 and 2020. She contributed short stories to many Sherlockian anthologies, and an Afterword to a 2001 Signet edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

The next Black Mountain Bluegrass Picking Weekend at Baskerville Hall will be held on June 23-25 www.tinyurl.com/4tar8pex. Baskerville Hall is in Powys, Wales, but their claim is that Conan Doyle was a frequent visitor, a friend of the family, and at their request moved the story to Devon to prevent the Hall being overrun with tourists.

The latest "Buzz from Laurie R. King" www.tinyurl.com/yksmhspt reports that the first draft of *The Lantern's Dance* (the next Mary Russell novel) is now in the hands of her editor, and offers a brief sample as a teaser.

Heather MacKenzie's interesting article on "Breaking the 'Beautiful' Mold" in the April issue of *The Whaling News* (the monthly on-line journal of the Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn) www.whalingnews.wordpress.com cites Hadar Aviram's article on "Dainty Hands: Perceptions of Women and Crime in Sherlock Holmes Stories" in the *Hastings Journal on Gender and the Law* (summer 2011), also conveniently available on-line at the web-site of the journal <https://repository.uchastings.edu/hwlj/vol22/iss2/1>. MacKenzie focuses on Mary Morstan, but Aviram casts her net more widely.

Apr 23 #5 Christopher Sandford's *The Man Who Would Be Sherlock Holmes: The Real-Life Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle* (London: History Press, 2017) (New York: Thomas Dunne/St. Martin's, 2018) is not (as the author explains) a biography of Conan Doyle, or Holmes, but rather an attempt to show how similar, and sometimes different, they were, and it's a nicely readable examination of Conan Doyle's work and career.

Sherlock Holmes visited Windsor Castle to receive an emerald tie-pin from "a certain gracious lady" (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans"), and here's a nicely-illustrated article about Windsor Castle as it is now at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yc7uen59>.

Ira J. Fistell died on Sept. 26, 2022. In 1969 he was one of the founders of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Madison, Wis. (now known as the Notorious Canary Trainers). He contributed to their newsletter (the Notorious Canary-Trainers Manual), wrote *The Hidden Holmes: A Sherlock Holmes Companion* (Nov 20 #6), and had a long career in radio (after he moved to Los Angeles he participated in a reading of the entire Canon on KTPK-FM on Dec. 25-30, 1980).

Ken Ludwig tells some stories about his new play "Moriarty" (due for its world premiere in Cleveland on May 5) in a video interview at YouTube at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgPDPUxiLqU&t=21s>. There's more about some of his other plays at <www.tinyurl.com/4sch5xjh>.

Baker Street West (based in Jackson, Calif.) has its own YouTube channel, and has launched an "And So It Begins" video series intended to encourage people to read the Canon (beginning with "The Red Circle").

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and has moved it to the web-site of the Beacon Society at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>.

The U.S. Postal Service, which increased the cost of mailing letters last January, now proposes to increase the cost again, in July. A first-class letter will cost 66¢ for the first ounce within the U.S. and \$1.50 for the first ounce outside the U.S. Subscriptions to this newsletter will cost more, and likely will cost even more next year.

Almost all former subscribers have enjoyed being able to access PDFs, with artwork in full color, and live links, without charge, but there still are a few who have been willing to pay for subscriptions, possibly because it is hard to remember to go to a web-site at the beginning of each month and read the new issue, or even print it out (which, after all, is less expensive than paying for printed issues received in the mail). So there will now be a Google Group for the newsletter, which will provide everyone with a link to the PDF each month; if you would like to be in the Google Group, just let me know by e-mail <blau7103@comcast.net>.

Apr 23 #6 Reported: *The Haycraft-Queen & Queen's Quorum Catalogue*, just published by Otto Penzler's Mysterious Bookshop, offering More than 200 books, mostly first editions, from the definitive crime-fiction lists compiled by Howard Haycraft and Ellery Queen, with 14 pages of color photographs; \$10.00 (refundable with purchase from the catalogue). And of course the Canon is included, with first editions of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, *The Valley of Fear*, and (in dust jackets) *His Last Bow* and *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes*.

Jennie Paton has found an impressive video promoting three-bedroom flats on Sherlock Mews at 98 Baker Street in London <www.vimeo.com/816819497>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot: Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Act Two Theatre in St. Peters, Mo., through May 7 <www.acttwotheatre.com>; it's also scheduled at the Lyric Stage Company in Boston, Mass., Nov. 10-Dec. 17 <www.lyricstage.com>.

The Alley Theatre has added a week to its run of Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" in Houston, Texas, and the show will now close on May 14 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" is now touring in Britain (and on Cunard's *RMS Queen Mary 2* in July) <www.smokescreenprods.com>.

Bob Sturgess' "The Curious Case of the Cow in the Spotlight" will be performed at the Milestone Center in Reading, Berks., May 18-20; web-site at <www.cavparktheatre.org.uk>. "Pantomime can be murder, as the Crouch End Ladies Thespian Society find out when their panto cow is shot dead shortly before the show is due to start."

David Stuart Davies' "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" will be performed by Nigel Miles-Thomas at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in Hollywood, Calif., June 15-24 <www.hollywoodfringe.org/projects/9759>.

Alex Dawson's radio drama "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the White Rock Elementary School in Oak Ridge, N.J., on June 16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3by3dr8a>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Community Centre in Churchdown, Gloucs., June 21-23 <www.churchdownplayers.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the Watson) Intelligence" will be performed at the Inspired Acting Company in Walled Lake, Mich., on Apr. 5-21, 2024 <www.inspiredacting.org>; also at the Road Less Traveled Theater in Buffalo, N.Y., Apr. 18-May 19 <www.roadlesstraveled.com>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Holmes and Watson" is scheduled at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, Calif., May 29-June 16 <www.lagunaplayhouse.com>.

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