

You can see "What Edinburgh's Picardy Place Will Look Like When '20 Years of Roadworks' End Next Year" in a story posted at the Edinburgh Live web-site on Oct. 28 <[www.tinyurl.com/yc55cn89](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc55cn89)>. At long last locals and tourists will be able to see the statue of Sherlock Holmes that was unveiled there in 1991, honoring Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who was born at 11 Picardy Place in 1859. The story says that it's a statue of Conan Doyle, but that mistake likely will be corrected by the time you get to the web-site.

Edward Gorey was a talented author and artist, famous for his macabre non-Sherlockian and Sherlockian work; you've seen some of his artwork at the beginning of "Masterpiece" mysteries on PBS-TV, and you can read about him (and see a fine slide show of his house, which you can still visit in Yarmouth Port, Mass.) at <[www.tinyurl.com/2p9cd8x3](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p9cd8x3)>.

Some readers of this newsletter are old enough to remember the "Mystery!" era of PBS-TV, not only the wonderful opening animation based on the art of Edward Gorey, but also Vincent Price presiding over each program. You can time-travel back, or see for the first time, his 1985 introduction to Granada's "A Scandal in Bohemia" at <[www.tinyurl.com/2yfryu76](http://www.tinyurl.com/2yfryu76)>, thanks to Bill Young's post on Oct. 31 to the "Tellyspotting" blog at the web-site of KERA-TV (Dallas/Fort Worth).

"Sherlock Proved Too Good for His Rivals at Ashburton and Scored a Fighting Win" <[www.facebook.com/watch/?v=439691821630285](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=439691821630285)>, as reported by Jennie Paton.

You can have your cake and not want to eat it: Jennie Paton has reported the CakeDecor web-site <[www.cakdecor.com](http://www.cakdecor.com)>; search for [sherlock holmes] to find two pages of attractive edibles. And there are many more attractive ideas at <[www.hotcore.info/babki/sherlock-birthday-cake.htm](http://www.hotcore.info/babki/sherlock-birthday-cake.htm)>.

The Washington Post had a nice report (Oct. 31) <[www.tinyurl.com/29d9j7rm](http://www.tinyurl.com/29d9j7rm)> about the first time Anne Rice's Vampire Lestat Fan Club held its annual ball without its namesake, who died last year (Dec 21 #5). It was grand New Orleans celebration that included a costume party, all in honor of the author who dedicated her novel *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned* (1989) "to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his great mummy stories 'Lot No. 249' and 'The Ring of Thoth'".

"Sherlock Holmes: Silenced Night" is being presented by the WhoDunnit Murder Mystery Theater at the Bristol Bar & Grille in Louisville, Ky., with 4 performances in December and one in January <[www.tinyurl.com/m9ex37dp](http://www.tinyurl.com/m9ex37dp)>.

"Slylock Fox & Comics for Kids" is a comic strip launched by Bob Weber Jr. on Mar. 29, 1987, and it's still going strong <[www.slylockfox.com](http://www.slylockfox.com)>. Seen in nearly 400 newspapers with a combined readership of more than 30 million, the strip has its own Facebook page <[www.facebook.com/SlylockFox](https://www.facebook.com/SlylockFox)>, and Slylock is a fine example of how Sherlockian costume is used to identify a detective.

Nov 22 #2 Rupert Holmes (whose real name is David Goldstein, "a man who loves to drink Rupert Knickerbocker beer and is an avid fan of ace sleuth "Sherlock Holmes, according to the Dallas Times Herald on June 3, 1986), wrote the music and script for the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood", and the play "Solitary Confinement" and the occasionally Sherlockian television series "Remember WENN", and now lives in Cold Spring, N.Y., in a home that's "a Valentine to Victoriana and to Baker Street's most famous resident," according to a nicely-illustrated story in the N.Y. Times (Oct. 25) <[www.tinyurl.com/2a7k66te](http://www.tinyurl.com/2a7k66te)>.

Cliff Goldfarb has reported that two of the talks at the Jubilee@221B conference in Toronto are available on-line: Nicholas Meyer's keynote presentation ("The Philosophy of Composition") at <[www.tinyurl.com/9bkf3a22](http://www.tinyurl.com/9bkf3a22)> and Douglas Kerr's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture ("Editing Conan Doyle") at <[www.tinyurl.com/59fch9d6](http://www.tinyurl.com/59fch9d6)>. The YouTube channel of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection <[www.tinyurl.com/47s28rar](http://www.tinyurl.com/47s28rar)> has video from previous years, and you'll find information about the Friends and their publications at <[www.acdfriends.org](http://www.acdfriends.org)>.

Bonnie MacBird was interviewed at the on-line London Writers' Salon this month, talking about her latest Sherlockian pastiche *What Child Is This?* and much more, and you can listen to it all at <[www.tinyurl.com/4sv8ccw2](http://www.tinyurl.com/4sv8ccw2)>. She also was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder for the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog this month <[www.tinyurl.com/2p95nraj](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p95nraj)>.

It has taken a while, but the U.S. Mint has started shipping the new Anna May Wong quarter (Jan 22 #7) <[www.tinyurl.com/2p94m498](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p94m498)>. She played Mrs. Pyke in Reginald Owen's "A Study in Scarlet" (1933), and she also appeared in the title of "Herlock Sholmes in Be-a-Live Crook, or Anna Went Wrong" (1930), the British marionette burlesque of Clive Brook's film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929).

Evy Harzog has reported on Macado's, a restaurant chain that has many locations from Virginia south to North Carolina <[www.macados.net](http://www.macados.net)>, as well as a menu with a wide variety of sandwiches named in honor of famous people, including Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

George Booth died on Nov. 1. He was a stellar cartoonist who began drawing single-panel cartoons and occasional covers for The New Yorker in the late 1960s, became its oldest active contributor, and never retired. You can see his one Sherlockian cartoon (Jan. 9, 1971, p. 34) in the on-line archive of The New Yorker (you need to be a subscriber or know someone who is), and reprinted in his *Think Good Thoughts About a Pussycat* (1975).

"Enola Holmes 2" had limited release in theaters, and now is streaming on Netflix. Presumably you've all seen it, or are planning to, or are planning not to see it, but there's a sting at the end, after the start of the closing credits, that suggests we might see a third film in the franchise. The Box Office Mojo web-site has no information about the film (possibly because it had only a limited theater release), but it scored well at the Rotten Tomatoes web-site, with a rating of 94% (reviews) and 78% (audience score); the first film was rated 91% and 70%.

Nov 22 #3 A story about spiritualism posted at the Mental Floss web-site (on Oct. 27) <[www.mentalfloss.com/posts/vintage-seance-video](http://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/vintage-seance-video)> featured video of a British Movietone newsreel that was filmed at a séance held by Mrs. Meurig Morris, with Lady Jean Conan Doyle and her son Denis Conan Doyle as witnesses to the performance. There's much more about Mrs. Morris (and Lady Doyle) in a post to the Kilburn and West Hampstead blog on June 22, 2020 <[www.tinyurl.com/25zmy2ec](http://www.tinyurl.com/25zmy2ec)>.

"How Well Do You Know Sherlock's London?" J. D. Biersdorfer asked in the N.Y. Times' on-line weekly Book Review Quiz Bowl on Nov. 4; the Quiz Bowl is a weekly interactive feature with five multiple-choice questions, and a chance to explore more information about the locations and the literature <[www.tinyurl.com/ywukk9rc](http://www.tinyurl.com/ywukk9rc)>.

Bignell Wood, the country home that Conan Doyle bought as a birthday present for his wife Jean in 1924, is for sale <[www.tinyurl.com/2f73mewf](http://www.tinyurl.com/2f73mewf)>; the asking price is £2.950,000. Read all about it at the realtor's web-site, which includes a downloadable and colorful brochure.

"All Mortal Greatness Is But Disease" is the title of the exhibition now open at the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine <[www.tinyurl.com/2p876k97](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p876k97)> through Feb. 19; the museum's web-site has a content warning: "This exhibition features images and content of animal cruelty, blood and gore, including hunting, killing, and cutting whales." An article about the exhibition at the Yahoo Sport web-site (Nov. 6) <[www.tinyurl.com/3rbkjjuh](http://www.tinyurl.com/3rbkjjuh)> opened with a discussion of Conan Doyle's voyage on the Peterhead whaler *Hope* in 1880.

A bit more about "Enola Holmes 2": it isn't based on any of Nancy Springer's books, but there's some actual history involved. Sarah Chapman was a real person, and you can read about her, and what she accomplished, in her entry at Wikipedia, and see how her story inspired Jack Thorne's screenplay for the film.

The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers an article by Lauryn E. Collins (on "Popular Publishing and Gothic Sensation", Clifford Goldfarb's account of the early history of this newsletter, news from the Library and the Collection, and much more. Copies of the newsletter are available from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>.

*My Dear Watson*, by L. A. Fields (Maple Shade: Lethe Press, 2013; 276 pp., \$18.00), is an account of the relationship between Holmes and Watson, case by case, told by Watson's second wife in 1919; the relationship was homosexual, and the story's nicely told, romantically rather than erotically. Mrs. Watson returns, along with Holmes and Watson, in Fields' *Mrs. Watson: Untold Stories* (2021; 184 pp., \$15.00), in diary entries written from 1921 to 1939, with considerable discussion of the many literary, political, and royal historical figures who were homosexuals. The publisher's web-site is at <[www.lethepressbooks.com](http://www.lethepressbooks.com)>.

Nov 22 #4 A "wooden-framed slate filled with an apparent spirit communication channeled by Laura Pruden" <[www.tinyurl.com/2sw8cvjk](http://www.tinyurl.com/2sw8cvjk)> was sold last month from the late Ken Klosterman's magic collection, and it brought \$1,800 (including the buyer's premium). Conan Doyle considered her "one of the greatest mediums of the world," and you can watch a video tour of Klosterman's collection at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=SupYJlanYnE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SupYJlanYnE)>.

Naomi Fry posted a warm tribute to "The Muppet Show" at The New Yorker's web-site on Apr. 17, 2021 <[www.tinyurl.com/yy8a544e](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy8a544e)>. The series ran on PBS-TV (1976-1981), and is now available on Disney+, and its target audience included adults as well as children; Baskerville the Hound appeared in the series, along with other Sherlockian characters. There's an interesting Muppet web-site at <[www.muppetcentral.com](http://www.muppetcentral.com)>.

Joanne Alberstat writes about "The Poisonous Atmosphere of the Sherlockian Canon" and Mark Jones and Robert S. Katz discuss "Canonical Cholecystitis" in the fall issue of *Canadian Holmes*, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers reports on Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. A subscription costs \$40.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.00 postpaid <[www.torontobootmakers.com](http://www.torontobootmakers.com)>.

Something new for numismatists (and other collectors): a Sherlock Holmes "Typefaces" loz silver 5\$ coin will be issued by (well, for) the Cook Islands early next year; the coin will be minted by Gold and Silver Bullion Canada, and is offered by them for CA\$165.95 <[www.tinyurl.com/3v9ns59d](http://www.tinyurl.com/3v9ns59d)>; their web-site has colorful images and video, and you're welcome to pre-order now. The mintage will be 1,887 pieces (someone obviously knew the importance of that number). The Cook Islands actually use the New Zealand dollar, but various companies seem to have been minting collectable coins for them for years.

It's not Sherlockian, but if you've never read Charlotte Perkins Gilman's short story "The Yellow Wallpaper" (1892), it's available at Project Gutenberg <[www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1952](http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1952)>. After you've read the story, you can read a Public Domain Review article about a truly unusual and extremely rare (for good reason) book: R. C. Kedzie's *Shadows from the Walls of Death* (1874) <[www.publicdomainreview.org/collection/kedzie-shadows](http://www.publicdomainreview.org/collection/kedzie-shadows)>.

"It was twenty-five to eight as we passed Big Ben, and eight struck as we tore down the Brixton Road, Watson wrote (in "Lady Francis Carfax"). The Great Bell, weighing more than 15 tons, has been silent since 2017, except for special occasions, while the Westminster tower and clock were undergoing repair, returned to service on Remembrance Sunday (Nov. 13). You can hear Big Ben perform at <[www.tinyurl.com/45yfamkh](http://www.tinyurl.com/45yfamkh)>.

The September issue of the quarterly newsletter published by The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota, which is now edited by Phillip Bergem, has Jim Hawkins' "Reminiscences of John Bennett Shaw", Gary Thaden's tribute to Nate the Great, and more 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](mailto:johns976@umn.com)>.

Nov 22 #5 Britain's current financial problems threaten "painful cuts" at Dartmoor National Park, and may require closure of the Visitors Centre in Princetown, according to a report posted on BBC News (Nov. 9) <[www.tinyurl.com/22k9sxjc](http://www.tinyurl.com/22k9sxjc)>. The Dartmoor National Park Authority will need to find savings of £898,000 in the next three years, and there may be more cuts to its budget; the Authority is considering a proposal to close the Visitors Centre, which now has 80,000 visitors a year. A final decision on the proposal will be made early next year. The Visitors Centre, which was the Duchy Hotel in years past <[www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttyd](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttyd)>, says that the hotel was "once home to Conan Doyle as he wrote the Hound of the Baskervilles."

The two-page manuscript for Conan Doyle's "The Argument from Necromancy" offered at Potter & Potter Auctions on Oct. 20 with an estimate of \$6,000-\$8,000 <[www.tinyurl.com/bde8tsve](http://www.tinyurl.com/bde8tsve)> did not sell. But a nice dust-jacketed copy of the first American edition of *The Vital Message* was sold, for \$150 (including the buyer's premium) <[www.tinyurl.com/yc792c3f](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc792c3f)>.

The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the autumn issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight* is available at their web-site <[www.beaconsociety.com](http://www.beaconsociety.com)>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.

If you've not yet ordered a Sherlockian calendar for 2023, here's a link to one offered by the Strand Magazine <[www.tinyurl.com/4x3rc5ud](http://www.tinyurl.com/4x3rc5ud)>.

Heritage Auctions will have a "The Art of All Things Disney Animation Art Signature Auction on Dec. 9-12 <[www.tinyurl.com/2uyjt5xn](http://www.tinyurl.com/2uyjt5xn)>, offering a wide variety of production cels and animations drawings showing Basil of Baker Street and other characters from "The Great Mouse Detective" (1986).

This is an era of gender-blind casting, and we have seen Holmes and Watson played by women on stage and television. But not, apparently, on film or radio.

The Beacon Society has announced its 2023 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Mar. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <[www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html](http://www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html)>.

Helena Bonham Carter has been confirmed as the next president of the 181-year-old London Library <[www.tinyurl.com/2c2e4naw](http://www.tinyurl.com/2c2e4naw)>. We know that Dr. Watson visited the London Library (in "The Illustrious Client"), and it will be interesting to see whether Eudoria Holmes, played by Bonham Carter in the first two "Enola Holmes" films, visits the London Library in the next film.

Robin Parkinson died on May 7. He made his stage debut in England in 1957 and appeared in his first film in 1959; his many credits included appearing as a shipping clerk in Douglas Wilmer's "The Man with a Twisted Lip" (1965), and as Albert Neale in "Murder on a Midsummer's Eve" in Geoffrey Whitehead's "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1979).

Nov 22 #6 Type Punch Matrix, the rare book firm founded by Rebecca Romney and Brian Cassidy <[www.typepunchmatrix.com](http://www.typepunchmatrix.com)> continues to publish interesting catalogues and offer interesting books; search their web-site for [conan doyle], [sherlock holmes], [sherlockiana], and [vincent starrett] to see some of the nice items on their shelves, and take a look at Print Catalogue Four and its descriptions of two spectacular items no longer available: "Lestrade Before Lestrade" and "A Legendary Sherlockian Rarity with Excellent Provenance".

Bill Seil has reported that a host of comic-strip artists celebrated what would have the 100th birthday of Charles M. Schulz on Nov. 26, and you can see what they did at <[www.schulzmuseum.org/tribute](http://www.schulzmuseum.org/tribute)> (there's a mention of Sherlock Holmes in Stephan Pastis' "Pearls Before Swine").

*The Case of the Disappearing Beaune*, by J. Lawrence Matthews (Naples: East Dean Press, 2022; 92 pp., \$6.99) is "a Sherlock Holmes Christmas Mystery" reprinted from a recent anthology edited by David Marcum, and an imaginative pastiche nicely timed for the season.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is being performed at the Amdram Theatre in Whanganui, New Zealand, through Dec. 4; their web-site's at <[www.amdramwhanganui.co.nz](http://www.amdramwhanganui.co.nz)>. It's also at the English Theatre in Vienna, Austria, through Dec. 27 <[www.englishtheatre.at](http://www.englishtheatre.at)>. And it's scheduled at the Holly Springs Cultural Center in Holly Springs, N.C., on Feb. 9-11 <[www.hollyspringsnc.us/323/Cultural-Center](http://www.hollyspringsnc.us/323/Cultural-Center)>; and at the Fuquay-Varina Arts Center in Fuquay-Varina, N.C., Feb. 16-18 <[www.tinyurl.com/4kj4ypbj](http://www.tinyurl.com/4kj4ypbj)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (by Michael Menendian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Maureen Stapleton Theatre at the Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, N.Y., Dec. 2-4; the web-site is at <[www.tinyurl.com/22w89tkx](http://www.tinyurl.com/22w89tkx)>. Also at the Black Mountain Center for the Arts in Black Mountain, N.C., Dec. 9-18 <[www.blackmountainarts.org](http://www.blackmountainarts.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is due at the Tower Fine Arts Center in Brockport, N.Y., Dec. 2-10; their web-site's at <[www.brockportarts.universitytickets.com](http://www.brockportarts.universitytickets.com)>. Also at the Farmington Players Barn in Farmington Hills, Mich., Dec. 2-17 <[www.farmingtonplayers.org](http://www.farmingtonplayers.org)>.

The Baker Street Players have scheduled "Sherlock Holmes and the Night Before Christmas" (two radio plays) at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., Dec. 2-11 <[www.bakerstreetwest.com](http://www.bakerstreetwest.com)>.

Brenda Rossini's dramatization of "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb" will be performed by the CriBar Thespians at the Centuries & Sleuths Bookstore in Forest Park, Ill., on Mar. 18 <[agrartig@aol.com](mailto:agrartig@aol.com)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be performed at the Paris Community Theatre in Paris, Texas, Mar. 24-Apr. 2 <[www.pctonstage.com](http://www.pctonstage.com)>.

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