

Jan 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 162nd birthday during the long weekend from Jan. 13 to Jan. 17. The festivities began with the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner sponsored by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes at the Press Box and continued with the Christopher Morley Walk led by Jim Cox and Dore Nash on Thursday morning, followed by the usual lunch at McSorley's.

The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker at the Midtown Executive Club on Thursday evening was Jeffrey Hatcher, author of the plays "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders", and the screenplay for the film "Mr. Holmes"; his talk was titled "Casting Holmes" (and it will be published in the next issue of The Baker Street Journal).

The Baker Street Babes's festivities (this year called the "Daintiest Thing in a Dressing Gown Pyjama Party") at The Players featured drinking and dining, as well as costumes, revelry, and an auction benefiting the Disabled American Veterans Trust.

The William Gillette Luncheon at the Fillmore Room was well attended, and the Friends of Bogie's at Baker Street (Paul Singleton, Andrew Joffe, and Sarah Montague) entertained the audience with a look at what happened when Dr. and Mrs. Watson sought marriage counseling. The event also was the occasion for Al Gregory's presentation of the annual Jan Whimsey Award (named in memory of his wife Jan Stauber), which honors the most whimsical piece in The Serpentine Muse last year: the winner (Steve Mason) received a certificate and a check for the Canonical sum of \$221.17. And Otto Penzler's traditional open house at the Mysterious Bookshop provided the usual opportunities to browse and buy.

The Irregulars and their guests gathered for the BSI annual dinner at the Yale Club, where Glen Miranker proposed the preprandial first toast to Nancy Browning as *The Woman*. And the agenda of the dinner featured the traditional BSI toasts and rituals, a tribute to Edith Meiser by Bert Coules, a "Duet: With an Occasional Chorus" account of the role of women in the BSI from 1934 to the present by Peter Blau and Evy Herzog (which concluded with the singing for the first time at an annual dinner of the BSI of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' "Reindeer Song"), a discussion of the rational roots of Holmes' feelings about women by Susan Rice, musical performances by Susan Dahlinger and Betsy Rosenblatt, and a reading of the Constitution and Buy-Laws by the BSI's most senior member, Tony Montag.

Mike Whelan (the BSI's "Wiggins") honored Tony Montag more than fifty years as an Irregular, and presented a Two-Shilling Award to Tom Francis. There were Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) awarded to Dana Cameron ("The Giant Rat of Sumatra"), Bert Coules ("The Whole Art of Detection"), John Durein ("Wilson, the Notorious Canary Trainer"), Jenn Eaker ("Mary Sutherland"), Jayantika Ganguly ("The Great Agra Treasure"), Timothy Greer ("The Ragged Shaw"), and Will Walsh ("Godfrey Norton"). Mike Whelan also appointed two more officers of the BSI: Michael Kean (as "Cartwright") and Bob Katz (as "Billy the Page").

Jan 16 #2 An enthusiastic crowd attended this year's Gaslight Gala at the Manhattan Club (with members of 40 Sherlockian societies from three continents and six nations); the agenda included musical tributes to a series of Canonical villains (Karen Wilson honored Irene Adler with "The Lady Is a Scamp").

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

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West (the dealers room at the Roosevelt Hotel) welcomed sellers and buyers, as well as authors and editors happy to inscribe or sign their books. The Beacon Society held its annual meeting, and the Junior Bloodstain of The Clients of Adrian Mulliner featured a dramatic reading of P. G. Wodehouse's "From a Detective's Notebook", followed by discussion of Adrian's deductions.

The BSI's Saturday-afternoon reception at the Yale Club offered entertainment, conversation, wining, and dining; Chris Redmond was honored as winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award (a check accompanied by an attractive certificate) for the best contribution to The Baker Street Journal in 2015. The John H. Watson Fund benefited from energetic sales of tickets for the raffle prize (the golden sovereign Irene Adler gave to Holmes, and Irene's wedding jewelry handcrafted by Maggie Schpak for The Curious Collectors of Baker Street), and an auction of attractive donations to the Fund.

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

A final note for those who want to plan ahead: The Baker Street Irregulars' next annual dinner will be held on Jan. 6, 2017. The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual dinner likely will be on Jan. 14, 2017.

I've not reported on everything, I hasten to add; there will be much more detailed reports in the spring issue of The Baker Street Journal. The BSJ appears quarterly, and subscriptions (four issues plus the Christmas Annual) cost \$41.95 (to the U.S.) or \$55.00 (elsewhere); payment by credit card or PayPal is welcome, or you can pay by check sent to the BSJ (Box 583, Zionsville, IN 46077).

You can also subscribe at the BSJ web-site at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, which has interesting features such as articles from recent issues of the BSJ, some of the papers written by winners of the Morley-Montgomery Awards, and information on the BSI's other publications and activities.

Al Gregory <gaslightandfog@verizon.net> offers (via e-mail) the 2016 edition of his "The ABC of the BSI" (an alphabetical listing of Investitures, with recipients, from "Abbey Grange" to "Young Stamford") and "The Florin Society" (couples in which both spouses have received Irregular Shillings).

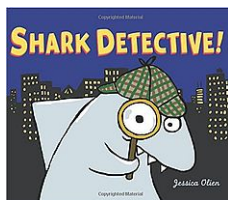
Jan 16 #3 The title of The Baker Street Journal's 2015 Christmas Annual is "Together Again for the First Time" (a tribute to Nicholas Meyer and his best-selling THE SEVEN-PER-CENT SOLUTION and the film based on his book, which helped launch the "Sherlock Holmes Boom" of the 1970s; it's now in the hands of BSJ subscribers, and otherwise unavailable unless you can find it on eBay or wherever.

The BSJ's 2016 Christmas Annual is going to be a centennial tribute to William William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes", edited by Russell Merritt and included as part of subscriptions to the BSJ.

There were new many books available for the first time during the birthday festivities, and they will be reviewed in next month's issue, when I've had a chance to read them. As they say, stay tuned.

The February issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine continues a long annual tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes' birthday, with Sherlockian artwork on the cover, an amusing pastiche by Terence Faherty, an editorial on the Sherlockian traditions of EQMM by Janet Hutchings, a reprint of a pastiche by Robert Arthur, a new pastiche by Keith Hann, and reviews by Steve Steinbock of new Sherlockian books.

Beryl Vertue was included on the Queen's New Year's honours list, appointed CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for services to television drama; she founded Hartswood Films in the 1980s and is the company, and is executive producer of the BBC series "Sherlock" (which is produced by her daughter Sue Vertue and co-written by her son-in-law Steven Moffat).



SHARK DETECTIVE! is an amusing book for children (ages 4-8), with a story and artwork by Jessica Olien (New York: Balzer+Bray, 2015; 32 pp., \$17.99).

The latest issue of the August Derleth Society's newsletter offers Bob Byrne's interview ("A Preponderance of Pons"); Bob presides over a web-site devoted to Solar Pons, Derleth's delightful homage to Sherlock Holmes. The August Derleth Society's web-site is at <www.derleth.org>; membership in the society costs \$25.00 a year and includes four issues of its newsletter. Bob Byrne's interesting web-site's at <www.solarpons.com>.

Oscar Ross has reported The Telegraph Casino <www.tinyurl.com/zuteqd3>, a web-site maintained by the newspaper that offers punters a chance to play various games, one of them "Sherlock Holmes: The Hunt for Blackwood"; it's pay to play, and you will need to use a program such as Hola! to spoof the web-site into thinking you're in the U.K.

Howard Ostrom has compiled a data-base with more than a thousand actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes, most of them with photographs; you can access it at the "No Place Like Holmes" web-site maintained by Ross K. Foad at <www.nplh.co.uk>; use the "More" button to get to The Diogenes Club Library (where you'll find the data-base and additional essays by Howard, as well as Diogenes Documentaries based on his research).

Jan 16 #4 Further to the report (Oct 15 #2) on the Criterion Restaurant, which after 140 years in business encountered difficulties when the landlord increased the rent, and closed, it's nice news indeed that the restaurant is open again under a new name: The Savini London, according to its web-site <www.savinilondon.co.uk> open every day but with little other information. The Criterion's Long Bar was (as noted in A STUDY IN SCARLET) where Watson and Stamford had their historic meeting (and it's even nicer news that the plaque honoring that meeting is still in place on the wall of the restaurant).

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes have a new (and interesting) web-site <www.ash-nyc.com>, thanks to web-mistress Monica Schmidt. You'll find history, scholarship, and news from a society that's now approaching its 50th anniversary.

Alexander Orlov has noted Ankur Agarwal's imaginative Sherlock Holmes sand animation art in a video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hrv1cpx>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, on Jan. 15 <www.rivermuseum.com>. More information on the exhibit is available at the Wonderworks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24b4fyy>.

Antonio Iriarte reports SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY, a series of graphic novels published (in French) by Editions Soleil; there's a web-site, with attractive art-work, at <www.tinyurl.com/jx8hjsx6>. The publisher offers a wide range of Sherlockian graphic novels at <www.tinyurl.com/pdne29f>.

The world of energetic Sherlockians includes both the young and the not-so-young: Soren Eversoll became a member of The Norwegian Explorers at the age of seven, and now, twice as old, he and his recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street have been featured in an interesting story in the St. Paul Pioneer Press <www.tinyurl.com/on7n9c3>.

Nando Gazzolo died on Nov. 16. He had a long career as an actor on stage, screen, and television in Italy, and dubbed the voices of many American and English actors; he appeared as Sherlock Holmes on Italian television in "La valle della paura" and "L'ultimo dei Baskerville" (1968); both programs are available for viewing at YouTube.

"Reichenbach and Beyond: The Final Problem Revisited" is the theme of The Reichenbach Irregulars' next conference in Switzerland, in September 2017; more information is available at their web-site <www.221b.ch>. Their previous conference ("Alpine Adventures: Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland" in 2014) was delightful <www.tinyurl.com/lzvxxqk>.

Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett has purchased Conan Doyle's former home in Crowborough, according to some press accounts, but in fact she has bought Highwell House, which was listed at £3,250,000 <www.tinyurl.com/hjed9rz>; it's rather more grand than Conan Doyle's former home Windlesham, which has been converted to offer residential care and is now called Windlesham Manor <www.tinyurl.com/zzykthe>.

Jan 16 #5 An interesting web-site <www.merrisonholmes.com> celebrates the BBC's being the first production company in the world to dramatize all 60 of the Sherlock Holmes stories with the same actors (Clive Merrison and Michael Williams); there are many links to follow, including (at Trivia) podcast interviews with Bert Coules at "Litopia" and at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere". Bert maintains the web-site and updates it from time to time.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities in Cape May, N.J., will hold its Sherlock Holmes Weekends on Mar. 18-20 and Nov. 4-6, featuring a new three-day mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Melpomene's Mask"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/h2bc4j4>.

Bubble and Geek <www.bubble-and-geek.com> offers geek-themed fragrances and other scented products, and one of the geek themes is Sherlock Holmes; you can purchase 221B Baker Street ("a smart, sexy, and sophisticated fragrance that combines smoky, woodsy cedar notes with suede, brightened with notes of citrus and mint") roll-ons, soy wax melts, and soy candle jars.

Patricia Guy's interesting interview with Umberto Eco for Publishers Weekly is available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/p87btj6>; of course she asked him how he came to write his first novel THE NAME OF THE ROSE (he offered five different reasons).

Paul Singleton has reported "10 Sherlock Holmes Words Worth Investigating" (an interesting article at the Merriam Webster web-site. "The language in Sherlock Holmes is as intriguing as the stories," they suggest, and one of the words they've chosen is "gooseberry" (not Canonical, but nevertheless Sherlockian); you can find out why at <www.tinyurl.com/jut5yqn>.

The article does not mention the phrase "gooseberry lay" (a phrase brought to everyone's attention by Dashiell Hammett); Erle Stanley Gardner told the story of "gooseberry lay" (and "gungel") in The Atlantic in 1965, and you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/jhjsqcc>.

Evy Herzog reports (but doesn't recommend) Shopping Sherlock, which seems to be some sort of pyramid scheme; they have a Sherlockian logo at the top of the opening screen and a more artistic Sherlockian logo in their video <www.shoppingsherlock.com>.

"The Abominable Bride--We're Not in Baker Street Anymore" is the title of an amusing post by M. M. McMahon at Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/h94jjmb>, notable for its link to a YouTube video of "BBC Sherlock--Wizard of Oz Style" (and stay tuned for the next video "Sherlock's The Wizard of Oz").

One might safely assume that everyone has watched "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" (except for those who plan never to watch it). If you would like to see just how committed fervent fans are, Nea Dodson recommends the Tumblr web-site multifandom-madnesss <www.tinyurl.com/gpxad4y> for a comprehensive collection of commentary and homages, and a transcript; and "The Annotated Abominable Bride" <www.tinyurl.com/guyajpw> for detailed discussion of the many Canonical allusions in the program.

Jan 16 #6 Jack D. Key ("Pritchard") died on Dec. 22. He began his career as a medical librarian in 1965, and went on to serve as director of the Mayo Medical Center Library for more than twenty years, contributing often to both Sherlockian and medical journals. Jack was co-author (with Alvin E. Rodin) of the classic THE MEDICAL CASEBOOK OF DOCTOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE: FROM PRACTITIONER TO SHERLOCK HOLMES AND BEYOND (1984), and he received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.

Jennie Paton has reported that the N.Y. Public Library has made more than 187,000 of the public-domain items in its Digital Collections available online <<http://digitalcollections.nypl.org>>; many hits for [sherlock holmes] and for [conan doyle], including the scripts for the plays "The Adventures of Gerard" (1903), "The Sign of the Four" (1903), and "The Fires of Fate" (1909).

Alan Rickman died on Jan. 14. He began his acting career on stage in 1974 and went on to star in film and on television; he was best known, perhaps, for his portrayals of the Sheriff of Nottingham in "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" (1991) and Severus Snape in the "Harry Potter" films (2001-2011), and played the title role in a Birmingham Repertory Theatre production of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (with David Suchet as Professor Moriarty) in 1976.

The Broadway production of "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" (which won five Tony awards last year (Jun 15 #2) is now in its second year at the Ethel Barrymore Theater in New York. It's dramatized from Mark Haddon's novel, which is well worth reading.

The Independent reported (Nov. 5) that the BBC has launched a challenge to iTunes by opening its first digital store <www.store.bbc.com> where you can purchase downloads of current and past programs, including "Sherlock" (but so far nothing else Sherlockian or Doylean); the archive will grow as more programs are added. As often is the case with the BBC, one needs to be in the U.K. to purchase downloads.

This year's 221B Con in Atlanta on Apr. 1-3 is billed as "a fan con for all things Sherlock Holmes," and it promises to be as spectacular as in years past; details and registration at <www.221bcon.com>.

The argument over converting Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, into a school (Aug 15 #5) seems to be over: a High Court judge has ruled against the challenge by John Michael Gibson, director of the Undershaw Preservation Trust, to the Waverley Council's approval of the DFN Foundation plans to convert the house for use as a school. The judge said that the planning committee was "amply justified in proceeding on the basis that single residential use was not a viable option however optimum it might be in theory."

Don Hobbs continues to update his "The Galactic Sherlock Holmes"; the January edition has now with 106 foreign languages (and 9 versions of English in non-Roman alphabets such as Braille and Pitman Shorthand), showing covers in color and with bibliographic details for more than 6,700 entries; a thumb drive costs \$15.00 postpaid (to the U.S.) or \$20.00 (elsewhere) from Don (2100 Elm Creek Lane, Flower Mound, TX 75028).

Jan 16 #7 If you've not bought your Blu-ray/DVD set of William Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), it's still available from Flicker Alley; their web-site also has an interesting essay ("Move Over, Irene Adler: Meet the Only Sherlock Love Interest Arthur Conan Doyle Approved") that includes Gillette's explanation of why he introduced romance into the play, along with additional comments in a letter he wrote to Vincent Starrett. There's also an offer of a limited-edition T-shirt with Wayne Shel-labarger's cover artwork (\$19.99).

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar awards. Among them: Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (Oct 15 #5) (best biographical/critical); winners will be announced at the MWA Gala Banquet in New York on Apr. 28.

William Deason painted delightful cover art for paperback editions of the Canon published Dell and Berkley, and Evy Herzog has noted that five of the paintings can be seen at <www.williamdeason.com>; the web-site also shows some of his cover art for Agatha Christie paperbacks, and there are more of them at <www.raggedclaws.com/category/william-teason>.

The fourth issue of the resurrected Saturday Review of Literature was published this month, edited by George Fletcher, Jon Lellenberg, Don Pollock, and Phil Shreffler, and with articles that include Kate Donley's "Hounding the Paratexts of the Game" (she notes that "the packaging and repackaging of the Sherlock Holmes stories affects the reading experience"), Tyke and Teddie Niver's report on "Giggles and Guffaws from Gillette Castle", Donald Pollock's discussion of "The Conan Doyle Prize" established at the University of Edinburgh in 1902, and much more. The issue costs \$5.00 postpaid from Donald Pollock (521 College Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305).

John Linsenmeyer reports the "oldest footage of London ever" at YouTube: an 11-minute video <www.tinyurl.com/mv2989t> of movies made between 1890 and 1920, showing what London looked like in those days, often paired with film showing the same locations now; the video also has the oldest know recording of Big Ben, made in 1890.

Joseph Bell's copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR AND OTHER TALES (a third edition published in 1892), inscribed by Conan Doyle to Bell, goes to auction on Feb. 5, estimated at £2,000-£3,000 <www.lawrences.co.uk>.

The Norwegian Explorers' "Christmas Annual 2015" has the theme "Histories and Futures Deduced", with contributions ranging from Ruth Berman's "Building Oldacre's Secret Rooms" to Peter H. Jacoby's "Some Oddities in the CV of Colonel Sebastian Moran"; the 54-page booklet, edited by Timothy Reich and Ray Riethmeier, can be ordered from Timothy Reich (6809 Pillsbury Avenue, Richfield, MN 55423, and the cost is \$8.00 postpaid (checks payable to The Norwegian Explorers, please).

Glittering Gold Guineas from the Fourth Garrideb is a 52-page anthology edited by Greg Ruby, with material ranging from an article by Jay Finley Christ that was first published in 1951 to a new exploration of "Where Would Dr. Lysander Starr Have Done His Banking?"; \$13.00 postpaid or \$10.00 for a PDF download, with details at <www.tinyurl.com/hho2o8p>.

Jan 16 #8 The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Jun 15 #5) now has a one-minute trailer <www.tinyurl.com/jb3rr86>, Stephen Mangan is Conan Doyle, Michael Weston is Houdini and David Shore (creator of "House") is executive producer. Tune in this spring on Fox in the U.S., ITV Encore in the U.K., and Global in Canada.

The British weekly magazine Look and Learn offered famous works of literature as serial graphic novels, with titles that included SIR NIGEL (1966-1967), THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES (1967-1968), THE SIGN OF FOUR (1968), and THE LOST WORLD (1972-1973), and the four stories have been collected in one volume of ILLUSTRATED BRITISH CLASSICS, with an introduction by Norman Wright that includes discussion of the artists; available for £15.99 from The Book Palace <www.tinyurl.com/z6gkv5l>. RODNEY STONE also appeared in the magazine in 1966, but isn't in this collection.

And some theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be performed as a reading at the Caltech Athenaeum in Pasadena, Calif., on Feb. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/jubl5cj>.

The Village Players will be performing Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" at the James McCabe Theater in Valrico, Fla., through Feb. 6 <www.thevillageplayersvalrico.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is being performed at the Rogers City Community Theater in Rogers City, Mich., through Feb. 7 <www.rogerscitytheater.com>; also at the Onstage Theatre in Makati City in the Philippines through Feb. 7 <www.repertoryphilippines.ph>. And it's scheduled at the Fort Smith Little Theatre in Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 10-19 <www.fsilt.org>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes: Assassins at Sea" will be presented by the Theatre Company of Lafayette in Lafayette, Colo., from Mar. 4 to Mar. 26 <www.ctlstage.org>.

Gayle Stahlhuth's radio-theater dramatization "Sherlock Holmes: Adventure of the Red-Headed League" will be performed by the East Lynne Theater Company at the First Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., on Mar. 18-19 and Nov. 4-5 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) is scheduled by the Sacramento Theatre Company at the Main Stage in Sacramento, Calif., Apr. 20-May 15, 2016 <www.sactheatre.org>.

The Seattle Repertory Theatre will present "Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem" (a new play by R. Hamilton Wright) at the Bagley Wright Theatre in Seattle, Apr. 22-May 22, 2016 <www.seattlerep.org>.

Mike Druce's "Sherlock Holmes and the Portal of Time" will be performed at the Huntington Beach Playhouse in Huntington Beach, Calif., Apr. 29-May 21 <www.hbplayhouse.com>.

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Feb 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Proceedings of the "Lippincott's Legacy" conference are now available (the conference was held at the University of Nebraska at Omaha on May 29-30 last year to honor the 125th anniversary of the publication of "The Sign of the Four" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray"). The Proceedings are a 160-page booklet in the style and format of the original Lippincott's Monthly Magazine, and cost \$10.00 postpaid <www.lippincottslegacy.org>, and it includes seven papers about Sherlock Holmes. It's nicely done, and you need to act quickly if you want one of the few remaining copies.

The Baker Street Irregulars have organized conferences in the Vermissa Valley (2004), the Country of the Saints (2008), and the University of California in Los Angeles (2012); the next event will be a weekend conference at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York, Sept. 9-11, 2016.

Terry Hunt reports an attractive necktie with a pattern displaying one of Frederic Dorr Steele's artistic portrayals of Sherlock Holmes, advertised by Frederick Thomas of London (£9.99) <www.tinyurl.com/zrnr8oz>. There are two other less-artistic Sherlock Holmes designs available as well; search for [sherlock] at their web-site.

Reeder Brand Management <www.reederbrandmanagement.com> is a "boutique licensing and representation agency" that says at its web-site that "we directly represent the commercial licensing interests of consumer brands and iconic personalities" such as Evil Knievel, Charlie Chaplin, Alfred Hitchcock, Chris Farley, Bo Derek, Orson Welles, and "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and all literary copyrights (Sherlock Holmes, Watson, Professor Challenger, et al)." They explain that "We've introduced these personalities as commercially viable entities for licensing and advertising uses while maintaining the essential integrity that made them cultural icons."

Roger Johnson reports that The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street is now open for business again, after being closed for three weeks for refurbishment and essential structural work, and that visitors can again see the sitting-room at 221B. See the earlier report (Oct 15 #3) for the history of the pub and the sitting-room display.

Frank Finlay died on Jan. 30. He began his acting career on stage in 1951 and went on to many performances on stage, screen, radio, and television. He played Inspector Lestrade twice, in the films "A Study in Terror" (1965) and "Murder by Decree" (1979), and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle twice, on BBC Radio 4 in "The Man Who Was Sherlock Holmes" (1980) and on television in BBC-2's "Encounters: The Other Side" (1992); his other roles included Professor Coram on television in Granada's "The Golden Pince-Nez" (1994), Manfred on film in "The Deadly Bees" (1967) and Police Captain Davies in the film "The Molly Maguires" (1970).

Malice Domestic has announced the nominees for this year's Agatha awards, including: Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (for best historical novel), and Zach Dundas' THE GREAT DETECTIVE, Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER, and Kate White's THE MYSTERY WRITERS OF AMERICA COOKBOOK (best non-fiction) Winners will be announced at Malice's banquet in Bethesda on Apr. 30.

Feb 16 #2 "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" attracted a huge audience in the U.K.: Radio Times reported (Jan. 10) that the program had a consolidated total of 11.6 million viewers and an audience share of 40.2% (the percentage of the people watching television who watched the program). The U.S. has about five times as many people as the U.K., but the ratings here were much lower because PBS-TV is a niche channel that has far fewer viewers than the major channels.



"'Detective Pikachu' Is Pokémon's New Game/Fever Dream" read the headline on a story in Forbes <www.tinyurl.com/zcrwsze>, and there's a trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/zydskod>, kindly reported by Howard Ostrom. Detective Pikachu is seen in Sherlockian costume; so far the game's available only in Japanese, but of course there are hopes for a version in English.

CBS-TV is juggling its schedule: "Elementary" moves to 10:00 pm on Sundays on Mar. 20, and the new series "Rush Hour" will take the 10:00 pm slot on Thursdays. Ratings for "Elementary" are declining, triggering rumors that the current fourth season may be the last. If that turns out to be true, the series will end with a total of 96 episodes, and Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu will have been seen as Holmes and Watson for more hours in more episodes than any pair of actors except Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce.

Grace Aidinantz has died. According to Linda Riley, her mother died of a broken heart after being devastated by a family dispute over the Sherlock Holmes Museum (Oct 15 #1); Riley's brother John Aidiniantz has been accused of robbing other family members of their share in the profits of the Museum, which has brought in £20 million since it opened in 1990.

The Sweet Geek Paper Company offers Lesley Jones' amusing SHERLOCK COLORING BOOK: 12 PAGES OF SOCIOPATHIC COLORING FUN (\$6.00), plus other imaginative items (both Sherlockian and otherwise) <www.sweetgeek.etsy.com>.

"I think my favorite books were LIFE OF THE MISSISSIPPI by Mark Twain, THE WHITE COMPANY by Conan Doyle (also SIR NIGEL by the same author)," Charles Addams wrote in 1967 to Evelyn B. Byrne, "and some of that interest still remains in the form of a small armor collection. And TREASURE ISLAND with the wonderful Wyeth illustrations and of course the Sherlock Holmes books." The macabre cartoonist's letter wasn't included in ATTACKS OF TASTE (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler, but it went to auction on Jan. 28 at University Archives (estimated at \$200-\$300) and sold for \$575.

Agatha Christie's letter to Byrne also mentioned the Sherlock Holmes stories; it went to auction last year (May 15 #2), estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000, and was bought for \$2,250.

A copy of the Al Hirschfeld's limited-edition color lithograph "The Game's Afoot" (showing Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce as Holmes and Watson) will be at auction at the Butterscotch Auction Gallery on Mar. 13, estimated at \$500-\$700 <www.butterscotchauction.com>; the lithograph's also still available for \$1,800 (along with many other originals and prints) from the Margo Feiden Galleries <www.alhirschfeld.com>.

Feb 16 #3 Sabina Carpenter and John Quincannon, private detectives in San Francisco in 1895, return in Marcia Muller and Bill Pronzini's *THE PLAGUE OF THIEVES AFFAIR* (New York: Forge/Tom Doherty, 2016; 252 pp., \$25.99), the fourth in their entertaining series; in this book Sabina and John have separate mysteries to solve, and Sabina is hired to find the man who continues to claim he's Sherlock Holmes and persuade him that he isn't (she's only partly successful).

NERVE AND KNOWLEDGE: DOCTORS, MEDICINE AND THE SHERLOCKIAN CANON is aptly titled and subtitled; edited by Robert S. Katz and Andrew L. Solberg, it's an imaginative anthology of Canonical and medical scholarship, focusing on the stories but also including the best of the actors who have played Watson on screen and television (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2015; 222 pp., \$39.95) <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>.

Also from the BSI: *SPAIN AND SHERLOCK HOLMES*, edited by Maria C. Veiga-Hayzen and Donald J. Hobbs (2015; 195 pp., \$39.95); this is the fifth volume in the BSI's International Series, and it offers an excellent selection of Spanish scholarship and pastiche from The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid, available for the first time in English. The society was founded in 1993 by seven Sherlockian who describe themselves as "a social, philanthropic, eminently cultural and occasionally ethical society," and the extracts from their "foundational letter" (and the contributor biographies) are well worth attention.

And there's more from the BSI: *ART IN THE BLOOD: CARTOONIST & ILLUSTRATOR SCOTT BOND MEETS SHERLOCK HOLMES* (2016; 103 pp., \$23.95) is edited by Mark Gagen and offers a wide-ranging selection of Scott's artwork, from 1981 to 2015, from Baker Street Miscellanea, the Baker Street Journal, menus of the BSI annual dinners, and many other sources, some in full color and everything nicely done.

BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY: THE FIRST ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES AND JOHN WATSON is a series of amusing comic strips created by Joe Fay, Steve Mason, and Rusty Mason; there were 46 installments in 2015, and you can see them at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/j29mukf>.

Callie Meaney's "Literary Candles" are book-inspired hand-poured soy candles, and her "221B Baker Street" candle is scented with black currant tea and leather books and available from Uncommon Goods (\$16.00 for a 12-ounce candle in a glass jar) <www.tinyurl.com/gnlbnk3>; she has other candles inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Jane Eyre, and Pride & Prejudice.

A discovery in the archives of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh: class rolls that show that Conan Doyle attended classes, demonstrations, and excursions in 1877, studying medical botany and vegetable histology while he was at Edinburgh University Medical School <www.tinyurl.com/jv444up>.

Phillip Bergem has updated his two extensive checklists of Sherlockian and Doylean films and television programs, annotated for date, country, actors who played Holmes and Watson (or Conan Doyle), production company, and alternate titles; they're available by e-mail from Phil <pgbergem@gmail.com>, and at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>.

Feb 16 #4 Alexander Orlov and Phil Bergem have reported a new version of THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: a fake book for people who want somewhere to hide their liquor. The "booze book" is from Bender Bound <www.tinyurl.com/q8swwap> and has attractive cover art as well; the company motto is "hiding booze in books since 2011," and there's a similar volume for admirers of Edgar Allan Poe.

Leah Guinn and Jaime N. Mahoney have edited A CURIOUS COLLECTION OF DATES: THROUGH THE YEAR WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES (Indianapolis: Gasogene Books, 2016; 344 pp., \$34.95) <www.gasogenebooks.com>; it's an interesting day book with one or more entries for every day in the year, with entries based on careful research and covering events, people (characters, authors, and actors), cases, and much more, Canonical and otherwise.

Also from Gasogene: SHERLOCK HOLMES AND CONAN DOYLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS, VOLUME 2, JANUARY-JUNE 1893, edited and annotated by Mattias Boström and Matt Laffey (2016; 197 pp., \$28.95); it covers only six months, rather than the first volume's eleven years, demonstrating how much more newsworthy Holmes and Conan Doyle were by 1893, and it's full of reviews, commentary, the occasional pastiche, and amusing examples of how Holmes was even then becoming part of the cultural literacy. Of special interest is the seven-page list of digitized newspapers and magazines (and the archives in which they were found), showing how useful modern technology can be for this sort of research.

And again from Gasogene: Christopher Redmond's A QUICK SUCCESSION OF SUBJECTS: LECTURES AND SPEECHES ON SHERLOCK HOLMES (2016; 275 pp., \$19.95) is a collection of almost 40 years of Chris' scholarship, some published for the first time, and the contents are interesting, instructive, philosophical, amusing, and (perhaps most important) well written.

Willis H. O'Brien filmed stop-motion dinosaurs for "The Lost World" (1925), but he wasn't the only person working in the field: Ann Marlowe has found film of sculptress Virginia May, who was seen in "Pathé Review: Monsters of the Past" (1923) <www.tinyurl.com/hst7h2h>.

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

Customers of Amazon may be interested in the company's new warning labels, suggested by John Doppler <www.tinyurl.com/zhhbzx4>; some of the new labels might be useful attached to reviews of Sherlockian pastiches.

Fans of Rupert Holmes' television series "Remember WENN" on AMC (1996-1998) will recall the episode "Armchair Detectives" (1996), which was creatively Sherlockian; it's now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/h4x3tr5>. Note Prison Warden Otto Pelzler, who was Otto Penzler in the script but not in the broadcast; Rupert Holmes has said he believes the producers changed the name to avoid being sued (the real Otto is delighted when his name appears in other people's works).

Feb 16 #5 Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (Dec 15 #2), he represented himself at his trial in Cleveland County District Court on various charges, and was threatened with contempt of court by the judge, who then declared a mistrial because of a mistake by the District Attorney. Holmes is now facing charges in four counties.

Raymond Hughes died on Dec. 15. He attended the Liverpool College of Art (with John Lennon as a fellow student), and began a career in costume design in television and films in 1968; one of his films was "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).

The photograph of Dorando Pietri at the end of the marathon at the Olympic Games in London in 1908 is well known, since some people claim (incorrectly) that it shows Conan Doyle helping Pietri across the finish line of the race; Cliff Goldfarb has reported that there's also an interesting 8-minute highlights film at British Pathé's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/job7xwo> that includes brief footage of Dorando (what's even more interesting in how informal things were more than a century ago).

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$500 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ha8chix>.

Howard Ostrom's "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" is now available at Ross Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hgfjnsv>, with more than 1,300 performers listed and with more than 2,500 photographs.

Conrad Phillips died on Jan. 13. He began his acting career on screen in 1948, starred as William Tell in a British television series in 1958-1959, and played many other roles, among them Sir Eustace Brackenstall in Granada's "The Abbey Grange" (1986).

The animated movie "Gnomeo & Juliet: Sherlock Gnomes" (Dec 15 #1) still is a work-in-progress, scheduled for release in 2018, but you can watch their brief trailer at <www.tinyurl.com/hgsnsg5>.

Maria Konnikova's THE CONFIDENCE GAME: WHY WE FALL FOR IT...EVERY TIME (New York: Viking, 2016; 340 pp., \$28.00) is the second book from the author of the well-received MASTERMIND: HOW TO THINK LIKE SHERLOCK HOLMES (Jan 13 #4) and it's an instructive exploration of the reasons why con men and women are so successful: the "why" is more important than the "how" (and she explains both aspects of what she calls "the (real) oldest profession." The book is not Sherlockian (except for the story about how the mother of someone whose name will be familiar to readers of this newsletter was taken in by a woman who made a modest living as a professional imposter). The author's interesting web-site's at <www.mariakonnikova.com>.

Mattias Boström reports a previously-unpublished photograph of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, driving his 20-horsepower Dietrich-Lorraine during an Anglo-German motor race (the Prince Henry Tour) on July 5, 1911. You can view it at the Facebook page of Skånelaholms Slott <www.tinyurl.com/j2jrhkd>.

Feb 16 #6 Charlie Cook has noted in The Sound of the Baskervilles' newsletter Ineffable Twaddle that two of the late Henry W. Gould's mathematical papers ("The Case of the Strange Binomial Identities of Professor Moriarty" and "The Design of the Four Binomial Identities: Moriarty Intervenes") the Fibonacci Quarterly are now available on-line, thanks to the modern wonders of digitization, at <www.tinyurl.com/hjn5qtu>, in issues 10(4), 10(6), and 12(4).

Alexander Orlov has noted a report in the Guardian (Feb. 13) headlined "From Battleship Potemkin to Baker Street: Sightseeing with Sergei Eisenstein" about Eisenstein's six-week visit to Britain in 1929, and an exhibition of his work at the Gallery for Russian Arts and Design in London <www.tinyurl.com/z2yl8e1>. The exhibition runs through Apr. 30, and the article has an illustration, in full color, of one of Eisenstein's costume designs (from the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum) for a 1922 play that would have pitted Holmes against Nick Carter during the early years of Soviet experimental theater. The article also reports that Eisenstein's interest in Holmes continued: in 1934 he ordered a copy of Vincent Starrett's THE PRIVATE LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES from a London bookshop.



Tim Symonds, who has written four pastiches available from MX Publishing, wonders which cap or tunic badge Watson would have been wearing at the fatal battle of Maiwand: the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers' "quo fata vocant" badge, some other badge, or no badge at all? And Watson was a surgeon in the Army Medical Department (later the RAMC), would he have worn the insignia of the AMD? Does anyone recall this being discussed in print? Or have any suggestions? Tim is at <tim.symonds@shevolution.com>.

The Scarborough Book Festival ("Books by the Beach") will feature two presentations of David Stuart Davies' "The Game's Afoot: Encounter with Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle" on Apr. 13 and 17 in Scarborough (North Yorkshire) <www.booksbythebeach.co.uk>.

Harper Lee died on Feb. 19. Her novel TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD (1960) quickly became a classic, and a highly regarded film starring Gregory Peck (1962); She received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush, and the National Medal of Arts from Barack Obama. One of her childhood friends was Truman Capote: "Both were oddballs who took refuge in detective novels, and they quickly bonded over their mutual love of Sherlock Holmes and the Rover Boys," according to a story in the N.Y. Times last year about Greg Neri's novel TRU AND NELLE (due from HMH Books for Young Readers in March).

Iconic statues in London, including Sherlock Holmes in Baker Street, were given a makeover to celebrate London Fashion Week this month. You can see Holmes and others decorated with SensatioNail Polish to Gel Transformer in the Get West London gallery at <www.tinyurl.com/znzlccd>.

Get West London also has reported <www.tinyurl.com/jjgbgoc> that the Baker Street "Wonderpass" (Nov 15 #1) is now open; there's a photo galley of the new pedestrian underpass, with no views of anything Sherlockian. Nicholas Lezard notes in the New Statesman <www.tinyurl.com/jg5hnjz>, however, that there is a diorama honoring Sherlock Holmes.

Feb 16 #7 "Missing Movie: A Case for Sherlock Holmes" was a one-hour program broadcast by BBC Radio 2 in 1994, with Betty Marsden narrating the story behind the missing footage from "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970) and with interviews with many of the people who worked on the film. The audio is available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hk5wdq4> (spotted and kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES, edited by David Marcum (London: MX Publishing, 2015), is an anthology of straight-forward pastiches, carefully selected from what Marcum calls the "Great Watsonian Oversoul." Marcum believes that "there never can be enough good Holmes stories, relating the activities of the true, correct, and traditional Holmes," and he offers more than sixty stories, almost all previously unpublished, by authors who are old hands at writing pastiches or newcomers to the genre. The stories (and occasional poems and scripts) are nicely done indeed, and the collection consists of three volumes (439/416/418 pp., \$44.95 each. Recommended. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <mxpublishing.co.uk>.

The authors have donated their royalties to the preservation of Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, which is being converted by the DFN Foundation into a school <www.steppingstone.org.uk>, and the success of the anthology and triggered work on three more volumes <www.tinyurl.com/goj4jap>.

Also from MX: Dan Andriacco's BOOKMARKED FOR MURDER (MX Publishing, 2015; 243 pp., \$16.95) is the latest in his series about Jeff Cody and Sebastian McCabe, now back in Erin, Ohio, and presented with various mysteries, one of them the murder of the owner of the only used-book store in town (he has been clubbed with a replica of the Maltese Falcon); it is a lively story, and the author presides over an entertaining (and often Sherlockian) blog <www.bakerstreetbeat.blogspot.com> that's well worth a visit.

More from MX: Luke Benjamin Kuhns' THE SCARLET THREAD OF MURDER (2015; 255 pp., \$16.95) offers three pastiches, the longest involving Sherlock Holmes (and Watson), Martin Hewitt (and Brett), and (the real) Detective Inspector Edmund Reid; the others bring Holmes and Watson and Irene Adler to America, and (briefly) Holmes and Watson into the world of ballet in London.

Umberto Eco died on Feb. 19. An esteemed semiotician, cultural critic, and author, he became world-famous at the age of 48 when his first novel became a sensational best-seller: THE NAME OF THE ROSE (1980) featured William of Baskerville, a Franciscan monk who arrived at an abbey in Italy in 1327 and found he needed to solve a series of murders, succeeding by using methods that were thoroughly Sherlockian. The novel was made into a movie (1986) starring Sean Connery and Christian Slater; the film has scenes not found in the novel, which makes it easy to detect whether Sherlockians who claim to have read the novel actually are remembering the movie. Patricia Guy's recent interesting interview with Umberto Eco for Publishers Weekly can be read on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/p87btj6>.

In Eco's obituary in the Washington Post (Feb. 21), Matt Schudel noted that Eco named many of his characters after type fonts such as Baskerville, Garamond, Palatino, and Bodoni. And that he had a personal library of 50,000 books and near-total recall of their contents.

Feb 16 #8 The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Jan 16 #8) will begin on Fox in the U.S. and on Global in Canada on May 2. The series features Stephen Mangan (Conan Doyle) and Michael Weston (Houdini), with David Shore (creator of "House") as executive producer. The ten-part mini-documentary digital series "Houdini and Doyle: World of Wonders" will start on <www.globaltv.com> and Global Go on Apr. 11; if you use a program such as Hola! you can spoof the Canadian web-site into thinking you're in Canada.

Norman Hudis died on Feb. 8. He had a long career writing screenplays for films and television, first in Britain and then in the United States. Best known for writing the first six "Carry On..." comedy films in the 1950s and 1960s, he fantasized about writing one more in the series, according to his obituary in the Daily Telegraph (Feb. 12). "Carry On Shylock Holmes" would have featured a Jewish Holmes and Watson and ended with a line of dialogue: "Elementary--you schmuck."

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will open at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton, Mar. 25, and will run through Sept. 5; the web-site is at <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca>. The exhibition then moves to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., opening on Oct. 13, 2016, and on to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, opening on May 6, 2017.

Bill Peschel's anthology SHERLOCK HOLMES EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1905-1909 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2015; 388 pp., \$15.99) is the latest in his 223B Casebook Series, offering the results of his continuing wide-ranging search through newspapers, magazines, and books, annotated by the editor, who also includes year-by-year commentary on Conan Doyle's life and career. Visit <www.peschelpress.com> for more information on Bill's press and books.

Theatrics: Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is running at the MADS Little Theatre in Macclesfield, Cheshire, through Mar. 5 <www.madstheatre.org>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (presented by Lincoln Northeast Drama) will be performed at the Northeast Drama Center in Lincoln, Neb., Mar. 1-4 <www.lps.org/post/detail.cfm?id=10701>.

Thomas R. Gordon's new play "Arsène Lupin vs Sherlock Holmes" will be presented by the Onomatopoeia Theatre Company at the Gene Frankel Theatre in New York, Apr. 22-May 14 <www.theonomatopoeiatheatrecompany.com>.

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, and anyone who wants to do a word-search on a large (more than 13-MB) file of all of the text since March 1985 can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who compiled the file, and will update it, and has kindly made it available for download from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.dfw.sherlock.org/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermaceti-press>.

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Mar 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of the Baker Street Irregulars excursion this year to the Chautauqua Institution in southwestern New York state, Sept. 9-12, and the festivities will include meals, tours, entertainment, more than 20 speakers and panelists, and screening of three of Eille Norwood's silent films, shown in the U.S. for the first time. Details on the event (and a registration form) will be available on and after Apr. 3 at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com>, and as with all of the BSI's excursions, everyone is welcome to share the fun.

Major news from the manuscript market: the auction at Bonhams in New York on Apr. 11 will include a single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (estimated at \$100,000-\$150,000), and the manuscripts of "The Greek Interpreter" (\$380,000-\$420,000), "The Problem of Thor's Bridge" [that is the title of the manuscript] (\$250,000-\$350,000), "Rodney Stone" (\$80,000-\$120,000), and "The Prisoner's Defence" (\$20,000-\$30,000). Also Christopher Morley's "Where the Blue Begins" (\$12,000-\$18,000). Detailed descriptions of the Conan Doyle items are available at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zeetnbx>.

More major news from the manuscript market: five Brigadier Gerard stories, not widely known to have survived, are advertised in the current catalog of the New York dealer James S. Jaffe for \$115,000. Randall Stock's detailed descriptions of these manuscripts are at <www.tinyurl.com/h8qzpgv>.

And there's some non-manuscript Sherlockian auction news: Heritage Auctions <www.tinyurl.com/z94vbkg>; search for [conan doyle] to find some nice material in an on-line auction closing on Apr. 6, including a run of all of the Sherlock Holmes stories in single issues of The Strand Magazine, first book editions of A STUDY IN SCARLET (both first and second printings), "The Lost World" in single issues of The Strand Magazine, and much more.

They're off and running at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, where Greg Ruby has revived The Silver Blaze (Southern Division), set for May 14; you can read all about it at <www.sherlockinmaryland.com/silver-blaze>.

Laurie R. King's THE MURDER OF MARY RUSSELL (New York: Bantam Books, 2016; 384 pp., \$28.00) offers an attention-grabbing ending to the first chapter, and a detailed and provocative look at the life of Mrs. Hudson; it's nicely done indeed, and a grand addition to the Mary Russell series. Laurie has an interesting web-site at <www.laurierking.com>; click on "Events" to see where she'll be appearing, and on "Blogs" to read Laurie's Mutterings and Mary Russell's Blog.

Laurie's THE MARRIAGE OF MARY RUSSELL is a new short story, available (so far) only as an e-book; she has posted some essays about the story at her web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jbhak4s>.

Frogwares calls "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" the most ambitious game they have worked on yet in their continuing series of games engineered for Playstation 4, Xbox One, and PC; it will be released on May 27, and you can see their "cinematic reveal trailer" at <www.tinyurl.com/jrvo3lg>.

Mar 16 #2 Theresa Thomalen died on Mar. 2. "It ain't easy," Terry once wrote. "I am married to a lunatic, but he's a nice guy. He was always a nice guy, but he wasn't always a lunatic." The nice guy was Bob Thomalen, and Terry joined him in The Three Garridebs and in presiding over a long series of delightful Autumns in Baker Street. She was awarded The Baker Street Irregulars' Queen Victoria Medal in 1992, and then was toasted by the BSI as The Woman in 1994.

Good news of fans of "Elementary": CBS has renewed the series for a fifth season, extending Johnny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu's record for the most performances of any pair of actors at Holmes and Watson in every medium other than radio (where Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce reign supreme).



It's called "The Great Detective" (but the label on the base reads "Sherlock Holmes"): a new statue from Creations & Collections Ltd. <www.creationsandcollections.com> is 10½" high in cold cast bronze with a blue wash over the coat (\$74.95), and is advertised as "sure to catch the attention of any detective and mystery enthusiast out there."

Magda Jozsa is an Australian author who has written in many genres. RETURN TO THE WILD FRONTIER (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2013; 332 pp., \$13.99) is a sequel to her SHERLOCK HOLMES ON THE WILD FRONTIER (Apr 05 #5), and brings Holmes and Watson back to the Wild West, where they encounter old acquaintances and survive more adventures with desperados and other villains. Her THE PRIVATE DIARIES OF DR. WATSON (2013; 414 pp., \$14.99) is a collection of stories that offer a more personal view of Watson, and of Holmes and his family, and SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE FEMME FATALES (2014; 323 pp., \$12.73) is the second installment of stories in the same vein. INTRODUCING NEPTUNE KING (2002; 502 pp., \$14.99) is the first of a series of 24 collections of short stories, set in England in the 1960s, featuring a young Oxford professor-turned-detective who is an admirer of Sherlock Holmes. Her titles also are available as e-books, and her web-site is at <www.read4life.com>.

Bjarne Nielsen ("The Veiled Lodger") died on Mar. 19. Bjarne was a collector, bibliographer, translator, and publisher; he first contributed to the Sherlockian literature (in Danish) in 1964, presided over Antiquariat Pinkerton (his bookshop and private press), founded a small society called The Two Thurstons and The Great Greenland Expedition Society, and was president of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark from 1988 to 2006. He was awarded his Investiture in The Baker Street Irregulars in 1984.

Another "Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention" is scheduled in London on Sept. 23-26 <www.sherlocked.com>; it's organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock"), and they're looking at venues and dates for a "Sherlocked USA" event.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE OLD CAMPAIGNERS, by James Richard Wearne (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2011; 235 pp., \$11.85) has Watson (and Holmes) come to the aid of Watson's old colleague Col. Pickering, Prof. Henry Higgins, and Higgins' wife (the former Eliza Doolittle); Watson winds up visiting a bordello in London and a Japanese castle in West Africa in an attempt to rescue one of Eliza's friends who seems to have been kidnapped by white slavers.

Mar 16 #3 Among the "Dating Profiles of the Literary Lovelorn" at the Bas Bleu "Bluestocking Salon" blog <www.tinyurl.com/jzqsufd>, noted by Janice Weiner: "Busy no-nonsense bachelor seeks intelligent verbal sparring partner. Applicants must be thoroughly honest, accepting of my keeping late hours, and willing to dress in disguise on occasion. Tidying and cooking skills a plus. Those in possession of these qualities--and who are not averse to being intimate with a smoker--may request an interview with myself and my colleague and advisor, Dr. Watson, at our rooms at 221B Baker Street, London. I strongly advise against telling even the slightest fib."

The television series "Houdini and Doyle" (Feb 16 #8) started on ITV and ITV Encore in Britain this month; according to a story in Radio Times (Mar. 2), Steve Mangan was ordered to grow a Magnum-style moustache for the series, and shaved it off the day shooting ended. But he has signed a five-year option for the series, and may need to grow the moustache again. The series starts on Fox on May 2; here's a new trailer: <www.tinyurl.com/zj52qv8>.



Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers of New Jersey will celebrate their 40th anniversary at a luncheon meeting on July 10; for more information, contact Ron Fish <ronf404@aol.com>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES' FIENDISH PUZZLES, by Dr. John Watson [Tim Dedopulos] (London: Carlton Books, 2016; pp., £7.99) is a collection of "riddles, enigmas, and challenges inspired by the world's greatest crime-solver." Also from Carlton: Martin Fido's SHERLOCK: THE FACTS AND FICTION BEHIND THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE (2015; 224 pp., £16.99) is a revised and expanded second edition of his THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Mar 99 #1), updated to include modern films and television, and with many colorful illustrations. And THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE CASE NOTES, by Dr. John Watson [Guy Adams] (2015; 63 pp., £19.99), is a reprint of the earlier edition (Nov 09 #6); an imaginative boxed scrapbook of evidence, some of it in evidence bags, for six of the Canonical tales.

Fandom Post reported on Feb. 20 that Titan Comics plans to publish an English version of the Japanese "Sherlock: A Study in Pink" manga in June, in print and digital formats.

"Sherlock" producer Sue Vertue, at the BBC Worldwide Showcase in Liverpool last month, said that "We start shooting in April, finish shooting at the end of July." Mark Gatiss, asked what Benedict Cumberbatch brought to the title role at the beginning of the 2010 series, replied "He brought his own trousers."

Alexander Orlov notes that Dmitri Varkin has created an interesting metal sculpture he calls "The Lost World"; it's imaginative, and there are images in a slide show at <www.tinyurl.com/gvhrvyq>.

"An eight-day train voyage through the Swiss Alps with Ranulph Fiennes" is being promoted by the Daily Telegraph <www.tinyurl.com/hq4axj9>, departing from London on Sept. 8, for only £2,795 per person. The tour includes two nights at the "Englischer Hof" in Meiringen, where author Anthony Horowitz will give a private lecture on Sherlock Holmes.

Mar 16 #4 Further to the item about Eugene T. (Sherlock) Holmes, candidate for mayor in Kings Mountain, N.C. (Feb 16 #5), he has now spent more than a hundred days in jail, and has been ordered to undergo a mental evaluation or face more time in jail. "I've had mental evaluation," he said, "My wife is my caretaker." Holmes' political campaign made local headlines last year when he promised, if elected mayor, to arrest homosexuals, and then disrupted voting on election day; Holmes got three votes and finished last.

In other crime news, from Monticello, Ark., Patrick Sherlock Holmes was arrested for possession of drugs and drug paraphernalia during the "Operation Safe Watch" compliance check on registered sex offenders in Monticello.

The Beacon Society has presented its 2015 Beacon Award (recognizing educators who introduce young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories) to Michael J. Brady, who developed and used a Sherlock Holmes curriculum at the California Youth Authority and other schools in California and Tennessee; there is more about him, and his work, at <www.beaconsociety.com>.

Ryan Britt's LUKE SKYWALKER CAN'T READ, AND OTHER GEEKY TRUTHS (New York: Plume/Penguin Random House, 2015; 208 pp., \$16.00) is a collection of provocative essays about science fiction and fantasy, including "Baker Streets on Infinite Earths: Sherlock Holmes as the Eternal Sci-Fi Superhero". It's a revised and expanded version of "Sherlock Holmes and the Science Fiction of Deduction" published in *Clarkesworld* (Nov. 2010) and available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2ddtvtg>. Britt begins his book with a nice quotation from Isaac Asimov: "Those people who think they know everything are a great annoyance to those of us who do."

Sorry about that: Henry W. Gould is not "late" (Feb 16 #6): he's alive and well and publishing; his latest book is COMBINATORIAL IDENTITIES FOR STIRLING NUMBERS (2015), and he has an impressive entry at Wikipedia, as well as an interesting page at Facebook <www.facebook.com/henry.gould.16>.

Yuichi Hirayama's THE ANNOTATED JELLAND'S VOYAGE (Jan 01 #3) offered a reprint of Arthur Conan Doyle's only story set in Japan, with annotations and an interesting discussion of the historical and literary background of the story; the 20-page pamphlet is now available as a Kindle e-book from Amazon (\$3.00).

Alexander Orlov has noted "Charlotte and Frogson" (a new Russian animated series under development by LadyBug Animation Studio); there's a brief clip at <www.filmpro.ru/material/45484>, and a trailer at Ladybug's web-site at <rinatgaz.com/charlotte.html>. And "The Case of Sherlock Holmes" (1987) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j5wmpoe>; this is an interesting 70-minute documentary, narrated by Tim Pigott-Smith and broadcast by the BBC (it includes video from a visit with John Bennett Shaw).

A "Jubiläumsfest Sherlock Holmes" will be held in Meiringen on May 27-29 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Sherlock Holmes' fateful encounter with Professor Moriarty, and the 25th anniversary of the opening of the Sherlock Holmes Museum in Meiringen. Visit <www.tinyurl.com/ztsude9> to find more information on the program (which includes a video contest open to all).

Mar 16 #5 "Shisha no teikoku" ["The Empire of Corpses"] is a new Japanese animation (Sep 15 #3), released in Japan in October and due for release in the U.S. in April; Marsha Pollak saw the film at the Cinequest Film Festival in San Jose, and thought the film was very well done. John Watson is recruited by the British government for a covert mission in Afghanistan, where he poses as a newly recruited medic for the British army and learns that humans are being brought back from the dead in the form of Frankenstein's monster."

Josh Lanyon is a prolific author of male/male romance fiction, including a "Holmes & Moriarity" series starring mystery author Christopher Holmes and former police officer J.X. Moriarity, and with occasion allusions to Sherlock Holmes; the first two titles in the series are SOMEBODY KILLED HIS EDITOR (Macon: Samhain, 2010; 268 pp., \$15.00) and ALL SHE WROTE (2011; 270 pp., \$15.00). The author's website is at <www.joshlanyon.com>.

Dan Stashower has noted Jennibick Custom Journals at <www.jenniebick.com>; they produce handsome blank notebooks, among them an attractive series of paperblanks that includes a Sherlock Holmes journal decorated with a passage from a Sherlock Holmes manuscript (\$14.95) <www.tinyurl.com/zmyfj46>.

The International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition is at the Telus World of Science in Edmonton <www.telusworldofscienceedmonton.ca> through Sept. 5, and at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle, Wash., Oct. 13-Jan. 8. The exhibition then goes overseas, to the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, Australia, May 6-Oct 8, 2017, and to the Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taipei, Taiwan, Dec. 1-Mar. 4, 2018.

The exhibition "J.M.W. Turner & The Art of Watercolor" (open through Apr. 10) at the Higgins Art Gallery and Museum in Bedford) includes his iconic 1804 painting of the Reichenbach Falls, which is owned by the Museum. The painting has been seen twice in the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, at the end of the second season, and in the recent Christmas special, and was loaned for display at last year's Sherlock Holmes exhibition at the Museum of London; it's on-line in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/hptv8q5>.

Greg Ruby has reported readings (audio only) of "The Poetry of Arthur Conan Doyle" at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zvbohog>; they're nicely done.

Earle Wilkinson's THE ADVENTURES OF SWEARLOT HOLMES (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 117 pp., \$9.95) comes with a "Parental Advisory: Explicit Content" on the cover and offers a collection of obscene and profane vignettes inspired by illustrations in The Strand Magazine; the author also write children's books, and has a web-site at <www.deanwilkinson.net>. Tracy Revels' SHAD-WWRAITH: A NOVEL OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2011; 206 pp., \$14.95) is the third in her series, with Holmes and Watson again in the world of wizards and wizardry, in pursuit of a spell on one of the pages missing from the Devil's Bible, and in a battle with the spirit of "the most evil man who ever lived." Hannah Rogers' A GUIDE TO DEDUCTION (2015; 130 pp., \$9.95) is subtitled as "the ultimate handbook for any aspiring Sherlock Holmes or Doctor Watson" and offers 500 tips on how and what to observe, and what to deduce from the observations, along with some helpful hints from Holmes himself. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Mar 16 #6 Howard Ostrom's data-base of actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes now has more than 1,800 entries, most of them with photographs; you can access it at Ross K. Foad's "No Place Like Holmes" web-site <www.nplh.co.uk>; use the "More" button to go to The Diogenes Club Library (where you'll find the data-base and additional essays by Howard, as well as some Diogenes Documentaries based on Howard's research).

Theatrics: The Aquila Theatre's bus-and-truck production of "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is still touring, and it will be in Brooklyn in April and in Queens in May; details on the New York at <www.aquilatheatre.com>. It's a new dramatization of three Canonical stories by Desiree Sanchez, and it is done with grace and style and humor. Recommended.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is running at the Gaslight Dinner Theatre in Dickson, Tenn., through Apr. 9; web-site at <www.gaslightdinnertheatre.org>. And it will be performed at the Syracuse Stage in Syracuse, N.Y., May 11 through 29 <www.syracusestage.org> and at the Weathervane Playhouse in Newark, Ohio, July 14-23; that web-site is at <www.weathervaneplayhouse.org>.

Jerry R. Montoya's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced at the Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom, Calif., Apr. 9-May 8; their web-site's at <www.sutterstreettheatre.com>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Adventure" has been scheduled at the Pierce College Theatre in Woodland Hills, Calif., from Apr. 22 to May 1 <www.info.piercecollege.edu/theater>, and at the Dutch Country Players Theatre in Telford, Pa., Nov. 4-19 <www.dcptheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at Trinity Fulton Church in Clinton, Ohio, Apr. 29-May 9; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/quyazq8>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., from May 2 until May 31 <www.vertigotheatre.com>.

The Baker Street Players will offer the world premiere of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the American Twins" (a new play by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro) at Baker Street West in Jackson, Calif., from May 20 to June 11; Baker Street West has a Facebook page, but no web-site.

Jessica Wright Buha's "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of Portage Park" is scheduled by the Filament Theatre Ensemble in Chicago from May 21 to July 23 <www.filamenttheatre.org>; "Sherlock Holmes on bike or on foot, searching for clues in and around Portage Park."

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Creede Repertory Theatre in Creede, Colo., May 27-July 10 <www.creederep.org>.

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Apr 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Douglas Wilmer ("The Lyceum Theatre") died on Mar. 31. He made his stage debut in London in 1945, had a long career as an actor, with many Sherlockian credits: he was a splendid Sherlock Holmes in the 1964-1965 BBC television series, played Holmes again in the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), and read twenty of the stories released by Penguin on audiocassettes in 1998 (many Sherlockians got to meet him when he toured the U.S. promoting the audiocassette sets. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 2000, and had a cameo as an outraged member of the Diogenes Club, happily wearing his BSI bow tie in an episode ("The Reichenbach Fall") in the BBC "Sherlock" television series. Scott Monty has a nice tribute to Wilmer at <www.tinyurl.com/jy78123>.

"The Sacred Flame Coal Fire" (1943) is an amusing British film found by Alexander Orlov at the British Pathé web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hoyqa4r>, with Holmes and Watson encouraging the Brits to save fuel.

There was one successful bidder at the auction of Conan Doyle manuscripts at Bonhams in New York on Apr. 11 (Mar 16 #1): the manuscript of "The Problem of Thor's Bridge" sold for \$220,000 (or \$269,000 including the buyer's premium). Bidding on the other manuscripts did not reach the reserves, so the manuscripts went unsold. The manuscript of Christopher Morley's "Where the Blue Begins" sold for \$12,000 (or \$15,000 including the buyer's premium). Detailed descriptions of the Conan Doyle items are available at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/zeetnbx>.

The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street have organized their next "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze on Sept. 18 at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J. More information is available from Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net>.

And the 57th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago will be held on Oct. 22. Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net> is in charge of their mailing list.

Ernie Chan's original artwork for the cover of the DC comic book THE JOKER #6 (March/April 1976), from the collection of Jerry Margolin, will be offered by Heritage Auctions at a sale in New York on May 13; the issue featured Denny O'Neil's story "Sherlock Stalks the Joker" (and the cover shows "the Master Sleuth" and "the Clown Prince of Crime"). You can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/hx6r9ld>.

Further to an earlier item (Jan 07 #3) about copies of Conan Doyle's books that were brought to the Antarctic (THE GREEN FLAG AND OTHER STORIES OF WAR AND SPORT, brought by Capt. Robert Falcon Scott, and THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES, brought by Xavier Mertz), the Royal Geographic Society has carefully examined a photograph of Sir Ernest Shackleton's cabin on the Endurance, taken in March 1915, and identified his books: one of them was E. W. Hornung's RAFFLES, dedicated by Hornung to his brother-in-law Conan Doyle. The Endurance became trapped in the ice and eventually sank; all the members of the crew survived, but not the books. You can see the photograph, and a list of all the books, at <www.bbc.com/news/magazine-35633374>.

Apr 16 #2 Anthony Read died on Nov. 21, 2015. He worked as an actor and then as an advertising copywriter, and joined the BBC in 1963; beginning a long career as a scriptwriter and producer, with more than 200 television credits. He worked on Douglas Wilmer's "Sherlock Holmes" series (1965) and "The Baker Street Boys" (1983); he also wrote the script for one of the shows in Erich Schellow's "Sherlock Holmes" television series (1967) and a long series of young-adult THE BAKER STREET BOYS novels.

Sean Wright has noted an early (sort of) Sherlockian calabash in Stan Laurel's "The Sleuth" (1925): Laurel (detective Webster Dingle) is seen with a deerstalker and (twice) with a parody calabash in the film, which is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/he69cwr>.

The world of comic books sure has changed. Robyn Hood has her own series, published by Zenescope <www.zenescope.com>, with alternate covers for each issue (quite common now); what's new is "exclusive" additional alternate covers "printed on a brilliant piece of metal" in an edition limited at 25 copies; issue 19 (Jan. 2016) costs \$250.00 for cover E (the same artwork, by Elias Chatzoudis, appears on cover D, only \$15.00). Note: only the cover artwork for the issue is Sherlockian.



Joseph Bell's copy of THE CAPTAIN OF THE POLESTAR AND OTHER TALES (a third edition published in 1892), inscribed by Conan Doyle to Bell, went to auction at Laurences Auctioneers on Feb. 5, estimated at £2,000-£3,000, and it sold for £1,800.

"Sherlock Holmes: Celebrating 125 Years of Perfection in Detection" is the title of an evening event honoring the anniversary of the publication of "A Scandal in Bohemia" in The Strand Magazine, at the Mid-Manhattan Branch of the N.Y. Public Library (Fifth Avenue at 40th Street) on June 14, 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The event will feature a panel that includes Lyndsay Faye, Otto Penzler, and SJ Rozan, and is open to all at no charge.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced details of its London Mini-Festival Weekend on May 19-22, and the publication (at the end of May) of its facsimile edition of the manuscript of "The Abbey Grange"; more information is available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jxwkq4o>.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has an exhibition on "The Power of Poison" through July 24 <www.cmnh.org>, organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, with a mini-display exploring the use of poisons in books about Sherlock Holmes and Harry Potter; Dan Stashower reports it's an excellent exhibition, and there's an interesting web-site about it at <www.tinyurl.com/h2nuvwm>.

Does anyone recognize this pastiche? "In a Sherlock Holmes story, a friend of Dr. Watson is due to receive an inheritance on the New Year's Day of the year of his 21st birthday. The law deprives him of the money as he was born on Feb. 29. Holmes eventually helps him to fake his death long enough for his grandson, who is the appropriate age to receive the inheritance, to establish his claim and receive the money himself." From a story in the Lima (OH) News (Feb. 28) on interesting aspects of Leap Day.

Apr 16 #3 Fans of "Elementary" will recall the episode in which a villain used a lap-top computer to commit murder by taking control of the victim's pacemaker. Jennie Paton has noted a report that the Food and Drug Administration has issued draft guidance that directs manufacturers to evaluate their devices to ensure that "security vulnerabilities won't affect clinical performance" <www.tinyurl.com/jmd8ot2>.

Christy Allen reports that The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars has a new web-site <www.scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians>; the web-site offers interesting information on past meetings and on library collections dedicated to Sherlock Holmes or Arthur Conan Doyle (there are more of them than you might expect).

A "Downton Abbey" crossover with "Sherlock Holmes" (noted by Paul Herbert): Hugh Bonneville (who played Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham), was known as Richard Bonneville earlier in his career, when he played Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994).

Booktrack's "enhanced" version of "The Speckled Band" (Feb 11 #4) offered sound effects and a soundtrack for reading the story on your a wide variety of digital platforms, and they've now done "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (with all 12 stories) (\$1.99) <www.tinyurl.com/zoobsme>. You can sample "A Scandal in Bohemia" at the web-site.

Adrienne Corri died on Mar. 13. She made her film debut in 1949, and went on to many other performances on stage, screen, and television in Britain; including the unfortunate Angela Osborne in John Neville's "A Study in Terror" (1965).

Lyndsay Faye's JANE STEELE (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016; 422 pp., \$27.00) is inspired by Charlotte Brontë's JANE EYRE, and far more interesting; it's difficult not to keep reading when a novel starts "Of all my many murders, committed for love and for more better reasons, my first was the most important." Lyndsay says her novel is a romantic satire, and so it is (and it's great fun).

Alexander Orlov reports that it's possible to see a display of some of the props used in the Russian Livanov/Solomin television series (1979-1986) at Lenfilm Studios in St. Petersburg <www.tinyurl.com/h3jsffk>.

M. J. Carter's THE INFIDEL STAIN (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 2016; 417 pp., \$27.00) is a sequel to her THE STRANGLER VINE (Apr 15 #4); it's set in London at the beginning of the 1840s, with Jeremiah Blake having returned from India and working as a private enquiry agent, skilled in observation and deduction, and assisted once again by his friend William Avery. There is a series of brutal murders, a complicated mystery, and a vivid picture of London in the time of Charles Dickens. Carter's interesting web-site is at <www.mj-carter.com>.

Kent H. Ross died on Mar. 23. He served as Gasogene of the Confederates of Wisteria Lodge in Atlanta, and then was a member of the Agra Treasurers of Dayton, and in 2005 was the founder and director of the Gathering of Southern Sherlockians in Chattanooga.

Apr 16 #4 Further to the item on metal plates apparently created in 1940 by way of celebrating Macmillan's publication of Vincent Starrett's 221B: STUDIES IN SHERLOCK HOLMES, displayed by Javier Doria during the birthday festivities in New York (Oct 14 #2), Greg Ruby has an updated and detailed history of the plates at the web-site of The Fourth Garrideb <www.tinyurl.com/gn5dz4e>.

The 2016 issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle (it's their 33rd annual issue), offering 65 pages of scholarship, quizzes, pastiches, recipes, reports on the society and its members, and reprint of an amusing item in the Tacoma Daily Register occasioned by Sir Arthur's visit to the Pacific northwest in 1923. The cost of the annual is \$13.00 postpaid (\$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.



There are Sherlockian pins and buttons and medals, and a newly-reported patch that represents the BSI, or at least some organization with those initials. Bill Mason would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide any information about this patch: who issued it, where, when, and why; his e-mail address is <www.billemason@aol.com>.

Sherlock Seattle has scheduled its first "Watson Washington" convention on Oct. 21-23; they will be celebrating all things Watson, and there's additional information at <www.sherlock-seattle.org>

STX Entertainment has acquired the film rights to David Jaher's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (Nov 15 #3); the book is a carefully-researched and detailed history of Mina Crandon, whose performance as the medium Margery involved both Houdini and Conan Doyle.

Kate Karlson is disposing of some of her Sherlockian collection, including some books signed or inscribed by their authors, and will be happy to send you her sales list <kkarlson@stny.rr.com>.

Further to the report (Feb 16 #1) on the reopening of The Sherlock Holmes in Northumberland Street: its web-site <www.sherlockholmes-stjames.co.uk> has an interesting photo-gallery (note that the on-tap offerings at the bar include The Sherlock Holmes Ale and Watson's Wallop!

Chris Caswell, formerly the proprietor of Sherlocks Home Mystery Bookstore in Long Beach, Calif., and the Baker Street Emporium in Seal Beach, Calif., has a shop at Etsy <www.tinyurl.com/kxvzxb>, called aSherlocksHome, where he offers a variety of Sherlockiana, including an empty bottle of the 1995 vintage of Sherlock's Claret; say the secret word [Scuttlebutt] to receive a 10% discount on any of merchandise.

The Plymouth Herald reported (Mar. 4) that a blue plaque will be installed at 6 Elliot Terrace on the Hoe, where Conan Doyle lived when he worked with George Turnavine Budd in 1882; Conan Doyle left Plymouth to set up his own practice in Southsea, where he wrote A STUDY IN SCARLET.

Apr 16 #5 "The Telephone Girl" was a series of two-reel shorts released in 1924 starring Alberta Vaughn (Gladys Murgatroyd); the fourth film in the series was "Sherlock's Home" with Edward Hearne (light heavy-weight champion of the world "Hurricane" Sherlock), and Jennie Paton notes that you can see the film at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j24l852>. The film's Sherlockian only for its title and the name of the boxer.

Greenpeace activists protesting dangerous air-quality levels in London strapped emergency face masks on the faces of iconic statues in the city on Apr. 18, as part of a campaign calling for a clean-air zone covering a large part of London; the most prominent of the statues was the one of Lord Nelson, on top of the 170-foot-high Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. Other statues included Oliver Cromwell and Winston Churchill outside Parliament, Queen Victoria opposite Buckingham Palace, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes near the Baker Street underground station.



Dilys Winn died on Feb. 5. She opened Murder Ink, the world's first bookshop devoted solely to mystery fiction, in New York in 1972; she sold the bookshop to Carol Brener in 1975, and went on to edit MURDER INK: A MYSTERY LOVER'S COMPANION, which won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1978. Dilys also edited MURDERESS INK: THE BETTER HALF OF THE MYSTERY (1979), and a revised and expanded edition of MURDER INK (1984). She appeared on the television show "To Tell the Truth" in 1972, and you can see her segment at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jqj7spy>.

Gareth Thomas died on Apr. 13. A British actor, best known for his role as Roj Blake in the television series "Blake's 7" (1978-1981), he also played Joseph Harrison in Granada's "The Naval Treaty" (1984).

Moriarty's Irish Pub (Aug 15 #7) is now open in Columbia, S.C. Named after the evil professor, it offers an Irene Adler cocktail: vodka, ripe strawberries, lemon juice, cane sugar, and mint ("like the woman it's named for, it's sweet, beautiful, and more dangerous than you realize").

Diane Vallere's A DISGUISE TO DIE FOR (New York: Berkley Prime Crime, 2016; 283 pp., \$7.99) is the first in a new series about Margo Tamblyn, who runs a family costume shop called Disguise DeLimit; one of her customers rents a Sherlock Holmes costume for a mystery-themed party and is murdered, so Margo needs to come up with a solution to a mystery that has many suspects and possible motives.

The Loch Ness Monster has been found! Well, one Loch Ness Monster has been found: a Norwegian company has been using an underwater robot equipped with sonar imaging to explore the loch, and has located the model of Nessie made for the movie "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970). The model sank during filming, and BBC News <www.tinyurl.com/zlrkupg> had an interesting report on the discovery. There's an additional Sherlockian connection with the monster: Shirley Dickensheet ("Ivy Douglas" in The Baker Street Irregulars), who was working for the Fireman's Fund when the model sank in 1969, noted that the company paid the claim for the loss (and got some nice publicity); anyone who wants to rescue the monster as a Sherlockian souvenir will need to have a discussion with the insurance company.

Apr 16 #6 Another demonstration of T. S. Eliot's enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes: in a letter to Charles Cyrus Hare, thanking him for his praise of *FOUR QUARTETS*, Eliot said that "They give me no less pleasure for being recognized by me as exaggerated, though, like Sherlock Holmes, I am ready to praise myself when I deserve it." The letter will be offered at Leslie Hindman Auctioneers in Chicago on May 5 <www.tinyurl.com/gtsy4b4>, estimated at \$800-\$1,200. So: where in the Canon is Sherlock Holmes ready to praise himself when he deserved it?

UIG Entertainment has released "Doctor Watson: The Riddle of the Catacombs" (a new "3D Hidden Object" game for your computer) (\$7.99); it's previewed at <www.steampowered.com/app/446440>.

"Adapting Sherlock Holmes" is a free virtual issue of the Oxford University Press' academic journal *Adaptation* <www.tinyurl.com/ja39svp>, offering interesting articles by Benjamin Poore, Ashley D. Polasek, Stephen Greer, and Richard Hewett.

Anglotopia ("the web-site for Anglophiles") has just the thing for tourists in Britain: A Guide to "Sherlock" Filming Locations Across the UK., posted on Feb. 2 by John Rabon <www.tinyurl.com/j73lqct>.

Flicker Alley (the distributor for Gillette's film "Sherlock Holmes") calls attention to a new development in preserving films for posterity: Technicolor (the company is celebrating its 100th anniversary) has preserved the classic George Méliès film "A Trip to the Moon" (1902) using a DNA process that may some day replace DVDs for archival storage. Read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/z8rg9wf>.

Flicker Alley also offers a 93-minute version of "The Lost World" (1925) on DVD <www.tinyurl.com/h7zbxhn>; 93 minutes and newly restored, which is as good as it gets until a complete archival copy of the film turns up.

Bill Dunning has noted "Dinosaur Comics" (described at Wikipedia as a "constrained webcomic") by Ryan North; he claims that he can't draw, and happily uses the same artwork for each strip but with different dialogue. North has won several awards for his work, and his web-site <www.qwantz.com> has a search engine that allows one to search for [sherlock holmes] and find a long list of Sherlockian strips; a search for [moriarty] will turn up one strip that doesn't mention Sherlock Holmes.

SecretBuilders, a company that makes mobile and on-line educational games for children, offers six hidden-object games based on the Canon, available without charge at <www.secretbuilders.com/home.html>.

AN ISTANBUL ANTHOLOGY, edited by Kaya Genç (American University in Cairo, 2015; 147 pp., \$18.95), is part of the publisher's series of "Travel Writing through the Centuries" and offers an interesting look at an exotic city through the eyes of writers such as Giacomo Canova, Ernest Hemingway, Herman Melville, Mark Twain, and Arthur Conan Doyle (who is represented by two excerpts from his autobiography *MEMORIES AND ADVENTURES*); Conan Doyle and his wife visited the city on their honeymoon, in 1907, when the Sultan Abdul Hamid sent a message saying that he had read Conan Doyle's books.

Apr 16 #7 Madame Tussauds in London plans to open "Sherlock Holmes: The Experience" on July 15; it's described in the press release as an "interactive theatre experience" that offers "theatrical sets, illusion, actors, sound effects, and spectacle" <www.tinyurl.com/jlkknd9>. And there will be a summer-season run starting on July 14 of "The Game's Afoot" in which visitors get to play detective.

A new addition to the genre of Sherlockian porno: "Sherlock: A XXX Parody" (2016) a 176-minute DVD produced by Digital Playground and available from Adult Empire <www.adultdvdempire.com> (\$29.99); the company also offers the earlier "The Secret of Harlot Hill" (2001).

Mario Faraone's SU IL SIPARIO WATSON! (Rome, Sapienza Universita Editrice, 2012; 620 pp., €18.00) is a detailed discussion (in Italian) of four Sherlockian plays: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" and "The Painful Predicament of Sherlock Holmes", Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Crown Diamond", and Anthony Nathan O'Malley's "Footsteps", and with Italian translations of the plays. O'Malley's "Footsteps" is a one-act play based on Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", published by the author in Haslemere in 1949 and catalogued by the British Library; apparently the play was neither formally published nor performed. Faraone's book is available at <www.amazon.it>.

Nick Utechin spotted a report that "Church Hatch" in Christchurch, Dorset, is for sale by Denisons <www.tinyurl.com/jaenkbc> for £1,550,000; the house "is very unique and rumour has it that when Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stayed in the house it inspired the Sherlock Holmes story 'The Speckled Band'."

Kit West died on Apr. 20. He was responsible for the "old school" mechanical effects on the 1981 film "Raiders of the Lost Ark" (1981), for which he won an Oscar; his many other films included "Dune" (1984) and "Star Wars VI: Return of the Jedi" (1993), and he was nominated for an Oscar for his work on "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985).

David Harnois continues to add to his dramatized readings of the Canon, and now has the first four stories at his "I Am Lost Without My Boswell" website <www.iamlostwithoutmyboswell.com>; you can listen to or download the dramatized readings, which are nicely done.

DC Smith has reported some new (and interesting) miniature books from the Bo Press <www.tinyurl.com/gn97ykh>: not copies of the Canon, but rather all of the known books, pamphlets, and monographs written by Holmes, but also books written by Moriarty and Moran. \$460 for twenty volumes (blank books) in a double-sided bookcase (according to Pat Smith, the proprietor of the press, the books are blank because "negotiations with the Moran and Moriarty heirs about permissions have been a bit fraught").

Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET JURORS (New York: Minotaur, 2016; 260 pp., \$24.99) is the fifth in his series about Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have their offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail, which in this book includes a jury summons for Holmes; Nigel also receives a summons, and serves on a jury in a murder trial, which provides readers with an interesting look at the British judicial system, and a complicated mystery.

Apr 16 #8 There is a report at the Get Surrey web-site (Apr. 22) that the DFN Foundation has announced that its Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, will open at the start of the autumn term on Sept. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/zcvhhp5>. And there will be an exhibition about the development of the school and Undershaw at the Haslemere Museum starting in June. You can watch a time-lapse video of work in progress at Undershaw at the Foundation's web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/j5njkat>.

Lee Eric Shackelford, author of the play "Holmes & Watson" (1989), has created an interesting web-series ("Herlock") that stars Alana Jordan (Jonny Watts) and Gia Mora (Sheridan Hume). The pilot episode ("Silver Blade") is available at YouTube and at the series web-site <www.herlock.us>.

Theater news: Paul Giovanni's "The Crucifer of Blood" will be presented by the National Institute for the Deaf at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y., May 5-8 <www.tinyurl.com/gr2y663>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" has been scheduled at the Roswell Community Little Theatre in Roswell, N.M., from May 6 to May 15 <www.roswelltheatre.com>.

Old West Melodrama will present "Holmes Sweet Homicide" (featuring Hemlock Holmes and his female sidekick Whatsun) at Puffabellys Depot Restaurant in Old Town Spring, Tex., May 13-28 <www.oldwestmelodrama.com>.

Malcolm Sircom's "Olivia: A Musical for Junior Schools" will be performed at the Wellington Arts Centre in Wellington, Somerset, June 22-25; there's no web-site, but the box-office's phone number is 01823-662780. Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are characters in the show).

Andy Diemer's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of National Secrets" will be performed at the Master Arts Theatre in Grand Rapids, Mich., June 3-11 <www.masterarts.org>.

Tim Kelly's dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Prana Center Yoga and Acting Studio in Holliston, Mass., July 8-9 <www.pranacenter.org>.

Kandie Carle's play "William Gillette: Senator's Son to Super Sleuth" will be performed by the East Haddam Stage Company at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., July 9-Aug. 14. The company also will tour performing Gillette's 1930 radio script for "The Speckled Band", Sept. 9-Oct. 15, and they plan to produce "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Christmas Goose", from Thanksgiving to Christmas <www.ehsco.org>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will be performed at the Millbrook Playhouse in Mill Hall, Pa., July 22-31; web-site <www.millbrookplayhouse.org>; at the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage in Vancouver, B.C., Sept. 8-Oct. 9 <www.artsclub.com>; and at the Meadow Brook Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Oct. 5-30 <www.mbtheatre.com>.

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May 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians who remember the early Sherlockian PC games, and Sherlockians who aren't that old, will enjoy an article by Justin Andress on "The History of Sherlock Holmes in Video Games, on-line at the Inverse web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/zrofvqg>; Andress notes the early appearance of "Sherlock" (released by Beam Software in 1984). But that certainly wasn't the first Sherlockian computer game: Radio Shack's "Quick Watson" ("one computer game that old Sherlock would surely have found fascinating!") was reported (Sep 80 #1) in their TRS-80 software library, available for \$4.95. Does anyone know of anything earlier?

"It's Elementary, My Dear Watson That I Owe My Life to William Gillette" is an interesting 41-minute broadcast on WNPR-FM (Hartford) on Feb. 10, available for listening or download <www.tinyurl.com/gwtyena>; the program featured interviews with Henry Zecher, Susan Dahlinger, and Shera Cohen, who has written a one-act play "Elementary, My Dear Fellow") about Gillette.

"Our mission: build better brains" is the motto of Marbles: The Brain Store, and they offer excellent and challenging puzzles and games, including "The Sherlock" (an imaginative puzzle created by the company) and available from them (\$49.95) in their stores or on-line at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/z7kfskn>.



Manuscript alert: one page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will go to auction at Christie's in New York on June 16, estimated at \$80,000-\$120,000 <www.tinyurl.com/jkavuf6>. Randall Stock's detailed discussion of the page will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h2rwn cz>.

There may be something Sherlockian in the new "Star Trek: All Access" television series announced by CBS-TV for Jan. 2017: one of the writers on the series is Nicholas Meyer, who wrote the screenplay for "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) and directed the film; Meyer had Christopher Plummer (as Klingon General Chang) say "The game's afoot." While Chang was quoting from Shakespeare rather than the Canon, there's an additional interesting story, told by Ryan Britt at the Den of Geek web-site on Feb. 29: according to Britt, Meyer is the reason why "Star Trek" made it out of the 80s: without his direction and writing of "The Wrath of Khan" in 2009, we could live in an alternate universe in which J. J. Abrams never makes "Star Trek" and by extension "The Force Awakens" never exists. Meyer's bar mitzvah present for a very-young J. J. Abrams was a copy of THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.

Each year the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom compiles a list of the ten most frequently challenged books (based on reports and media stories noted by the ALA of written complaints filed with a library or school requesting that materials be removed because of content or appropriateness. In 2015 the fifth most frequently challenged book was Mark Haddon's THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME, challenged for "offensive language, religious viewpoint, unsuited for age group, and other (profanity and atheism)." There's more information about the list at <www.tinyurl.com/p8vccjd>.

May 16 #2 "The Case of the Curious Trademark and Contemptible Registration" is what Michael Lee calls the filing by Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. opposing an application by Universal to register a trademark for "Sherlock Homeboy", saying that Universal's use of the mark will "tarnish and degrade the positive associations and prestigious connotations" of the CDEL trademarks. You can read Lee's post at the Pirated Thoughts web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hjxoods>; his blog has other interesting entries dealing with battles over copyright, trademarks, counterfeits, and much more.

Philip K. Jones' data-base of Sherlockian pastiches, parodies, and related fiction now has 11,198 entries; the 3-MB EXCEL file is available on request from Phil <pkenj@wowway.com>. It's far more than merely a list of authors and titles, and an excellent (some might say frightening) demonstration of how popular Sherlock Holmes is.

Martin Edwards' THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER (Oct 15 #5) has won an Edgar (best biographical/critical) from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Agatha (best non-fiction) from Malice Domestic. Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES (Jan 15 #5) also won an Agatha (best historical novel).

David Stuart Davies and Barry Forshaw have been nominated for an H. R. F. Keating Award (best biographical or critical book related to crime fiction) for THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK at CrimeFest in Bristol May 20, as was Martin Edwards for THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER. Laurie R. King's DREAMING SPIES also was nominated for the Kobo eDunnit Award (best crime fiction e-book). And Edward's THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER has been nominated for an Anthony (best critical of nonfiction book at Bouchercon in New Orleans, Sept. 15-18).

"The Abbey of Crime Extensum" is an on-line adventure game inspired by Umberto Eco's THE NAME OF THE ROSE (both the novel and the film); it's available free at <www.store.steampowered.com/app/474030>.

Bill Peschel has continued his 223B Casebook Series, presenting the results of his pursuit of the many parodies and pastiches published in newspapers, magazines, and books, reprinted with annotations and brief year-by-year accounts of what Conan Doyle was doing at the time. The latest volumes are SHERLOCK HOLMES: EDWARDIAN PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1905-1909 (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2016; 385 pp.) and SHERLOCK HOLMES: GREAT WAR PARODIES AND PASTICHES II: 1915-1919 (379 pp.) (each \$15.99), and it's grand fun to see such a wide variety of homages to the Great Detective. His web-site is at <www.peschelpress.com>. The first volume of "Great War Parodies and Pastiches" will be published soon.

Bill does not restrict his literary endeavors to Sherlockian pastiches and parodies: he also enjoys Dorothy L. Sayers, and his THE COMPLETE, ANNOTATED WHOSE BODY? includes discussion of the Sherlockian allusions in her novel in his 500 footnotes and nine essays. He has blogged about the book at his web-site Planet Peschel <www.tinyurl.com/zy8ldv7>.

Bill also has published three volumes devoted to Dr. William Palmer (who's mentioned in the Canon: "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession"). Palmer was considered "the prince of poisoners, and you'll find Bill's books at <www.tinyurl.com/gw95q29>.

May 16 #3 Lenny Picker has noted a second "Downton Abbey" crossover with "Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 16 #3): Hugh Bonneville (Robert Crawley, the Earl of Grantham) appeared as Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994) and as Merridew in "The Remarkable Performance of Mr. Frederick Merridew" in the BBC radio series "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (2008).

"Sherlock Holmes & the Internet of Things" was launched last year as an attempt "to build a massive connected crime scene consisting of smart storytelling objects," sponsored by the Columbia University Digital Storytelling Lab (Aug 15 #7); it's now a going concern, and registration for this year's MOOC [Massive Online/Offline Collaboration] opened on May 24. This year's first crime scene will be staged at Lincoln Center in New York during the New York Film Festival (Sept. 30-Oct. 16), and a Sherlock Global Challenge is scheduled for Oct. 24-25 <www.2106.sherlockholmes.io>. There are videos about last year's event available at YouTube <www.youtube.com>.

Aziz Bin Adam notes that you can watch more than 15 minutes of gameplay for the upcoming computer game "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" due from Frogwares on May 27 <www.tinyurl.com/jbqu36u>.

Don Pollock has noted an interesting post to The Key Reporter by Samantha Yates <www.tinyurl.com/zazetaq> about the Westminster Detective Library, an on-line work-in-progress with the goal of cataloguing and making available all of the short fiction dealing with detectives and detection published in the United States before Conan Doyle's "A Scandal in Bohemia" in July 1891 (and there's a lot of it) <www.tinyurl.com/3u7lzu9>.

[Apr 16 #2] I asked if anyone recognized a pastiche: "In a Sherlock Holmes story, a friend of Dr. Watson is due to receive an inheritance on the New Year's Day of the year of his 21st birthday. The law deprives him of the money as he was born on Feb. 29. Holmes eventually helps him to fake his death long enough for his grandson, who is the appropriate age to receive the inheritance, to establish his claim and receive the money himself."

Compliments and thanks to Pat Villacrusis and Michael W. McClure: the pastiche is the Rathbone/Bruce radio program "The Case of the Iron Box" (Dec. Dec 31, 1945), and you can listen to it at <www.tinyurl.com/h6tybk9>.

SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEHIND THE CANONICAL SCREEN offers papers from the Baker Street Irregulars' conference at UCLA in 2012 (257 pp., \$29.95); edited by Lyndsay Faye and Ashley D. Polasek, with eighteen papers, many of them illustrated, and all of them interesting. Recommended both to those who attended the festivities and to those who would like to see what they missed. Details on the volume, and the chapter on "The Great Mouse Detective" (by two of its directors) are at <www.tinyurl.com/zhvut5y>.

Donald Sosin, who wrote the score for the four musicians who performed at the San Francisco premiere of the restoration of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" last year, has been commissioned by the Odessa International Film Festival to expand his score for a 45-piece orchestra. He has created an Indigogo campaign to fund the project (which he calls "Sherlock Holmes: The Odessa Connection"); details at <www.tinyurl.com/hpb3hjy>.

May 16 #4 Laura C. Berry will present a course on "The Long Life of Sherlock Holmes" at Arizona State University beginning June 7, and you can see her video promotion of the course at <www.tinyurl.com/jsvqzx3>. It's an excellent demonstration of modern technology: the company that made the video recorded her in front of a green screen, and their final version has her (as Alexander Orlov has observed) at Lenfilm Studios in St. Petersburg in the display of some of the props used in the Russian Livanov/Solomin television series (1979-1986).

For those who have jumbo television screens at home, there's a new 4K technology that offers higher definition, and Ian Richardson's television films "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "The Sign of Four" (1983) are available in a new 4K restoration courtesy of Second Sight (with new audio commentary by David Stuart Davies). The films are in Blu-ray (region B) and DVD (region 2), and you can buy them at Amazon UK; you'll need multi-region players or computers to run the disks in other regions.

The Hounds of the Internet are still going strong, but the electronic mailing list has not always been exclusively bits-and-bytes: ten volumes of THE HOUNDS COLLECTION were published, from 1996 onward, offering those who preferred ink-on-paper a dead-tree selection of material that had been posted to the mailing list. Ron Lies <rlies1@msn.com> wants to complete his run, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who is willing to part with the first two volumes.

Leslie Katz has noted an interesting web-site "Survey of London: Recording the History of London's Built Environment Since 1894" maintained by the University College London, where there's a new posting about the Langham Hotel <www.tinyurl.com/htfheng>; the Langham's mentioned in three of Sherlock Holmes' cases. And the web-site's well worth exploring for other Canonical geography.

The 2016 edition of the Green Bag Almanac & Reader includes a "new lawyerly edition" of "The Reigate Puzzle" with extensive annotations by Sherlockians and non-Sherlockians, a reprint and discussion of "The Field Bazaar" (with a for-the-first-time facsimile of Conan Doyle's pastiche's first appearance in The Student in 1896) and other interesting Sherlockian content. It's a splendid contribution to Sherlockian scholarship, and you can find extracts on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nl4nxhh> (with extracts from 2015 as well). If you go to <www.ssrn.com> and search for [arthur conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes], you'll get even more hits, from the Green Bag and elsewhere. Ross Davies (editor of the Green Bag) reports that next year's edition will have less Sherlockian content, but we can expect a flip-book version of "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" (1900).

The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Literary Estate has revised its web-site, which can be found at <www.arthurconandoyle.com>; the web-site reports that Andrea Plunket became gravely ill in December 2014 and that the company now is managed by the remaining family of Andrea's mother Lady Etelka Duncan. Another company, Arthur Conan Doyle Characters Ltd., is reported to own the European trademark rights to Conan Doyle characters, and there's an account of the on-going battles with the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. The CDEL's web-site is at <www.conandoyleestate.com>.

May 16 #5 Ernie Chan's original cover artwork for the DC comic book THE JOKER #6 (March/April 1976) was offered by Heritage Auctions on May 13; the issue featured Denny O'Neil's story "Sherlock Stalks the Joker" (Apr 16 #1), and the artwork sold for \$8,365 (including the buyer's premium). You can see the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/hx6r9ld>.

"It all begins with the words," Steven Philip Jones explains in his introduction to SHERLOCK HOLMES IS ON THE AIR! (Caliber Comics, 2015; 172 pp., \$17.99), and it's an apt explanation of why it's so much fun to read radio scripts; the book contains two scripts by Jones and two scripts by Matthew J. Elliot from the long series produced by Jim French Productions for his Imagination Theater. The publisher's web-site's at <www.calibercomics.com> and you'll find all of the radio series at <www.jimfrenchproductions.com>.

Caliber also has published a graphic novel SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE RETIRED DETECTIVE (2015; 52 pp., \$8.99), written by Gary Reed with artwork by Wayne Reid, accompanied by a second story "Amazing Mr. Holmes" as well as "A Case of Identity" with illustrations by Reid. And MURDER AT THE CABARET (2016; 58 pp., \$8.99), written by Gary Reed and illustrated by Michael Zigerlig, a revised second edition (first published in 2010 as SHERLOCK HOLMES: MURDER AT MOULIN ROUGE and retitled after they received a letter from the Moulin Rouge complaining about trademark infringement).

Further to the report (Jan 16 #4) on the Criterion Restaurant, open again as the Savini at Criterion <www.saviniatcriterion.co.uk>, there was a lengthy (and unenthusiastic) review of the restaurant in the Daily Telegraph on Apr. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/hrcoe2t>.

"The Lost Special" (1932) was a 12-episode Universal Pictures serial based on Conan Doyle's story (considered by many to be Apocryphal), up-dated and set in the American west, and available on a DVD <www.tinyurl.com/zne3ebg> (Sep 08 #2); Greg Ruby reports that you can also now view it (free) at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/znumhba>. Many Sherlockians believe that the Apocrypha are stories that involve Holmes (even though he's not named) and should be considered for possible inclusion in the accepted Canon.

Ross E. Davies, noting the lack of a go-to web-site for Sherlockian Toasts, has remedied that lapse <www.rossdavies.org/toasts>. If you have given an appropriate toast, you can send the text and other details to Ross (at the link at his web-site).

There are two interesting Conan Doyle items in the spring/summer 2016 catalog from Peter L. Stern <www.sternrarebooks.com>: an archive of letters to Maj. J. B. Pond about Conan Doyle's American lecture tour in 1894 (\$65,000) [item 24096P] and the original corrected typescript of Conan Doyle's 1906 play "Brigadier Gerard" (\$22,500) [item 31067P].

There are a few Sherlockians who fondly remember seeing the Rathbone/Bruce film "Terror by Night" when it was screened by Chris Steinbrunner on board the Essex Steam Train in the Connecticut Valley; the train's still running, this summer hosting "Passengers from the Past" who included (on June 25-26) William and Helen Gillette (impersonated by Tyke and Teddie Niver). They can be seen in costume and in color at <www.tinyurl.com/h8ch94w>.

May 16 #6 Further to reports (Sep 14 #7 and Dec 14 #5) of a new "Sherlock Holmes" coming to Broadway in 2017, Playbill reported (May 11) that the play will have its British premiere in the summer of 2017 en route to Broadway; Daniel Evans will direct the play, which has been written by Rachel Wagstaff and Duncan Abel: "Staged as a mystery within a mystery, the case presented to Holmes forces him to confront his murky past. But is the unravelling of his childhood just a dangerous diversion?"

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" is on at the Lowe Auditorium in Upper Fern Gully, Vic. (Australia) through June 4 <www.1812theatre.com.au>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" is scheduled at the Wilson Theatre in South Bend, Ind., June 3-12 <www.sbct.org>. And at the Whittier Community Theatre in Whittier, Calif., June 3-18; web-site at <www.whittiercommunitytheatre.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Invisible Thing" (a new play by Greg Freeman and Ken McClymont) will be performed at the Tabard Theatre in London, June 7-July 16 <www.tabardweb.co.uk>.

The KSP Theatre Group will present Simon Denver's panto "Sheer Luck Holmes" at the KSP Theatre in Burpengary, Qld., Australia, from June 10 to June 19 <www.ksptheatreinc.net>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Hidden Notes" (a new play) is due at The Meteor in Hamilton, New Zealand, June 29-July 2 <www.themeteor.co.nz>.

"Sherlock's Veiled Secret" (by K. C. Brown and Arne Zaslove), is due at the Hopewell Playhouse in Hopewell, N.J., July 1-30 <www.off-broadstreet.com>

"Sherlock Holmes and the Beast of Whitechapel" (a new play by Lawrence Burgess and John Johnson) will be performed by the Astral Theatre Collective at the Alban Arts and Conference Center in St. Albans, W. Va., July 8 to 17 <www.astraltheatrecollective.wordpress.com>, and then will tour in W. Va.

Millie Hardy Sims' adaptation of "Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Workington, July 16-17 <www.workington-playgoers.org.uk>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Pittsburgh Playwrights Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., July 21-Aug. 7 <www.kinetictheatre.org>.

Gus Kaikonnen's new play "Sherlock!" will be performed at the Peterborough Players Theatre in Peterborough, N.H., Aug. 20-27; the theater's web-site is at <www.peterboroughplayers.org>.

The Servant Stage Company will present "Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Doctor" at the Black Box Theatre at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 <www.servantstagecompany.com>.

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Jun 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Get Surrey web-site noted (June 11) that the Waverley Borough Council has approved plans for a games area, paths, and an outdoor learning area at the Stepping Stones School at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home; according to a report by the Council's planning officers, "the proposal would not harm the special interest of the listed building nor cause harm to its significance including its setting and would appear visually acceptable." The school will re-site the historical airing shed that Conan Doyle had built for his wife Touie, who suffered from tuberculosis while they lived there.

Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club, one of the many weird and wonderful Sherlockian societies, held its Quadrennial Mongoose Hunt this year (organized, as always, by Don Izban), and you can see photographs from the event in the May issue of Carolyn and Joel Senter's "Baker Street Bulletin" <www.sherlock-holmes.com/e_times16-5.htm>. The next hunt is scheduled for Feb. 29, 2020.

Dame Ngaio Marsh had (and has) many admirers who continue to enjoy her novels about Inspector Roderick Alleyn. She wrote much more than that: there is an interesting volume of COLLECTED SHORT MYSTERIES (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2015; 236 pp., \$14.95), edited and introduced by Douglas G. Greene. First published as THE COLLECTED SHORT FICTION OF NGAIO MARSH (1989), the book includes two essays ("Roderick Alleyn" and "Portrait of Troy") about her characters and their creation, and the essays include some insightful commentary on Conan Doyle and Holmes.

They're off and running: the 2016 Wessex Cup (For the Sake of the Trust) is scheduled Oct. 8 at Laurel Park in Laurel, Md. Greg Ruby is organizing the event, and there's more information at <www.tinyurl.com/zq9r4vg>.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) met to honor the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at The James Joyce in Calgary on June 22, welcomed by members of The Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen. The geologists' next dinners will be on Sept. 28 in Denver, and on Apr. 5, 2017, in Houston.

"The Case of Sherlock Holmes" was a 70-minute documentary narrated by Tim Piggot-Smith and broadcast by the BBC in 1987, with appearances by The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, and by John Bennett Shaw and The Brothers Three of Moriarty (in Moriarty, N.M.). You can watch (almost all of) it at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jy57kfw>.

Howard Ostrom has reported an amusing appearance by Basil Rathbone on "The Frank Sinatra Show" on CBS-TV (Mar. 24, 1951): Rathbone, wearing Sherlockian costume, helps Sinatra find his missing lucky bow tie. You can watch the 7-minute skit at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hr9g5e5>.

The world of Lego extends far beyond the mere bricks they started with, and it now includes a variety of MOC [My Own Creation] Legos (that's pronounced "mock" according to an on-line Lego glossary). BrickWarriors produces what it calls a "gentleman's pipe" that you can see in an imaginative Sherlockian scene at <www.tinyurl.com/jh86xyg>.

Jun 16 #2 It's likely we'll see many more episodes of the CBS-TV series "Elementary": Les Moonves (chairman of the CBS Corp.) said this month that CBS had made approximately an \$80 million profit from the series last year. And Rob Doherty (creator, executive producer, and showrunner of the series) has closed a new three-year deal with CBS Television Studios; he'll continue as executive producer and showrunner on the series, and will develop and supervise new projects.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Clocktower Mystery" (the interactive exhibit with much Victorian flavor, and a mystery that visitors can solve) opened at the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center in Mobile, Ala., on May 28 and will run through Sept. 5 <www.exploreum.com>. <www.rivermuseum.com>.

"Mycroft Holmes and the Apocalypse Handbook" is a new comic-book mini-series from Titan Comics; written by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Raymond Obstfeld, artwork by Joshua Cassara. Previewed at <www.tinyurl.com/j2opoar>.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES BOOK (a new "bookazine" from Imagine Publishing) costs £9.99/\$19.99; it's subtitled "the facts & fiction behind the world's greatest detective" and is part of Imagine's "Curious Minds" series; it's interesting and well illustrated, but difficult to find in the U.S., and apparently available on-line only at <www.tinyurl.com/h9jvxnX>.



"They say good fortune breeds bad luck in the heart of the Cariboo. Whispers in the mines told of a hellish hound intent on keeping the gold in Barkerville, prompting superstitious miners to refrain from making a spectacle of their spoils. Especially on full moon nights." That's according to the label on Hound of the Barkerville Brown Ale, from the Barkerville Brewing Co. in Quesnel, B.C., discovered by Bob Coghill. "Keep the hounds at bay with this malt-forward brown ale, copper in colour with a satisfying and silky finish, the company promises, noting that it's malty, fierce, and mystical.

Does anyone have a copy of the March 1945 issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine? It contains "The Curious Incident of the Dog" (by Ralph Norman Weber), and I wonder if the story is Sherlockian in some way other than the allusion in the title.

Glenn Laxton ("Mr. James M. Dodd") died on June 8. He was a journalist and a historian; he began his career in journalism at WEOK-AM in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., and worked for WPRI-TV in Providence, R.I., for more than 40 years. He contributed an article on "Sherlock Holmes and the Six O'Clock News" to The Baker Street Journal, and was a member of The Hudson Valley Scientists and The Cornish Horrors, as well as The Sons of the Desert and the Screen Actors Guild. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1975.

Litographs (May 13 #6) has expanded its line of literary T-shirts and posters to include tote bags, all with artistic designs created from the text of books, including THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES <www.litographs.com>. Of more interest, perhaps, are their packets of temporary literary tattoos, one of the packets offering six Sherlockian designs. And you can click on "Tattoo Chain" to see an imaginative (non-Sherlockian) work-in-progress.

Jun 16 #3 Further to the review of the UCLA conference proceedings SHERLOCK HOLMES: BEHIND THE CANONICAL SCREEN (May 16 #3), the Baker Street Babes' podcast 74 <www.tinyurl.com/zc4fpqv> has 56 minutes of audio commentary on the conference and on the book, as well as links to video of the presentations by Ashley Polasek ("A Study in Terror vs. Murder by Decree") and Lyndsay Faye (on "The Women: Sex and Success in the Canon, Warner Brothers, and the BBC's Sherlock"), and their following Q&A. And there is much more of interest at the Babes' web-site.

The page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" offered at auction at Christie's in New York on June 16 (May 16 #1) with an estimate of \$80,000-\$120,000 did not make the reserve and thus went unsold. Randall Stock's notes on the page will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/h2rwn cz>.

Jennie Paton has kindly reported a splendid 64-minute post-mortem on "The Abominable Bride" (the tenth episode of the BBC's "Sherlock" series), and it's well worth watching <www.tinyurl.com/groqxnv>: Boyd Hilton hosts Sue Vertue, Mark Gatiss, Steven Moffat, and Amanda Abbington.

G. S. Denning's WARLOCK HOLMES; A STUDY IN BRIMSTONE (London: Titan Books, 2016; 373 pp., \$14.95) features (from the back cover) Warlock Holmes (incompetent detective), Vladislav Lestrade (nihilist vampire), Torg Grogsson (house-proud ogre), and John Watson (terrified); it's an amusing spoof of six of the Canonical cases, and nicely done. Also from Titan: Stuart Douglas' THE ALBINO'S TREASURE (2015; 249 pp., \$9.95); Holmes and Watson are in pursuit of an inventive villain. Cavan Scott's THE PATCHWORK DEVIL (2016; 297 pp., \$14.95); a science-fiction adventure that starts with the discovery of a hand, freshly severed from a soldier who had died two years earlier. James Lovegrove's THE THINKING ENGINE (2015; 301 pp., \$14.95) brings Holmes and Watson to Oxford to investigate a computing device with far more power than Charles Babbage's difference engine, and Holmes finds himself in competition with the machine to solve a series of crimes perpetrated by an arch villain. Sam Siciliano's THE WHITE WORM (2016; 337 pp., \$9.95) adds to his series of accounts of the adventures of Holmes and his cousin Dr. Henry Vernier, in a story inspired by Bram Stoker's THE LAIR OF THE WHITE WORM. There are many other pastiches available from Titan; see their web-site at <www.titanbooks.com>.

"Dear Mr. Holmes," Agatha Christie wrote in September 1970. "How nice of you to send me a birthday card of greeting. I much appreciate your kindness and good wishes. I am so glad my books have given you pleasure. All good wishes to you. And many happy returns on your birthday on Sept. 23rd. Yours sincerely." The letter, offered on June 15 at Lion Heart Autographs graphs <www.tinyurl.com/jb3dobz>, indicates that Christie corresponded with Sherlock Holmes, that Holmes was alive in 1970, and that Holmes was born in September rather than January; estimated at \$400-\$600, the letter sold for \$425.

Cultural literacy: we so often read of people who are "the Sherlock Holmes" of whatever (anything and everything), most recently with Samuel K. Wasser <www.tinyurl.com/zbtbek4>, noted by Ray Betzner; his Google search for [the Sherlock Holmes of] turned up 497 hits. Other numbers: 21 for Miss Marple, 7 for Hercule Poirot, and 1 for Nero Wolfe.

Jun 16 #4 The spring issue of "For the Sake of the Trust" (the newsletter of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust) has news about the Trust, and Bob Katz's report on "Becoming Dr. Watson" and the history of the John H. Watson Fund, revealing at least some details about the continuing effort to help Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the birthday festivities in January. The issue is available both at the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org> and by e-mail; if you would like to be on the mailing list, you can send a request <editor@bsitrust.org>.

The new issue of Proceedings from the Pondicherry Lodge, published by The Sherlock Holmes Society of India <www.tinyurl.com/h5en3cp>, is an excellent example of what's now available (free) on the Internet: 119 pages of Sherlockian essays, pastiches, and much more, including Howard Ostrom's interesting report on the history and content of the Russian television series that starred Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin.

Charles Harold St. John Hamilton was a prolific English writer who specialized in long-running series of stories published in boys' school magazines; his pseudonyms included Martin Clifford and Peter Todd, and one of his creations was Herlock Sholmes who appeared in magazines such as the Greyfriars Herald, the Magnet, the Gem, and the Penny Popular. He has fans, and (of course) a web-site <www.friardale.co.uk> that offers access to all of his Herlock Sholmes stories <www.tinyurl.com/jo4dmtk>. A note for completists: "Grundy's Guilt!" (The Gem Library #465, Jan. 6, 1917) was reprinted with the new title "Sherlock Grundy Esq." (The Gem #1,601, Oct. 22, 1938).

Spotted by Jennie C. Paton: an amusing 15-minute video of Steven Moffat and Sue Vertue being interviewed by their son Louis Moffat, available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/q6hlo97>. Louis (credited as Louis Oliver) appeared as Young Sherlock in "His Last Vow" (2014); Stephen Moffat has said elsewhere that he's a firm believer in nepotism.

Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin has long been popular, and not just because he sometimes outwitted Sherlock Holmes (or Herlock Sholmes). Two "Arsène Lupin" television series aired in France in 1971 and 1973, with Henry Virlojeux as Herlock Sholmes in four episodes, and three of them are available at YouTube. <www.tinyurl.com/zehkbp> is the link for "Arsène Lupin contre Herlock Sholmes" (103), and you can look at the right for "Herlock Sholmes lance un défi" (201) and "L'homme au chapeau noir" (205); the other episode is "Le secret d'aiguille" (204), not available (so far). Thanks to Howard Ostrom, who spotted the Arsène Lupin material.

"Literary Sleuth Unmasks Conan Doyle as Plot Thief" was the headline on a story in The Sunday Times (June 5), reporting that British anthologist Hugh Lamb had found that Conan Doyle had taken the idea of suicide made to look like murder from "The Red Haired Pickpocket" (written by Frank Froest and George Dilnot and published in 1915, seven years earlier than "The Problem of Thor Bridge" appeared in The Strand Magazine). Of course the idea was not original with Froest and Dilnot: Lillian de la Torre noted (in The Baker Street Journal in Oct. 1948) that Dr. Hans Gross had written about such a crime much earlier. Gross' SYSTEM DER KRIMINALISTIK (1891) was published in English in 1907.

Jun 16 #5 Denny Dobry suggests collectors note listings by a new seller at eBay: wiggins221b. That's Denny, who will be offering material donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust, in order to help with funding the work of the Trust; the first item, opened for bidding on June 30, is a copy of the slip-cased limited edition, signed by Dame Jean Conan Doyle, of John Michael Gibson's splendid facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887. More material will be offered, and information about the work of the Trust can be found at <www.bsitrust.org>.

Neil McCaw (Professor of Victorian Literature and Culture at the University of Winchester) has created a delightful 5-minute TED-Ed lesson on "Who IS Sherlock Holmes?" (with amusing animation by Lasse Rützou Bruntse); available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/zcmrobb>.

"The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the title of this month's conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries) was a delightful gathering, well-attended and with interesting papers; their next conference will be in 2019, and surely as enjoyable as this one.

Zach Dundas, author of THE GREAT DETECTIVE: THE AMAZING RISE AND IMMORTAL LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Aug 15 #2) happily reported at the conference that the new trade paperback edition (New York: Manner Books, 336 pp., \$15.95) is a new edition, with corrections that make it "99% more accurate."

Andrea Reynolds Plunket's death in April was reported in Richard Turley's colorful obituary in Orb Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/gmfw2n5> that described her as "the Mitteleuropa manipulator whose talent for self-invention propelled her to the upper echelons of international society and whose propensity for self-destructiveness eventually alienated all who loved her." She spent years unsuccessfully contesting the ownership of the Sherlock Holmes copyrights <www.tinyurl.com/gs6wras>.

ELEMENTARY: BLOOD AND INK, by Adam Christopher (London: Titan Books, 2016; 297 pp., \$7.99) is the second volume in his tie-in series, following ELEMENTARY: THE GHOST LINE (Aug 15 #7); it's a new mystery that captures the flavor and style of the CBS-TV television series. The author's web-site is at <www.adamchristopher.ac>.

It's not clear just how Sherlockian the new Scotland Yard restaurant in San Francisco is, but there's a Sherlockian silhouette at the gastropub's web-site <www.scotlandyardsf.com>.

The "British Library Crime Classics" series offers trade paperback reprints of excellent novels and short stories (£8.99 each), including four anthologies edited by Martin Edwards, each with one story by Conan Doyle: SILENT NIGHTS: CHRISTMAS MYSTERIES ("The Blue Carbuncle"), CAPITAL CRIMES: LONDON MYSTERIES ("The Case of Lady Sannox"), MURDER AT THE MANOR: COUNTRY HOUSE MYSTERIES ("The Copper Beeches"), and SERPENTS IN EDEN: COUNTRYSIDE CRIMES ("The Black Doctor"); Edwards provides both enthusiastic introductions and a careful selection of stories, some old favorites and some neglected but well worth reading (U.S. editions are published by the Poisoned Pen Press).

Jun 16 #6 Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is being performed at the StageNorth Theatre in Washburn, Wis., through July 9 <www.stagenorth.com>. And it will be performed at the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Oct. 21-Nov. 19 <www.centerrep.org>, and at the Riffe Center's Studio Two Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 25-Feb. 12, 2017 <www.catcoistheatre.com>.

Terry O'Brien's new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Werewolf of London" will be performed at Elaine's dinner theater in Cape May, N.J., July 12 through late November <www.elainescapemay.com>.

There will be a lot of Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe <www.edfringe.com>, including "Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother in the Case of a Study in Blood", Aug. 4-20; "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 4-28; "Spontaneous Sherlock", Aug. 6-28; "Arthur Conan Doyle--Man of Mystery", Aug. 8-12; "The Accidental Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 8-29; and "Arthur Conan Doyle, an Edinburgh Man", Aug. 9-23. And David Stuart Davies will perform his "The Game's Afoot" on Aug. 15-19.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Lakeshore Players Theatre in White Bear Lake, Minn., Sept. 8 through 23 <www.lakeshoreplayers.org>; and at Theatre Knoxville Downtown in Knoxville, Tenn., Apr. 21-May 7, 2017 <www.theatreknoxville.com>

Brock D. Vickers' new dramatization "Storyboard: The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Hedgerow Theatre in Media, Pa., Sept. 9-18 <www.hedgerowtheatre.org>.

"Miss Holmes" (a new play by Christopher M. Walsh, with a female Holmes and Watson) will be performed at the Lifeline Theatre in Chicago, Ill., Sept. 9-Oct. 30 <www.lifelinetheatre.com>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at Theater Wit in Chicago, Sept. 17-Nov. 14 <www.theaterwit.org>.

John Charles Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Ouachita Little Theatre in Mena, Ark., in October. The web-site's at <www.ouachitalittletheatre.org>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Sitnik Theater in Hackettstown, N.J., from Oct. 7 to Oct. 23 <www.centenarystageco.org>.

The 1965 musical "Baker Street" will be performed at the Eureka Theatre in San Francisco, Calif., Nov. 2-20 <www.42ndstmoon.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled by the Windham Theatre Guild at the Burton Leavitt Theatre in Willimantic, Conn., Nov. 4-13 web-site at <www.windhamtheatreguild.org>.

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Jul 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Otto Penzler has received Bouchercon's David Thompson Special Service Award for "extraordinary efforts to develop and promote the crime fiction field." Otto presides over the Mysterious Bookshop and founded the Mysterious Press in 1975; he also published the quarterly journal *The Armchair Detective* for many years, and has edited a long list of anthologies and reference books, and has an interesting web-site at <www.mysteriousbookshop.com>.

The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library newsletter) offers Angela Misri's discussion of the "universal themes" in Conan Doyle's letters to his Strand editor Greenhough Smith, Richard Sveum's examination of Conan Doyle's novel *A DUET WITH AN OCCASIONAL CHORUS*, and other news from the Library; copies of the newsletter are available from Clifford S. Goldfarb, 22 Markdale Avenue, Toronto, ON M6C, 1T1, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

PROFESSOR CHALLENGER: *NEW WORLDS, LOST PLACES*, edited by J. R. Campbell and Charles Prepolec (Calgary: Edge, 2015; 250 pp., \$15.95), is a nice tribute to another of Conan Doyle's great characters; the anthology offers ten stories by authors who tell tales of new adventures of Challenger and his companions from *THE LOST WORLD* and other stories.

Everett C. Hoffman ("Merridew of Abominable Memory") died on May 7, 2013. He had a successful career in public relations at McGraw Hill, and was an enthusiastic artist, teaching at the Cooper Union and the Pratt Institute in New York and the Academy of Arts in Newark, and exhibiting in galleries, art centers and museums. He was a member of Bill Rabe's Old SOB'S (The Old Soldiers of Baker Street) and provided Sherlockian artwork for an article by Bill in *The Woods-Runner* in Jan. 1984; Everett received his Investiture in *The Baker Street Irregulars* in 1958.

Those who attended "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (this year's conference in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries) received copies of *THE MISSING MISADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES*, an interesting anthology edited by Julie McKuras, Timothy Johnson, Ray Riethmeier, and Philip Bergem, offering at least some of the stories that Dannay and Lee noted were omitted from their 1944 anthology. It's an interesting selection, and a nice companion to the original *MISADVENTURES* (219 pp., postpaid \$30.00 US/\$40.00 Canada, and you should order from Phil Bergem, 3829 172nd Avenue NW, Andover, MN 55304) (for other countries, contact Phil at <pgbergem@gmail.com>).

The June issue of the quarterly newsletter of The Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Mitch Cullin's article about his donation of his papers (on his novel *A SLIGHT TRICK OF THE MIND* and much else) to the Special Collections, Julie McKuras' "100 Years Ago" tribute to Stephen Leacock, Evelyn Herzog's "50 Years Ago" account of the birth of a Sherlock-ian society at Albertus Magnus College, and other news from and about the collections; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Dick Sveum (111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455 <sveum001@tc.umn.edu>).

Jul 16 #2 John D. Constable ("The Crooked Man") died on June 6. He was educated at Harvard, graduating with honors, and had a long and distinguished career as a doctor, plastic surgeon, and teacher. His enthusiasms included Asian art, travel, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes; after joining The Speckled Band of Boston in 1953 he went on to preside over the Band, serving as its Keeper, for three decades and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

Alexander Orlov has kindly forwarded Vitaly Podvitsky's cartoon comment on the Brexit, published by RIA Novosti in Russia on June 28; Sherlock Holmes is saying, "Watson, I seem to have underestimated our housekeeper!"



Reported SHERLOCK HOLMES: CRIME ALLEYS, a new graphic novel from Dark Horse Books, written by Sylvain Cordurié and illustrated by Nespolino Alesandro; 104 pp., \$17.99 (it's a translation of an earlier French version).

The Television Academy has announced its nominations for this year's Emmy Awards, and "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" won nominations in six categories: one for Benedict Cumberbatch (lead actor in a limited series or movie) and five for the program (television movie; cinematography for a limited series or movie; movie; sound editing for a limited series, movie, or special; sound mixing for a limited series or movie; and visual effects in a supporting role). The Emmy Award presentations will be broadcast on ABC-TV on Sept. 18.

There are many web-sites that offer audio of old-time radio shows. Thanks to Alex Kane for the report that you can listen to 138 Sherlockian programs (1933-1983) at <www.archive.org/details/OTR_Sherlock_Holmes_smurfmeat>.

Jul 16 #3 It was on the "Today" show on NBC-TV in 1999 that Al Roker and Matt Lauer celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 145th birthday (Jan 99 #3), and Randall Stock has noted that Roker has contributed a short piece on THE ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES to THE BOOKS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE, edited by Bethanne Patrick (New York: Regan Arts, 2016; 304 pp., \$24.95); the first book that Roker remembers is GREEN EGGS AND HAM, but reading Sherlock Holmes made him feel that he was "in on something, both a kind of secret, a way of reading the world, and also a club, people who loved Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson and wanted to learn more about their methods."

You can now rent William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) from Flicker Alley <www.flickeralley.com>, paying \$4.95 to watch it as many times as you want for 30 days. But you can't capture it: if you want to keep the film you will need to purchase the DVD (which has nice added features).

Greg Ruby reports that the Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes will meet for dinner in Anaheim, Calif., on Aug. 11, during the American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money; details at <www.tinyurl.com/zxvztjx>.

Further to the query (Jun 16 #2) about "The Curious Incident of the Dog" in Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine (Mar. 1945): Greg Darak kindly reports that the story's about a modern-day police inspector who stops a robbery using a clue based on a seeing-eye dog.

"Just like Wimbledon, Stella Artois started from humble beginnings," is the slogan for the Belgian company's beer, and they have an amusing commercial in which Sherlock Holmes appears <www.tinyurl.com/jpv6gu4>.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have posted their 100th "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast: it's a look back at their favorite moments, and an excellent celebration of their nine years of podcasting with a wide-ranging assortment of guests <www.ihose.co/ihose100> and #IHOSE100.

Phil Rosette is offering material from the Sherlockian collection of Bill Rothman: a list of individual books and pamphlets, and images of a single lot of about 400 books, are available on request <prosette@group41.com>.

Dan Stashower reports that the National Library of Scotland has digitized a detailed town plan of Edinburgh that was published as a supplement to the Illustrated London News on July 18, 1868 (nine years after Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh); you can zoom in and out, and navigate, and get a sense of how the city looked in those long-ago days.

The gray herringbone wool jacket that Basil Rathbone wore in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1939) was offered by Heritage Auctions in Beverly Hills on June 22, with an opening bid of \$7,500. But no one bid, and the jacket did not sell.

Big Chief Studios, which produced a set of licensed 1:6-scale figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year (Apr 15 #5), is going to issue a new set showing the pair in costume from "The Abominable Bride"; they're due for release next March, but you can pre-order now. They cost £189.99 each <www.bigchiefstudios.co.uk/collectibles/sherlock>.

Jul 16 #4 David Jaher's THE WITCH OF LIME STREET: SÉANCE, SEDUCTION, AND HOUDINI IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (Nov 15 #3) told the story of Mina Crandon, the medium known as Margery in the 1920s (Conan Doyle was one of her principal advocates, and Houdini her most energetic and fervent opponents; Jaher will be the featured speaker on Aug. 30 at Ventfort Hall, the Gilded Age house museum in Lenox, Mass. <www.gildenage.org>, built as their summer home by George and Sarah Morgan (she was the sister of J. Pierpont Morgan).

Bearlock Holmes was one of 62 teddy bears made predominantly from straw that were displayed this month at the Teddy Bear Trail in Great Ellingham in South Norfolk. Money raised from the festival goes to local charities.

Foreign translations of the Canon are not restricted to ink-on-paper: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is now available as a radio drama in Bengali at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/hupnmka> (with English subtitles); it was produced by Asha Audio for Radio Mirchi, and runs 5 hours and 35 minutes.



Pokémon Go, described at Wikipedia as a free-to-play location-based augmented reality mobile game, has become one of the most-used smart-device apps; it has created controversy due to reports of causing accidents and being a public nuisance at some locations. It's a worldwide phenomenon, and businesses can attract visitors by arranging to be a PokéStop, as (it has been reported) has the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London. The National Park Service has announced that there will be ranger-led Pokémon hunts on the National Mall.

Donald Sosin's campaign for "Sherlock Holmes: The Odessa Connection" (May 16 #3) has been successful: William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916) was screened, accompanied by a 45-piece orchestra, to thousands of people who gathered at Odessa's famous Potemkin Stairs <www.tinyurl.com/glrlpx5>.

The second annual "International Sherlockian Summit of Societies" has been scheduled for Nov. 5 in Mount Vernon, Wash. Last year's summit had attendees from seven societies in the U.S. and Canada, and you can read a report on the summit at <www.tinyurl.com/hk5zc74>; details on this year's summit are available from David Haugen <dave@soundofthebaskervilles.com>.

Legendary Entertainment has bought the rights to the Pokémon computer game "Detective Pikachu" (Feb 16 #2), which has the title character in Sherlockian costume, and is preparing a live-action film franchise that's expected to start production next year.

Add Mark Caven to the list of actors who have played Sherlock Holmes: he's seen at the end of "The Pall of LaPier" (the last episode of the ten-part Fox mini-series "Houdini and Doyle"); viewership numbers were low for the U.S. (2.6 million for the first episode, and 1.7 million for the last one). But if you enjoyed the series, you'll want to read interviews with cast and other talent at the Assignment X web-site <www.tinyurl.com/gr4vxmf>.

Jul 16 #5 Sherlockian.Net was launched in 1994 by Chris Redmond, and has long been a valuable resource for the growing population of Internet-savvy Sherlockians. Chris has announced that he plans to close the web-site by the end of the year, and would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to take over the web-site entirely or in part, and he welcomes suggestions about how its content might be preserved. You can visit Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/gvc7593> to learn more about Chris' web-site and listen to his recent interview on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog.



Jennie Paton reports that Trader Joe's recently ran a "name this product" challenge asking for an "original, descriptive, memorable" name for their new cookie-mix-in-a mason jar product (offering the winner \$100 and a case of the product when it becomes available later this year.

It's now official: the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" will be broadcast in 2017 (according to the brief series 4 teaser at YouTube) <www.tinyurl.com/hmq63ub> (you get a brief glimpse of Toby Jones as Culverton Smith). And at a "Sherlock" panel at San Diego's Comic-Con Mark Gatiss, Amanda Abbington, and Benedict Cumberbatch revealed

the three now-traditional code-word hints for the new season: Sherrinford, Smith, and Thatcher; the panel also included Stephen Moffat and Sue Vertue, but there are only three clues). Smith and Sherrinford seem obvious to devoted fans, who are seriously puzzled by Thatcher.

Craigslist is a classified-advertisements web-site that began as an e-mail distribution list in San Francisco in 1995; it became web-based in 1996 and now covers 70 countries. Someone recently advertised a copy of THE ANNOYED SHERLOCK HOLMES, which turned out to be Baring-Gould's THE ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES.

There's a new on-line Cosplay Convention Center that's just the thing for people who enjoy thematic costume play <www.cosplayconventioncenter.com>: you can select a theme (one of them is Sherlock Holmes) and find what's going on where (Sherlockian cosplay is coming up in Seattle and Topeka).

Petr Kopl's THE LOST WORLD (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 120 pp., \$16.95) is an imaginative full-color graphic novel, with some amusing additions to Conan Doyle's story; it is part of Kopl's "Victoria Regina" series (which also includes three Sherlockian titles), and he has an attractive web-site at <www.petrkopl.cz>. Diane Gilbert Madsen's CRACKING THE CODE OF THE CANON: HOW SHERLOCK HOLMES MADE HIS DECISIONS (2016, 371 pp., \$18.95) is an interesting compilation of her research for THE CONAN DOYLE NOTES: THE SECRET OF JACK THE RIPPER (May 14 #7); it's a detailed analysis of the Canon, with discussion of the cases (and their outcomes), the crimes, the victims, the villains, and much more. MX's web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and at <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Jul 16 #6 Reported: James Lovegrove, author of three pastiches (SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES, SHERLOCK HOLMES: GODS OF WAR, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE THINKING ENGINE) for Titan, is about to launch a new series he calls THE CTHULHU CASEBOOKS (SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE SHADWELL SHADOWS, SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE LABYRINTH OF DEATH, and SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE DEVIL'S DUST); the first title is due in November.



Jeannette Powers won Trader Joe's contest: her name for the new product was "It's Sedimentary, My Dear Cookie!" Details at <www.tinyurl.com/hyevbkl>.

Planning to sell the former Sunnyside Royal Hospital is being finalized, the Dundee Courier reported on July 13 <www.tinyurl.com/j2ym8p6>. Once the oldest and largest psychiatric hospital in Scotland, the facility closed in 2011 and has been vacant since then. Conan Doyle's father Charles Altamont Doyle was a patient at Sunnyside in the 1880s, when he wrote and illustrated the journal that was eventually published by Michael Baker in 1978 as THE DOYLE DIARY: THE LAST GREAT CONAN DOYLE MYSTERY.

"'Largest Number' of Sherlock Holmes Versions Being Filmed Blamed for Disruptive London Fog This Week" was the headline on an amusing story at the Voice of Reason web-site in Nov. 2015 <www.tinyurl.com/jqxukg4>.

The Retired Beekeepers of Sussex, an all-inclusive Sherlockian society for members of the LBGTQ+ community, have now published their third Practical Handbook of Bee Culture (this time devoted to "Experience of Women"), with articles, fiction, poetry, and artwork. All three issues of the handbook are available for download at <www.retiredbeekeepers.tumblr.com>.

I hear of Sherlock everywhere, as someone once said: including Australia, where there's a company called Sherlock Holmes Sewing Machines; their web-site's at <www.sherlockholmesqld.com>.

The "Beast of Dartmoor" mystery may (or may not) have been solved: a report in the Daily Telegraph (July 22) suggests that the ferocious animal sometimes called the Beast of Exmoor or the Beast of Bodmin) may not be a local myth. Circus owner Mary Chipperfield, after her zoo in Plymouth was forced to shut down, may have released three of her five pumas into the wild. But her husband, who now breeds white tigers in Spain, has denied that his late wife ever released any wild animals on Dartmoor. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/zzmmyyy>; thanks to Richard Mackintosh for the link.

"Evaline and Mina didn't mean to get into the family business" is the hook for Colleen Gleason's series about Evaline Holmes (the niece of Sherlock) and Mina Stoker (the sister of Bram), set in a steampunk Victorian London. THE CLOCKWORK SCARAB was the first in the series (Aug 13 #2), which continues with THE SPIRITGLASS CHARADE (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 2014; 354 pp., \$17.99) and THE CHESS QUEEN ENIGMA (2015, 351 pp., \$17.99); they are young-adult novels aimed at teen-age girls, with romance, villainy, lots of energy and excitement, and a web-site <www.stokerandholmes.com> with interesting "bonus materials."

Jul 16 #7 The Farnham Herald reported (July 24) <www.tinyurl.com/zdmjegd> that building work is now complete at Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home in Surrey. The David Forbes-Nixon Foundation spent £800,000 on the restoration, and the cost of the entire Stepping Stones School project was about £7 million. Norman Stromsoy, chief executive of the Foundation, said, "We wanted to make sure that the building can still be 'read' as it was in Conan Doyle's day, and to be as faithful to the original as we can."

The [Darlington] Northern Echo reported (July 7) that the York Theatre Royal publicized its production of a new musical "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" with a contest for members of the public who were asked to submit photographs of pets wearing deerstalkers. The responses included Mark Gatiss' labrador Bunsen; the story's at <www.tinyurl.com/zmefwb3>.



According to a review of the film "Crimson Peak" (2015), "the ghosts of 'Frankenstein' author Mary Shelley, Sherlock Holmes creator Arthur Conan Doyle, horror fiction master Edgar Allan Poe, and many others not only shape Del Toro's imagination, but also could help you uncover hidden stories in your own life." The film is now available on cable television: while Conan Doyle is mentioned, he's not in the film as a ghost.

"Every time I check into a hotel, I sign my name Sherlock Holmes Evans. I like to see the clerk look over his shoulder and wonder why I didn't sign Smith." On July 22 the Massillon (Ohio) Independent quoted him in a brief item on native sons; he was born there in 1906 and was an attorney, humorist, actor, and circus performer. He titled his autobiography FATHER OWNED A CIRCUS, and explained that his father, an admirer of William Gillette, named his son after the actor's most famous role. Evans died in 1987.

James M. Nederlander died on July 25. He built the Nederlander Organization into a theatrical powerhouse that owns nine Broadway theaters and many more in other cities and countries; he produced or co-produced more than a hundred shows, and received a special Tony Award for lifetime achievement in 2004. When Glenda Jackson played Lady Macbeth at one of his theaters, he agreed with a friend that it was a great play, "but Jesus, it's talky." He also believed that "there are no bad theaters, only bad shows." Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" (starring Frank Langella) ran at the Nederlander Theatre for 136 performances in 1987.

Fred Taraba's MASTERS OF AMERICAN ILLUSTRATION: 41 ILLUSTRATORS & HOW THEY WORKED (2011) has been reprinted in a second edition (St. Louis: The Illustrated Press, 2016; 432 pp., \$60.00 plus \$9.00 shipping); it's a spectacular book, with interesting essays on the artists, accompanied by full-color illustrations, and two of the artists are of particular interest: Wladyslaw T. Benda illustrated "The Sussex Vampire" and non-Sherlockian writings by Conan Doyle, and Robert Fawcett provided artwork for pastiches (Arthur Whitaker's "The Case of the Man Who Was Wanted" and the series written by Adrian Conan Doyle and John Dickson Carr), and the book includes one Sherlockian illustration by Fawcett. It's available on-line from the publisher, and copies signed by the author can be purchased from Taraba Illustration Art, Box 1438, Casper, WY 82602 <fred@tarabaillustrationart.com>.

Jul 16 #8 An appeal for assistance for Nick Utechin, who is working on a monograph on artists who provided jacket artwork for the British publisher John Murray, and is seeking information on Frank Marston, who did the jackets for Murray's editions of THE MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES and THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES. If you don't have those editions, you can see Marston's work in The Strand Magazine (Jan. 1930 and June 1930). And if you have any personal information about Marston (including birth/death dates), please contact Nick at <highfieldfarmhouse@gmail.com>.

Theater news: a new musical version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at the York Theatre Royal through Aug. 27 <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk>; there's a link at the web-site to two short rehearsal videos.

The Minnesota Fringe in Minneapolis <www.fringefestival.org> has two plays of interest on its schedule: Neil Gaiman's "A Study in Emerald" at Inter-media Arts, Aug. 5-13; as well as "And to Think That I Saw It at 221B Baker's Street" (by John Newstrom and Tim Wick) at the Southern Theatre, Aug. 6-14.

Opera Tennessee will present Thomas Whitman's opera "A Scandal in Bohemia" (with libretto by Nathalie Anderson) at the Barking Legs Theater in Chattanooga, Tenn., Aug. 11-14 <www.barkinglegs.org>.

Fired Up Theatre is touring their production of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Mal Dewhurst and Simon Quinn) in Suffolk, Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Warwickshire, and Lancashire, from Aug. 12 through Dec. 2; details at <www.fireduptheatre.co.uk>.

Kristen Brewer's new play "Sherlock Holmes: The Detective and the Doctor" is scheduled at the Black Box Theatre at the Trust Performing Arts Center in Lancaster, Pa., Aug. 25-Sept. 11 <www.lancastertrust.com>.

Dennis Rosa's "Sherlock Holmes and the Curse of the Sign of the Four" has been scheduled at the Pulse Opera House in Warren, Ind., Sept. 9-25; web-site at <www.pulseoperahouse.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's comedy "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is to be performed at the Lakewood Playhouse in Lakewood, Wash., Sept. 9-Oct. 9 <www.lakewoodplayhouse.org>; also at the Gulfshore Playhouse in Naples, Fla., Feb. 11-Mar. 12, 2017 <www.gulfshoreplayhouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be presented by Autumn Nights at the Plaza at Ehlers Event Center in Buena Park, Calif., Sept. 16-24 <www.buenapark.com/index.aspx?page=556>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Unrecorded Case (by Special Request) of the Electric Lady's Bicycle Protector and the Consequences Thereof Including World War I" (a new play by Robert Fridjhon) will be performed at the Studio Theatre in Montecasino, Johannesburg, Nov. 30-Jan. 2017; their web-site's at <www.pietertoerien.co.za>.

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Aug 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Steve Mason has announced an interactive map, developed by his son Rusty, showing all of the world's active geographical Sherlockian societies, with links to the web-sites of societies that have them; it's readily available at The Crew of the Barque Lone Star's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hvt37sx>.

Sherry Thomas, an established writer of historical romances, has launched a new "Lady Sherlock" series with A STUDY IN SCARLET WOMEN (New York: Berkley Books, 2016; 323 pp., \$15.00); it's an exciting book, with an interesting mystery and complicated characters, and a thoroughly imaginative (and different) Holmes. It's nice to know that there will be sequel, scheduled for 2017, and the author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

"If Sherlock Holmes Had Investigated the Bible..." is the title of a lecture by Rev. Stuart Lamont, who will speak at the Arthur Conan Doyle Centre in Edinburgh on Oct. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/zqm6sxf>; the center is the home of the Edinburgh Association of Spiritualists.

Repeating, because the link in the previous issue (Jul 16 #3) was broken: Big Chief Studios, which produced a set of licensed 1:6-scale figures showing Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman last year (Apr 15 #5), is going to issue a new set that shows them in costume from "The Abominable Bride"; they're due for release next March, but you can pre-order them now (£189.99 each <www.tinyurl.com/gpthl25>).

Jennie Paton spotted Hive Riot <www.hiveriot.com>, described as "a synthy, dance-fueled party hosted by the electric chemistry that is Dustin Gledhill and Mindy Gledhill." Go to Youtube <www.youtube.com> and search for [hive riot sherlock] to watch their Sherlockian music video.

And, while you're at YouTube, you can also watch an imaginative use of the theme music from the BBC's "Sherlock" <www.tinyurl.com/zlqqkw4>.

Susan Dahlinger reports that the new "Ghostbusters" film is (tangentially) Sherlockian: in the major fight scene, there's a big billboard in the background advertising plays running on Broadway, and one of them is the musical "Baker Street".

Yuichi Hirayama is the web-master for the Japan Sherlock Holmes Club, which is available in English as well as Japanese <www.holmesjapan.jp>.

The Voice of America has a "Learning English" blog, and their topic on July 30 was "smoke" (and of course it was nice to see that they mentioned Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes); you can read (and listen to) the blog at <www.tinyurl.com/jo36kya>.

The television mini-series "Houdini and Doyle" has been canceled by Fox; as noted earlier (Mar 16 #3), Steve Mangan, who played Conan Doyle, shaved off his Magnum-style moustache the day shooting ended, but since he had signed a five-year option for the series obviously was prepared to grow it again. He's now back to playing one of the leads in the Showtime/BBC series "Episodes" (which launched in 2011 and will conclude in 2017).

Aug 16 #2 ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, edited by Laurie R. King and Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Pegasus Books, 2016; 348 pp., \$24.95), is the third in their series of anthologies of "stories inspired by the Holmes Canon," and it's a fine companion to their A STUDY IN SHERLOCK (Aug 11 #2) and IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Oct 14 #1); they have again rounded up excellent authors and artists whose contributions demonstrate the many and imaginative ways in which one can enter the world of Sherlock Holmes. You can watch Les and Laurie talk about IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES at the Poisoned Pen bookstore (in Scottsdale, Ariz.) in a 57-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/z7vdwpl>.

The Mysterious Bookshop will be publishing its own limited edition of ECHOES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, signed by the editors and all of the contributors and in a special binding; \$275 for one of the 25 lettered copies, and \$150 for one of the 60 copies <www.tinyurl.com/h7h33dn>.

One of the nice Christmas presents I received last year was a donation to Apopo by my sister-in-law Kelly Blau. Apopo <www.apopo.org> trains African giant pouched rats to sniff out unexploded landmines in countries in Africa and Asia (the rats don't weigh enough to set off mines, which can then be disarmed); my giant rat, appropriately named Sumatra, has been trained to identify TNT, and has recently identified its first (deactivated) anti-personnel mine (that's Sumatra in the photograph). When its training is completed, Sumatra will set to work on the real thing. There's more about the interesting program in Bec Crew's blog by Bec Crew at the Scientific American web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ptzrmkh>.

"Sherlock Holmes Is Based on a Real Guy (Who Was Even Cooler), according to a 2-minute animation at YouTube <www.youtube.com/knfew93>; and no, the real guy (who was even cooler) wasn't Joseph Bell.

Alexander Orlov has noted an interesting six-minute enhanced video of film taken in Edwardian Britain <www.tinyurl.com/nbqo64r>; you get to see what Holmes and Watson actually saw, rather than what we see in the films and on television.

Further to the mention of the Cosplay Convention Center (Jul 16 #5), if you are planning an event you are welcome to use their "contact us" button to get your event listed <www.cosplayconventioncenter.com>.

Those who attended "The Misadventures of Sherlock Holmes" (the conference at the University of Minnesota) had a chance to see the delightful exhibition of treasures from the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the Elmer L. Anderson Library, which runs through Sept. 30. Those who didn't attend the conference can watch a four-minute video tour narrated by Darren Terpstra (who designed the exhibition) and Tim Johnson (curator of the collections) <www.tinyurl.com/hux8215>.

Tim's blog "Special & Rare on a Stick" also is of interest: he blogged in 2015 about his discovery that Wind Cave (in Wind Cave National Park in the Black Hills of South Dakota) has a room called Baker Street, and his continuing attempt to determine whether the name honors the street where Sherlock Holmes lived <www.tinyurl.com/hylhc3c>.

Aug 16 #3 "No one been fatally stung by the Lion's Mane in the UK, apart from in a Sherlock Holmes story," according to Peter Richardson (head of biodiversity and fisheries at the Marine Conservation Society; he was interviewed for a BBC News story on "How Dangerous are Britain's Jellyfish?" <www.bbcnews.com/news/uk-scotland-36922998>. "Not very," he said. As far as he is aware, no one has ever died from a jellyfish sting in the UK--but plenty have had a nasty shock.

Fans of the Frogwares computer game "Sherlock Holmes: The Devil's Daughter" will enjoy John-Paul Jones' long interview with the Ukrainian developer of the game PlayStation Universe (Aug. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/zkfq82q>. The next game from Frogwares will be "The Sinking City" (not Sherlockian, but rather inspired by H. P. Lovecraft).

Peter Melonas has been creating interesting Sherlockian (and other) artwork since the 1980s, and his offers (at eBay) include five Sherlockian prints <www.tinyurl.com/zwhsrhw>.

"Have you ever thought of putting a collection of Sherlock Holmes-related books together but thought it might be too daunting or too expensive?" Otto Penzler asks. The Mysterious Bookshop recently bought three collections, and is offering to send you 500 books for \$5,000. All different, all first editions, and all in fine collectors' condition, combining critical works, studies, parodies, and pastiches; Otto chooses the books, and pays for the shipping <ottopenzler@mysteriousbookshop.com>.

"Cimarron Strip" was a 90-minute Western series broadcast by CBS-TV at the end of the 1960s (when networks still aired 90-minute series); the episode "Knife in the Darkness" (1968) was written by Harlan Ellison, and there's a mention of Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/jlo6oba>. Thanks to Brenda Rossini for this addition to the list of slightly Doylean television.

Alan Rettig has reported on "a proper Sherlockian breakfast" served at The Store in Staunton, Va. Their special is Eggs Cumberbatch, and you'll find the details at the Red Circle's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.

Further to the report (Jul 16 #4) on the new score for William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), written by Donald Sosin for a 45-piece orchestra and performed at a screening on Odessa's famous Potemkin Stairs for a crowd estimated by some at 10,000 and by others at 15,000: Russell Merritt notes a 2-minute video showing what the performance was like; it's available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/jr8qu9k>.

The Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities in Cape May, N.J., will hold its next Sherlock Holmes Weekends on Nov. 4-6, featuring a new three-day mystery "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Melpomene's Mask"; details at <www.tinyurl.com/h2bc4j4>.

Peggy Perdue has the Toronto Public Library hard at work digitizing photographs from the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection and making them available online; you can see some of them now, and there are many more to come. Just go to <www.torontopubliclibrary.ca> and search for [arthur conan doyle] and click on "Images" in the left-hand column.

Aug 16 #4 Conan Doyle has long been suggested as the perpetrator of the Piltdown Man hoax, despite the absence of any persuasive evidence, and the search for the culprit continues. New research by Isabella De Groote, a paleoanthropologist at Liverpool John Moores University, and a team of scientists who used modern technology to analyze the bones, has led to the conclusion that Charles Dawson, the amateur geologist who made the discovery in 1912, was responsible for the hoax. There is a story in Science magazine (Aug. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/hz3w49x>, with a link to their full report in Royal Society Open Science.

In other news (well, not really news): The Piltdown Men, a 1960s rock-and-roll instrumental studio group, recorded songs that included "Brontosaurus Stomp" and "Piltdown Rides Again" (which you can hear at <www.youtube.com>).

THE YALE BOOK OF QUOTATIONS, edited by Fred R. Shapiro (Dec 06 #1), is an important and delightful reference work, and his search for reliable sources continues. Mark Peters' article on "The Plague of Incorrect Quotation" in the Boston Globe (Aug. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/hcx3lh5> is an interesting account of some of Shapiro's new discoveries. And for the latest update on the search for "Elementary, my dear Watson", consult the Quote Investigator website <www.tinyurl.com/zyrl2mo>.

Willy Werby reports interesting vintage photographs of London fog and smog (from 1909 to 1959) at <www.tinyurl.com/j282yet>; you can see what Holmes and Watson saw (or couldn't see through).

Quite a while back (Jul 08 #3) Columbia Pictures announced plans to film a comedy that would star Sacha Baron Cohen as Holmes and Will Ferrell as Watson. "Just the idea of Sacha and Will as Sherlock Holmes and Watson makes us laugh," Columbia co-president Matt Tolach told Variety (July 1), "Sacha and Will are two of the funniest and most talented guys on the planet, and having them take on these two iconic characters is frankly hilarious." The film wound up in what is politely described as "development hell," but it's alive again, tentatively titled "Holmes and Watson" and starring Ferrell as Holmes and John C. Reilly as Watson. According to Deadline Hollywood (Aug. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/j2vo2tx>, production is planned to start after Thanksgiving.

A reminder that the "no frills" version of The Silver Blaze, organized by the Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes and the Turf Builders of Baker Street will be held at Monmouth Park in Long Branch, N.J., on Sept. 18. Contact Peter McIntyre (732-765-1240) <psipete@optonline.net> for more information.

And the 57th annual running of The Silver Blaze at Hawthorne Race Course in Chicago will be held on Oct. 22. Susan Diamond <szdiamond@comcast.net> is the contact for more information.

TERROR LIES UNDERGROUND, by Greg Jameson (London: Artellus, 2016; 303 pp., £2.31) is the first in his "The Diogenes Cases" e-book series; set during the Great Hiatus, the novel features surgeon Jacob Wrayburn, American nurse Faith Hobson, and Mycroft Holmes in a desperate struggle against terrorists who want to subvert the government (the Diogenes Club, as so often is the case in pastiches, is far more than merely a club for unsocial members).

Aug 16 #5 THE MX BOOK OF NEW SHERLOCK HOLMES STORIES: PART IV--2016 ANNUAL (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 473 pp., \$24.95) is the latest in the series edited by David Marcum, and it is an excellent companion to the first three volumes (Feb 16 #7), with almost two dozen traditional pastiches, a poetic toast, and a radio script; the authors, some old hands at the game, and some new to it, maintain the high quality of the series, and it's nice news indeed that there are more volumes to come. MX's web-sites are at <www.mypublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

Also from MX: Daniel D. Victor's SEVENTEEN MINUTES TO BAKER STREET (2016; 221 pp., \$14.95) opens with an amusing scene: Sherlock Holmes in a state of shock after reading Mark Twain's THE DOUBLE-BARRELLED DETECTIVE STORY; it turns out that Samuel Clemens also was involved in solving "The Problem of Thor Bridge" (a case that's imaginatively different from the one described by Watson). SHERLOCK HOLMES IN THE NAUTILUS ADVENTURE, by Joseph W. Svec III and Lidia B. Svec (2016; 187 pp., \$9.95) also has an intriguing opening: a new client explains that he is Captain Nemo and hopes that Holmes can find the missing Jules Verne; it's the second volume in a "missing authors" series (the next volume will involve Sir Percival and Alfred, Lord Tennyson).

And there's more: THE MYSTERY OF THE SCARLET HOMES OF SHERLOCK, by Richard Krevolin and John Raffensperger (2016; 294 pp., \$14.95), is the first volume of their "Lost Diaries of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle"; it is set in 1878, when Joseph Bell and his medical assistant travel to Chicago to investigate a series of mysterious murders and foil a nefarious plot against President Hayes. THE BIRD AND THE BUDDHA, by A. S. Croyle (2016; 282 pp., \$16.95), is the second in her "Before Watson" series; Dr. Poppy Stamford is now in practice in London and again meets Sherlock Holmes, who has graduated from Oxford and is beginning his career as a consulting detective, and they are still involved both in solving mysteries and in avoiding romantic entanglement with each other. E. A. (Bud) Livingston's SOME OF MY FAVOURITE SHERLOCKIAN THINGS (2016; 193 pp., \$14.95) is aptly subtitled "a compendium of pawky and outre monographs, toasts, and whatnots," and he has investigated both usual and unusual aspects of the Canon.

Jeffrey Montgomery ("Inspector Montgomery") died on July 18. A life-long Detroitier, he worked in public relations and in 1984 became heavily engaged in LGBT advocacy, for which he received many awards and honors, including a special tribute from the Governor of Michigan in 2003. Jeff was an active member of The Amateur Mendicants in the 1970s and 1980s, and received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.

Nominations for this year's Beacon Award, offered by The Beacon Society to recognize educational activities that expose young people to the Sherlock Holmes stories, are due by Nov. 15; details at <www.tinyurl.com/jd5xzd>.

The Hillywood Show web-site's "Sherlock Parody" went viral this month, and you can view it at <www.thehillywoodshow.com>, along with 63 minutes of behind-the-scenes footage, and 30 minutes of Sherlock's video diary. Hilly Hindi and Hannah Hindi as Holmes and Watson, and the parody also has cameos appearances by Steven and Louis Moffat. You can read the lyrics to the parody at <www.tinyurl.com/hx8batx>.

Aug 16 #6 The second "Sherlocked: The Official Sherlock Convention" will be held in London on Sept. 23-26 <www.sherlocked.com>, and the first "Sherlocked USA" convention has been announced for Los Angeles on May 26-28, 2017 <www.sherlockedusa.com>; the conventions are organized in association with Hartswood Films (the production company for "Sherlock"). The prices for the event in Los Angeles range from \$125 (for a standard ticket) to \$2,995 (for a VIP ticket), and it will feature guest appearances, photo shoots, a vendors hall, and screen-used sets, props, and costumes on view for the first time outside the U.K.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Curious Case of Scotland's First Movie Star" was the headline in a story in the Glasgow Daily Record and Sunday Mail (Aug. 28), offering new details about an actor who made 300 movies after leaving Glasgow in 1919, acting in small parts on Broadway, and then moving to Hollywood to launch a film in 1925 <www.tinyurl.com/z2ogjn5>. The actor was Mary Gordon, who played a memorable Mrs. Hudson in many of the Basil Rathbone films.

Upcoming theater: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by David Pichette and R. Hamilton Wright) is scheduled by the Chapin Theatre Company at the Harbison Theatre in Irmo, S.C., Sept. 9-18 <www.chapintheatre.org>.

Synergy Theater will perform "The Improvised Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" at the Leshner Center for the Performing Arts in Walnut Creek, Calif., Sept. 22-24 <www.lesherartscenter.org>.

F. Andrew Leslie's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Long Beach Playhouse in Long Beach, Calif., Sept. 24-Oct. 22; the web-site is at <www.lbplayhouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at the Church Hill Theatre in Church Hill, Md., Nov. 4-20 <www.churchhilltheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's comedy "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" is due at the Spreckels Performing Arts Center in Rohnert Park, Calif., Sept. 16-Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/ze9zc9r>. And at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Auditorium in Bloomington, Ind., Sept. 23-Oct. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/zhquvb6>; at the Allen Playhouse in Cleveland, Ohio, Jan. 27-Feb. 12 <www.clevelandplayhouse.com>; and at the Mayfield Dinner Theatre in Edmonton, Alta., from Feb. 7 through Apr. 2 <www.mayfieldtheatre.ca>. The play also is touring in British Columbia <www.artsclub.com/shows/on-tour>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" (based on the series of graphic novels by Tony Lee and Eric Boulton) will be presented by the Garden Suburb Theatre at the Lund Theatre in London, Feb. 14 to 19 <www.gardensuburbtheatre.co.uk>.

Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" will be performed at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 7-30, 2017 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>.

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Sep 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Of all 'historical' liars the writer of this book takes the cake. To anyone who knows the facts Conan Doyle's book looks more like one of his novels than a serious account of what actually took place. 'Fairy Photos' seem more in his line." That's what Francis William Reitz (who was State Secretary of the South African Republic from 1898 to 1902) wrote in his heavily-annotated copy of Conan Doyle's THE GREAT BOER WAR. The book went to auction at Stephan Welz & Co. in Johannesburg on Aug. 30, with an estimate of R1,500-R3,000 (about \$108-\$215); it sold for R5,000 (\$346).

The BBC's "Sherlock: The Abominable Bride" has won two Emmy Awards from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences: for outstanding television movie and for outstanding special visual effects in a supporting role. The next season of the series is scheduled for broadcast in 2017.

In other news from the Emmy Awards, Amanda Abbington (who joined Sue Vertue Beryl Vertue, and Stephen Moffat to accept the television-movie award for "Sherlock") reported on Twitter that when she returned to her seat she discovered that "some bastard had nicked my purse from under my seat."

In case someone offers to sell you a page from the manuscript of THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: it might be hot merchandise, stolen in 2009 from the collection of the late David S. Light. Randall Stock has more information on this at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/jmgrt2o>; the page is one of only a dozen known pages to be privately held, and the FBI is seeking assistance in recovering the page.

"Is Sherlock Holmes Rich?" was a question asked at the web-site Quora, and Kynan Eng provided an answer: to live in modern London, Holmes would need a before-tax income of £12,828 per month to live on his own. Read all about it at <www.quora.com/Is-Sherlock-Holmes-rich>.

The Wolfe Pack (The Official Nero Wolfe Society) was founded in 1978 and is still going strong, and of course has a journal (The Gazette), a web-site <www.nerowolfe.org> and a presence on social media (although one does wonder what Wolfe would have thought of the Internet); the web-site search engine makes it easy to find material related to Holmes and Conan Doyle, in The Gazette and elsewhere. Needless to say, due attention is paid to the long-held (by some) belief that Nero Wolfe was the son of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Long Island Cave Mystery" is the title of a "Book & Bottle" series lecture scheduled by Terry Hunt at Suffolk County Historical Society in Riverhead, N.Y., on Oct. 27. The Long Island cave mystery is mentioned in "The Red Circle", and Sherlockian scholars have noted for many years that there are no caves on Long Island, but Steve Doyle reported in 2006 in MANDATE FOR MURDER (the Baker Street Irregulars manuscript series volume on the story) that there was indeed a cave mystery near Islip in 1891, involving a series of underground bunkers described in period newspapers as caves; Terry will reveal more information about the mystery, including his identification of the site where the Long Island caves were located <www.suffolkcountyhistoricalsociety.org>.

Sep 16 #2 "Treasure Island, Beau Geste, all of Sherlock Holmes novels & stories, and a book about newspaper people called My Last Million Readers," was Charles Schulz's response to Evelyn B. Byrne in a letter, on his personal stationery that showed Charlie Brown and Snoopy, that was not published in *ATTACKS OF TASTE* (1971), edited by Byrne and Otto M. Penzler. The letter went to auction at University Archives on Aug. 23 (estimated at \$200-\$300), but did not make the reserve.

Those who fondly remember Basil of Baker Street (aka The Great Mouse Detective) will be glad to hear that he hasn't been forgotten by Disney: Sonia Fetherston notes that the Disney Store www.tinyurl.com/hww5ekj is offering an attractive Christmas tree ornament that shows Basil and Dawson (\$16.95), and it can be personalized for an additional \$5.95.



Les Klinger notes a Kickstarter project for Lucy Keifer's "Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty's Web" (a collaborative crime-solving game played on a board of moving tiles); details at www.tinyurl.com/huw2mx4.

Randall Stock reports an interesting leaflet produced by Dartmoor National Park: "The Hound of the Baskervilles Trail" is a helpful guide for a six-mile walk through the Dartmoor of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", and it's available for £1.50 at the park's visitor center. You can see a two-page sample from the guide at www.tinyurl.com/jmhr9gt.

"The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" (the Baker Street Irregulars' conference held in Chautauqua this month) was a delightful gathering, with a program that included preview excerpts from Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "Holmes and Watson" (due to premiere in Arizona next spring), performed without rehearsal by members of the audience, a centennial screening of William Gillette's silent film "Sherlock Holmes" with Philip Carli providing live piano accompaniment, and the first-ever screening in America of three of Eille Norwood's silent shorts: "The Stockbroker's Clerk" and "The Musgrave Ritual" (1922), and "The Crooked Man" (1923), also with piano accompaniment by Philip Carli.

It was wonderful to see Norwood's films; he received high praise from Conan Doyle, and filmed 47 stories from the Canon. There was more films news at the conference: Russell Merritt reported on the recent discovery of a copy of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), the last silent film based on the Canon; it was filmed in Germany and directed by Richard Oswald, with an international cast that included Carlyle Blackwell as Holmes and Georges Seroff as Watson. The film will be restored, and Russell expects the film to be available for viewing by 2020.

Dan Stashower has discovered Sherlock Shaving Soap (a tallow shaving soap with a warm tobacco-based scent, blended with toasted caramel, black pepper, and moist dirt, finished nicely with a touch of leather, moss, mandarin, honey, and rose, available from the Chiseled Face Groomatorium (\$12.99 for 4 ounces) www.chiseledface.com). It's homemade in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., and the tin has Sherlockian artwork; the company has noted in the past that "due to concerns from members of our military and government services, we no longer use hempseed oil in this product."

Sep 16 #3 "Political Correctness Ruins Great Literature" was the headline on a letter in the Chicago Tribune (Aug. 10), reported by Janice Weiner in The Scotland Yarders' News-Gazette; the letter suggested that "given political correctness, more people are reacting to great literature like simple-minded computer programs designed to screen out offensive elements," and as one of the examples cited THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES: "if the heroine gets tied up and rescued...the story must be perpetuating sexist stereotypes."

Gene Wilder died on Aug. 28. He was an actor, screenwriter, novelist, and director, and once said that he directed "in order to protect what I wrote, which I wrote in order to act," and his specialty was combining comedy and tragedy. He wrote and directed the film "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), in which he also starred as Sigerson Holmes.

Jim Hawkins, recently at the Reno-Lake Tahoe airport, spotted a slot machine that features Robert Downey Jr. and Jude Law; there's a 4-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j72gmnz>.



The Chapterhouse Theatre Company debuted a touring production of "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (dramatized by Laura Turner) at Wentworth Castle Gardens in Barnsley in 2013, and they have continued to perform the play in Great Britain and Ireland. And now much farther afield: they will tour China in October and November, and you can buy tickets at <en.damai.cn/tickets_106265>. Chapterhouse has a web-site at <www.chapterhouse.org>.

The MacArthur Fellows Program (sometimes called the Genius Grants) has made annual grants (now \$625,000 paid over five years in quarterly installments) as investments in people's originality, insight, and potential, and there have been three fellowships awarded over the years to people with Sherlockian or Doylean connections:

Paleontologist Stephen Jay Gould (1981) wrote a letter to the magazine Science 83 responding to an article by John Hathaway Winslow and Alfred Meyer that accused Conan Doyle of perpetrating the Piltdown hoax, and described their article as "an evidence-free argument based on speculations about motive." He also enjoyed Sherlockian films, and in THE FLAMINGO'S SMILE: REFLECTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY (1985) described the Universal series as "the unnumerable, yet wonderful, Rathbone-Bruce anachronisms that pit Holmes against Hitler and assorted enemies."

Magician James Randi (1986), who has followed the path blazed by Houdini in exposing fake mediums and psychics, going after them with great glee, had in his book FLIM-FLAM!: PSYCHICS, ESP, UNICORNS AND OTHER DELUSIONS (1982) a chapter on Conan Doyle and "Fairies at the Foot of the Garden".

And rare book preservationist Terry Belanger (2005) was the youngest member of The Sons of the Copper Beeches when he came a meeting with a Sherlockian jack o'lantern. His article "Travels with a Pumpkin" appeared in the Baker Street Journal (Mar. 1967), and he became a member of The Baker Irregulars ("Cartwright") in 1968.

Sep 16 #4 Many newspapers publish news from the past: the Traverse City Record-Eagle's "110 Years Ago" for May 25 last year noted that the paper was going to publish "the greatest and most engaging feature in fiction" (the thirteen mysteries in THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES, to which the paper had exclusive publication rights in its section of Michigan); the paper also reported that the American Drug Store specialized in a Chop Suey Sundae, and warned bicyclists that they were allowed to ride the side-walks of the city from 5 a.m. to 7 a.m. and at no other time (the reason for that warning likely was a horrible accident caused by a bicyclist who was going at least ten miles an hour when he attempted to pass a group of young ladies on the sidewalk on Washington Street. If you'd like to know what else was going on in town then, go to <www.tinyurl.com/ohuswpl>.



The Haslemere Herald <www.tinyurl.com/gr2wmcs> has reported that Undershaw, Conan Doyle's former home, is now open as the new Stepping Stones senior school, after two years of restoration and renovation by David Forbes-Nixon's Charitable Foundation; the opening included the unveiling of a blue plaque celebrating Conan Doyle's time at Undershaw, and the photograph shows Stepping Stones school head Melissa Farnham, foundation chairman David Forbes-Nixon, Haslemere mayor Sahran Abeysundara, Conan Doyle's grand-nephew Richard Doyle, and the plaque. You can see many more images from the opening at the website of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London <www.tinyurl.com/hudc4cj>.

Luke Benjamin Kuhns' WELCOME TO UNDERSHAW (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 107 pp., \$28.95 hardbound) is subtitled as "a brief history of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: the man who created Sherlock Holmes" and offers a well-illustrated examination of Conan Doyle's early life, the history of the house, and an interesting exploration of what happened while he was living there. It's nicely done indeed, and will be welcomed by anyone who has visited or plans to visit Undershaw. The MX web-sites are at <www.mxpublishing.com> and <www.mxpublishing.co.uk>.

The new season of "Elementary" (starring Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu) begins on CBS-TV on Oct. 2, and by the end of the fifth series Miller and Liu will have played Holmes and Watson in 120 programs, more than any pair of actors other than Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce (15 films and 220 episodes on radio). That 15 is not a misprint; the real fans will easily be able to name the 15th film.

If you visited The Sherlock Holmes pub in London in the distant past, you may remember an earlier version of the pub sign, which is now available for bidding at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/z4wd5x3>. Bidding started at £195 and the auction ends on Oct. 19.

Mary Ann Madden died on July 26. She presided over the New York Magazine Competition for more than 30 years, creating word-play challenges that attracted as many as 9,000 responses. In one of her competitions she challenged competitors to sully by anagram one familiar name of fact or fiction and provide for it a brief description similarly altered by a one-word jumble. The examples she offered included: "Sherlock Sholem--Israeli detective in relentless pursuit of his nemesis, Professor Yom Tirra."

Sep 16 #5 If you're in or near Princeton, N.J.: B.J. Rahn, author of THE REAL WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (Feb 15 #5) will be speaking at the Princeton branch of the English-Speaking Union on Jan. 17 on "how the Sherlock Holmes stories help us understand crime and detection in the Victorian era; details on the event are at <www.esuus.org/princeton>.

"Shall We Date? Guard Me, Sherlock!" is a Japanese anime social-based dating sim game just released by NTT Solmare <www.shallwedate.jp/en>. There was a report on the Business Wire on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/grq4nsf>, and there is a 32-minute video at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/j24j9g6>.

This year's Christmas card from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London features a full-color reproduction of a Christmas issue of The Strand Magazine (Dec. 1913, which contained "The Dying Detective"); \$20.00 postpaid for a packet of ten cards and envelopes <www.tinyurl.com/hhegqh>.

Tom Moses is selling some of his Sherlockian books, and offers a sales list by e-mail <tomjmoses@yahoo.com>.

"Holmes and Watson 1916-2016" is an imaginative video tribute tied to the song "Something Good (Will Come from That)" <www.vimeo.com/171431158> that makes good use of clips from a wide variety of Sherlockian film and television. And there's a link to a cheat-sheet, in case you don't recognize all the sources.

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists (also known as The Friends of Sherlock Holmes) honored the world's first forensic geologist with drinks and dinner at the Fadó Irish Pub in Denver on Sept. 28, during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America. We were welcomed by members of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, and our next meetings will be on Apr. 5, 2017, in Houston, and Oct. 25 in Seattle.

Sarah Andrews, one of our members, received this year's Presidential Medal from the GSA, in recognition of her "outstanding support of the geosciences." Praised as an "author, pilot, artist, and teacher," she's the author of twelve novels about geologist-turned-detective Em Hansen; Sarah has described the novels as "geology with a plot," and she has an excellent website at <www.sarahandrews.net>.

One of the things that geologists discuss at their conferences is the consequences of climate change and global warming: geologists don't doubt that the earth is warming (in Victorian times explorers died in vain attempts to find an ice-free Northwest Passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific across the top of North America, but it's now possible to make the trip in comfort on tourist cruises). New York magazine had an excellent article by Andrew Rice this month <www.tinyurl.com/zjxtknu> discussing "New York in the not-so-distant future" (although the Yale Club is not mentioned in the article, it's likely to be high and dry, but difficult to reach by train or subway).

The BBC is continuing its publicity campaign for the new season of "Sherlock" and revealed this month that the first two episodes will be "The Six Thatchers" and "The Lying Detective" (the on-line personal blog of Dr. John H. Watson <www.tinyurl.com/j8q3sqd> explains the six Thatchers.

Sep 16 #6 Jeans for Genes Day was celebrated in Britain on Sept. 23, in aid of Genetic Orders UK, in a partnership with Gap, and iconic statues in London were dressed in denim. The statue of Sherlock Holmes near Baker Street Station was outfitted with an attractive denim cape, and you can see it in full color at <www.tinyurl.com/zqcswh6>.

And, as usual, some theater news: Rick White's "Sherlock Holmes: The Whitechapel Murders" is running at the Way Off Broadway Community Players in Leander, Tex., through Oct. 15 <www.wobcp.org>.

Steven Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Depot Theater Company in Dodge City, Kans., Oct. 7-22; web-site at <www.depotheaterco.com>; and at the Old Opera House in Charles Town, W.Va., Oct. 14-23 <www.oldoperathouse.org>; and at the Glendale Center Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Oct. 14-Nov. 19 <www.glendalecentertheatre.com>.

The East Haddam Stage Company tour of the William Gillette radio script for "The Speckled Band" (1930) will include a performance on Oct. 14 at Ventfort Hall, the Gilded Age house museum in Lenox, Mass. <www.gildedage.org>, built as their summer home by George and Sarah Morgan (she was the sister of J. Pierpont Morgan).

"The Baker Street Irregulars" (a new play written by Dominic Pope and David Redstone) is due at the Redannick Theatre in Truro, Cornwall, on Oct. 20-22 <www.taods.co.uk>.

"The 21st Century Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is a monthly series improvised and performed by Brian Paul and Sam Bennett at the Players' Ring in Portsmouth, N.H., from Oct. 20 to June 15 <www.playersring.org>.

John Charles Nassivera's "The Penultimate Problem of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Ouachita Little Theater in Mena, Ark., from Oct. 21 to Oct. 30 <www.ouachitalittletheater.org>.

Alice Coghlan's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed by Wonderland Productions at the Kildare Street Hotel in Dublin, Oct. 24-Nov. 24 <www.wonderlandtheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Postmortem" (an earlier version of "The Game's Afoot") will be presented by the Montgomery Playhouse and Arts on the Green at the Arts Barn in Gaithersburg, Md., Nov. 4-20 <www.tinyurl.com>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Capitol Theatre in Waterloo, Ill., Nov. 4-13 <www.masctheatre.org>.

The Lanikai Mortgage Players (who are also known as Those Strange People in the Park) will present "Sherlock Holms and the Case of the Vanishing Swain, or Alimentary, My Dear Watson" at the Nelson and Lucille Shreve Theater in the Lanikai Community Center on Oahu, Hawaii, Nov. 4-13; their web-site is at <www.lanikaimortgageplayers.org>.

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Oct 16 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Congratulations to David Stuart Davies on his invitation to join the Detection Club, founded in 1930 and the oldest society for British mystery writers; there's a sinister but tongue-in-cheek initiation ceremony, and David chose lines from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as his motto; he's a prolific author of Sherlockian pastiches and plays, and has written books on Sherlock Holmes in film and on Jeremy Brett, and will contribute a Sherlock Holmes story to an upcoming Detection Club anthology.

The Detection Club was founded by Anthony Berkeley Cox in 1930, with support from G. K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and others, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was asked to become the Club's Honorary President; unfortunately his health was poor, and he had to decline the invitation.

Martin Edwards' *THE GOLDEN AGE OF MURDER* (Oct 15 #5), which previously won an Edgar (best biographical/critical) from the Mystery Writers of America, and an Agatha (best non-fiction) from *Malice Domestic*, has also won a Macavity Award (best critical/biographical) from Mystery Readers International (announced last month at Bouchercon in New Orleans).

Bouchercon 2017 will be in Toronto ("Passport to Murder") Oct. 12-15, 2017; followed by Saint Petersburg ("Crime in the Sunshine"), Sept. 13-16, 2018; Dallas ("Denim, Diamonds and Death") Oct. 31-Nov. 4, 2019; and Sacramento ("Where Murder is a Capitol Crime"), Oct. 15-18, 2020. Bouchercon is the largest gathering of mystery authors and readers, and there's (almost) always a Sherlockian panel; this year in New Orleans Les Klinger was the moderator for "Wherefore and Why: Sherlock Holmes" (with Lois Gresh, Michael Robertson, Bonnie MacBird, Terence Faherty, and Laura Caldwell).

There are a few copies available of the 22-page printed program for The Baker Street Irregulars' conference in Chautauqua, last month, for those who weren't able to attend the gathering; there are articles and illustrations, and "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes" can be bought (\$10.00 plus shipping at www.bakerstreetjournal.com/sherlock2016p.html).

Upcoming in Florida: Diane Gilbert Madsen will be appearing at Copperfish Books in Punta Gorda, Fla., on Nov. 3, as part of the city's fine arts festival, speaking about her latest book *CRACKING THE CODE OF THE CANON: HOW SHERLOCK MADE HIS DECISIONS* (Jul 16 #5) www.copperfishbooks.com.

The web-site Bustle had a story on Sept. 30 www.tinyurl.com/hrcnl5z about the Ghost Club, a paranormal investigation and research organization that was founded in London in 1862 and widely believed to be the oldest such organization in the world; the article is about Charles Dickens, a dedicated ghost hunter, but Conan Doyle also was a member.

Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* continues to add podcasts to its web-site, and one of them is Steve Hockensmith and Michael Wiltrout reading Steve's "Dear Dr. Watson" (from the Feb. 2007 issue). Another is a dramatization of Edward D. Hoch's "The Problem of the Covered Bridge" (Dec. 1974); there is an appropriate Sherlockian allusion in the story. There are 85 podcasts now, with more to come www.themysteryplace.com/eqmm.

Oct 16 #2 Spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube: "Whitlock: A Study in Starlet" (described as "a modern-day web-series adaptation of Sherlock Holmes that follows cantankerous consulting detective Sophie Whitlock and her New-Agey assistant Fawn Watkins as they solve crimes in sunny, sordid L.A."); there are five episodes beginning at <www.tinyurl.com/jczr2kp> with a total of 31 minutes. It's also offered at Amazon (\$9.99) as a play-only DVD that may not run on all DVD devices.

Warren Murphy died on Sept. 4, 2015. Best-known for his series about "The Destroyer", he also wrote a short story "Highly Irregular on Baker Street", which starred P.I. Devlin Tracy investigating a murder at the present-day 221B Baker Street; it was published in THE PRIVATE EYE WRITERS OF AMERICA PRESENT MYSTERY STREET: THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PWA ANTHOLOGY (2001).



"A planet might as well leave its orbit," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Bruce-Partington Plans"), adding that "Jupiter is descending today." A recent sheet of stamps offering "Views of Our Planets" includes an image of Jupiter taken by the Hubble Space Telescope's near-infrared camera and multi-object spectrometer in 2004.

It's possible, of course, that it was the god that was descending, rather than the planet. Which raises the question: which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon?

William B. Beeson ("The Barque Lone Star") died on Oct. 23. Bill was a computer programmer at Texas Instruments, a magician, one of the founders of The Crew of The Barque Lone Star, an ardent Texan who delighted in parading in costume wearing a ten-gallon deerstalker. He also arranged for a supply of cloth saddlebags to hold the souvenirs distributed at annual dinners of The Baker Street Irregulars, and happily performed (as Boris) in a Dallas production of "The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca". Bill received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

Nick Digilio has a three-hour series on WGN Radio, and on Oct. 18 the show included a 29-minute interview with Bob Madia about "Sherlock Holmes: Peter Cushing, Monster Encounters, and Extensive Collections"; you can listen to the segment at <www.tinyurl.com/z3pz5ou>.

The now-immortal phrase "Elementary, my dear Watson" is first known to have been spoken by Sherlock Holmes in the film "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" (1929), which starred Clive Brook and H. Reeves-Smith. The phrase also is found in P. G. Wodehouse's "Psmith, Journalist: His Adventures in New York" (which was serialized in The Captain: A Magazine for Boys and "Old Boys" in 1909-1910); Psmith murmured those words in the Jan. 1910 issue. The story was published as a book in 1915, and you can read it on-line at Project Gutenberg <www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2607>.

You possibly have read or heard that the phrase was first used by William Gillette, but it's not to be found in any of the scripts for his play used or published during his lifetime. Holmes did say those words in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of Gillette's play in 1974; that script was published by Samuel French in 1976 and by Doubleday in 1977.

Oct 16 #3 Which of the other planets is mentioned by name in the Canon?
It's our own, of course. How on Earth could anyone have forgotten that often-used phrase? If your answer was Mercury, which was suggested by Bob Thomalen when I first asked that question in 1991, there is indeed a mention of Mercury, but it's not the planet: it's a newspaper (the Leeds Mercury, mentioned in "The Hound of the Baskervilles").

THE OBSIDIAN CHAMBER, by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child, is the latest in their series of suspense novels about FBI special agent Pendergast; it is not Sherlockian or Doylean, but you can watch an amusing video of Child signing 4,000 copies of the book at <www.youtube.com/gpe6jcv>. Their WHITE FIRE (Nov 14 #5) began with their account of the dinner at which Arthur Conan Doyle met Oscar Wilde, and involved a search for the manuscript of the long-lost last Sherlock Holmes story.

"Well, I quit my job so I could work all alone,/Then I changed my name to Sherlock Holmes./Followed some clues from my detective bag/And discovered they wus Red stripes in the American flag!/That ol' Betsy Ross..." That's one version of the lyrics of "The Talkin' John Birch Society Blues" (1962), a song written by Bob Dylan that CBS-TV refused to allow him to sing on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1963. This month Dylan won the Nobel Prize in Literature; considered by many to be the poet laureate of the rock era, he is the first musician to win the award, which recognized his "having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition."



Further to the report (Sep 16 #4) that an earlier version of the sign for the Sherlock Holmes pub in London was up at auction on eBay, it's pleasant to be able to report that it was acquired by a Sherlockian: Nick Utechin now is the proud owner of the sign. It remains to be seen whether Nick plans to become the proprietor of a pub in Oxford.

Michael Robertson's THE BAKER STREET JURORS (Apr 16 #7) featured Reggie and Nigel Heath, who have offices in the building at 221B Baker Street, and a lease that requires them to answer Sherlock Holmes' mail, which includes a jury summons. Robertson has contributed to the Criminal Element blog an amusing discussion of "Why Sherlock Holmes Could Be Summoned for Jury Duty in the 21st Century--and How He Might Feel About It" <www.tinyurl.com/j2xqvfu>.

Laurie R. King's MARY RUSSELL'S WAR AND OTHER STORIES OF SUSPENSE (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen Press, 2016; 300 pp., \$15.95) is a welcome addition to what Mary Russell's fans call the Kanon: a collection of ten short stories (nine reprints and one new) that illuminate and explain some of the gaps in the history of Russell and Holmes.

Charles J. Rzepka's interesting essay on "'The Unofficial Force': Irregular Author Love and Love and the Higher Criticism" has been published in TRANS-ATLANTIC LITERATURE AND AUTHOR LOVE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016; 371 pp., \$109.00), and it offers an excellent review of the world of Sherlockians and their societies. Edited by Paul Westover and Ann Wierda Rowland, the book is the latest in the "Palgrave Studies in Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture" series.

Oct 16 #4 Gordon R. Speck (Colonel James Barclay) died on Oct. 10. Gordon served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, taught English at the Menard Correctional Center in southern Illinois, and was an enthusiastic member of The Occupants of the Empty House and many other mid-western Sherlockian societies; he also was one of the three founders of The Victoria Station Idlers, a society that met only once, at St. Louis International Airport, and presided over the Speck Led Band when he and friends traveled to Sherlockian event. He received his Investiture from The Baker Street Irregulars in 1986.

Just in time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year will be on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1.

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France has launched a new magazine: The Illustrated Holmesian News (Published Monthly When It's Published), and you can read all about it (in French) at <www.mycrofts.net/magazine-sh>; there is a link "(Commandez-le ici!" in purple) to their shop, where you can order the first issue of the magazine, and other publications by the SSHF.

The BBC offers an interesting (and amusing) list of "14 Ways to Know You've Got Too Much Stuff" <www.tinyurl.com/h7aoj59>; of course that's stuff other than books, but nevertheless ...

Boo! Someone in Takoma Park, Md., has read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and created an imaginative front-lawn Halloween decoration, spotted by Alison Rosenberg. If the image isn't clear enough, the gravemarker reads "Here Lies Sir Charles Baskerville".



Emma Jane Holloway's "The Baskerville Affair" trilogy offers an imaginative mix of steampunk and magic, featuring Evalina Cooper (niece of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes) and a plot that involves romance, rebellion, sorcery, heroines, heroes (including her uncles), and villains, all in a Victorian alternative-universe England. The books are A STUDY IN SILKS (New York: Del Rey, 2013; 549 pp., \$7.99); A STUDY IN DARKNESS (2013; 535 pp., \$7.99); and A STUDY IN ASHES (2013; 662 pp., \$7.99); and there's an additional e-book THE BASKERVILLE TALES (2014; 133 pp., \$0.99) with three short stories tied to the novels. The author's web-site at <www.emmajaneholloway.com> provides an interesting introduction to the series.

Anyone who fondly remembers Ely Liebow (and I don't think there is anyone who remembers Ely who doesn't remember him fondly) will enjoy a delightful tribute to him written by Ray Betzner and posted to his "Studies in Starrett" blog <www.tinyurl.com/zszjdv5>.

The American Museum of Natural History's traveling exhibition on "The Power of Poison" is now at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City through Apr. 16; the exhibition highlights poison's cultural impact, from Egyptian and Indian mythology through Shakespeare Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie and Harry Potter, and there's an interesting web-site about it at <www.tinyurl.com/h2nuvwm>. The Salt Lake City exhibition's web-site is at <www.nhmu.utah.edu/poison>.

Oct 16 #5 A friend of The Sound of the Baskervilles (the Sherlockian society in Seattle), hoping to encourage someone to write an article based on the premise that Sherlock Holmes was a Catholic priest before he met Watson, has given the society a collection of books that might be useful in writing the article; Dale Crakes <horta_981121@yahoo.com> will be glad to provide a list of the books, and to answer questions about the project (there will be no cost for shipping, and it's an interesting list).

"Our Favorite Books" is an occasional one-hour series on Utah Public Radio, and on Oct. 18 the subject was "Sherlock Holmes"; Tom Williams interviewed Utah State University Associate Professor of English Brian McCuskey and local expert Sherlockian and Doylean Michael Homer. The program's available at <www.upr.org/post/our-favorite-books-sherlock-holmes>.

Benedict Cumberbatch made the cover of the November issue of Vanity Fair, and you can read the story on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/zclqfdz>, where you also can "Watch Benedict Cumberbatch Perform Magic" in a short video. He also will host "Saturday Night Live" on NBC-TV on Nov. 5, perhaps, or perhaps not, doing something Sherlockian. Finally, PBS-TV and the BBC will air the first episode of the next season of "Sherlock" on New Year's Day (it's "The Six Thatchers").

Upcoming in Phoenix, Ariz.: the Herberger Theater and ASU Center of Film, Media and Popular Culture will present a "Sherlock Holmes Film Festival" on Mar. 24-25, 2017; there will be four Sherlockian films in the program, with discussion/Q&A by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher and film expert Russell Merritt <www.herbergertheater.org>.

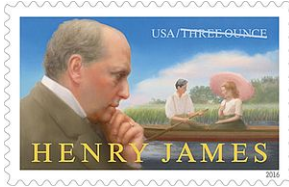
Richard L. Kellogg has added to his entertaining series of books for young readers (with attractive artwork by Gary Kato): the first titles were BARRY BASKERVILLE SOLVES A CASE (Apr 13 #4) and BARRY BASKERVILLE RETURNS (May 14 #4), and now there are BARRY BASKERVILLE TRAPS A THIEF (Fort Collins: Airship 27, 2015; 34 pp., \$10.99) and BARRY BASKERVILLE'S BLUE BICYCLE (2016; 38 pp., \$10.99).

TransProse, created by Hannah Davis, is a computer program that translates text into music, based on the density of eight different emotions; she has generated music from this year's presidential debates, and from literature that includes "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", which you can listen to at <www.musicfromtext.com/novels.html>.

Reported: Brad Ricca's MRS. SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE TRUE STORY OF NEW YORK'S GREATEST FEMALE DETECTIVE AND THE 1917 MISSING GIRL CASE THAT CAPTIVATED A NATION (due from St. Martin's in January); the detective was Mary Winterton Quackenbos Humiston, and the missing girl was Ruth Cruger; in the meantime you can read Karen Abbott's article ("Mrs. Sherlock Holmes' Takes on the NYPD") at the Smithsonian magazine web-site <www.tinyurl.com/hk6hc7c>.

The debate about whether Sherlock Holmes attended Oxford or Cambridge will continue as long as there are Sherlockians prepared to argue for or against one college or the other, but a story in the Oxford Mail (Sept. 29) reports that Sherlock Holmes once taught physical education and English at the City of Oxford High School for Boys <www.tinyurl.com/jspopke>.

Oct 16 #6 Samantha Wolov, who recalls that the Algonquin was an unusual aspect of her childhood, has reported a story that will be of interest to those who remember when the hotel was the center of the Sherlockian world in New York: the Algonquin's iconic cat now is the star of a children's book *MATILDA, THE ALGONQUIN CAT*, written by Leslie Martini and nicely illustrated by Massimo Mongiardo (*Deadwood: Wyatt-MacKenzie*, 2016; 44 pp., \$26.00). The N.Y. Post story's at <www.tinyurl.com/zgamsdg>.



The latest stamp in our Literary Arts series honors Henry James (1843-1916), a prolific and highly-regarded author who appears not in the Canon, but rather as a major character in Dan Simmons' pastiche *THE FIFTH HEART* (Aug 15 #4); the portrait is by Los Angeles artist Kate Simmons (no relation to Dan).

Nicholas Utechin's *FROM ABBEY TO WILES* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2016; 26 pp., \$20.00) is a splendid (and full-color) examination of the work of the seven artists who illustrated the dust jackets for the John Murray editions of the Canon, providing an excellent demonstration of the reason why dust jackets can be so important to collectors, and to those who enjoy seeing how various artists have portrayed the Sherlock Holmes. One shudders to think of how many readers have not protected the dust jackets on their books, making it both difficult and expensive to see the artwork. You can purchase Nick's book (\$20.00 postpaid) at <www.tinyurl.com/zzxnm82> (that's the Society's shop, where you'll find a nice variety of interesting Sherlockian scholarship).

"An Elementary Buy!" was the headline in the Daily Mail (Oct. 3) on a story noting that Masongill Cottage, near Ingleton in North Yorkshire, in on the market priced at £575,000 <www.tinyurl.com/j22fbbv>. Conan Doyle's mother moved into Masongill Cottage in the mid-1880s and lived there until 1917, and the article has some nice photographs of the exterior and interior of the cottage. And some thoroughly inaccurate suggestions that it was there that Conan Doyle was inspired to create Sherlock Holmes.

Sherlockian societies often publicize Sherlock Holmes with interesting programs arranged at local libraries, and The Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Dallas offers a fine example: an evening devoted to "The Women of Sherlock Holmes" at the Allen Public Library on Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/gpe3qpe>.

The N.Y. Times Book Review has a continuing series "By the Book", and they recently ran an interesting interview with Otto Penzler. Among the questions: "How old were you when you discovered mysteries? What book got you hooked?" Otto's answer was: "I was 21, and--I know it's trite because everyone starts here--when I read 'The Complete Sherlock Holmes' I was hooked for life." The complete interview's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/j8ykf7l>.

Work continues on getting the third "Sherlock Holmes" film starring Robert Downey Jr. into production: Variety reported (Oct. 27) that Warner Bros., Village Roadshow, and Team Downey have created a "writers' room" to work on the script. The concept, commonly used in television, is becoming a trend for films, and the team that will be working on "Sherlock Holmes" includes some talented writers; the full story is at <www.tinyurl.com/jm6lebu>.

Oct 16 #7 Sherlock Holmes' 163rd birthday will be celebrated on Friday, Jan. 6, with the traditional festivities in New York, but the first formal event will be The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes' ASH Wednesday dinner starting at 6:30 pm at the Annie Moore (22 East 41st Street); attendees will pay their own checks, but need to reserve with Susan Rice <susan221bee@gmail.com> (125 Washington Place #2-E, New York, NY 10014) or with Evy Herzog <herzogbaesch@aol.com> (301 Warren Avenue #203, Baltimore, MD 21230).

As for the rest of the long weekend, this forecast will be shorter than in past years, because details about the Baker Street Irregulars' events and the William Gillette Luncheon are not yet available. The final forecast, which will include both events and hotel reservations, will be on-line early in November at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>.

One bit of news: The Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker Lecture will be held on Thursday at a new venue: the Yale Club. The speaker will be Sara Paretsky; she's the author of the continuing series of novels about V. I. Warshawski, and the Sherlockian pastiche "The Curious Affair of the Italian Art Dealer" published in the anthology IN THE COMPANY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (2014), and in 2011 she won the Grand Master Award from the Mystery Writers of America, recognizing work that is both significant and of consistent high quality.

The Baker Street Babes happily invite one and all to their "Daintiest Thing Under a Palm Tree Tiki Party" at the Salmagundi Club (47 Fifth Avenue); the party will start at 8:00 pm and will include dinner, toasts, a quiz, a costume competition, and a live auction that will benefit the Disabled American Veterans Trust (donations for the auction are welcome, and you can contact Lyndsay Faye at <lyndsay@bakerstreetbabes.com>; you'll soon be able to purchase tickets at the Babes' web-site <www.bakerstreetbabes.com>.

Otto Penzler will host his traditional open house on Friday from 11:00 to 5:00 at the Mysterious Bookshop, at 58 Warren Street (between West Broadway and Church Street) in Tribeca; the 1, 2, and 3 trains stop at the Chambers Street station (one block from the shop); authors will be on hand to sign their books, and Otto promises a lot of older material at discount prices. If you get lost, the bookshop's telephone number is 212-587-1011.

Susan Rice reports that plans are afoot for The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon on Friday, but the venue has not been confirmed.

The Gaslight Gala, open to all Sherlockians and their friends, will provide dinner and entertainment at 6:30 pm at the Butterfield 8 Restaurant (5 East 38th Street; the cost is not yet available, but you can check soon at the Gala web-site <www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com>.

If you want to send seasonal souvenirs or other items to be included in the various dinner packets, you can send 175 copies (for the BSI) to Nick Martorelli (Penguin Random House, 1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019); and 90 copies (for the Gala) to Chris Zordan (184 Blew Court, East Brunswick, NJ 08816; and 18 copies (for *The Women*) to Mary Ann Bradley (7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278); your souvenirs must arrive by Dec. 15.

Oct 16 #8 On Saturday a wide range of Sherlockiana will be available from vendors in the Merchants Room (Covent Garden West) somewhere in the Roosevelt Hotel (45 East 45th Street) from 9:00 am to noon; consult the hotel directory for the location. Vendors should contact Ralph Hall (2906 Wallingford Court, Louisville, KY 40218) (502-491-3148) to request information about dealer's tables; his e-mail address is <bugmanhall@aol.com>.

The Beacon Society's annual meeting will be at 10:00 am in the York Suite at the Roosevelt Hotel, where they will present their annual Beacon Award recognizing individuals' efforts to introduce Sherlock Holmes to young people; details are at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>. The Clients of Adrian Mulliner will hold a Junior Bloodstain, also in the York Suite, at 11:30 am, for devotees of the work of John H. Watson and P. G. Wodehouse; additional information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu>.

For those who wish to continue celebrating, The Curious Collectors of Baker Street will host "The Very Irregular Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians Dinner" at 6:00 pm at O'Lunney's Times Square Pub (145 West 45th Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues); more information is available from Chrys Kegley (18014 Sherman Way #275, Reseda, CA 91235) (818-675-5399) <ckegley@socal.rr.com>.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes will end the birthday festivities with an informal buffet brunch on Sunday, at 11:30 am at St. Andrews (140 West 46th Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues); \$25.00. On-line sales will open mid-November at <www.ash-nyc.com>; please reserve to <ashbrunch@gmail.com> (it's possible that there will be room for late-comers).

There will be blocks of rooms available at the Yale Club and the Roosevelt Hotel, but other hotels offer reasonable (for New York) rates: the best offers will be found on the Internet at web-sites such as <www.expedia.com>, <www.priceline.com>, <www.tripadvisor.com>, <www.travelocity.com> (which is owned by Expedia), and <www.hotels.com>; you will be wise if you then check the hotel's web-site and ask for the best rate (do keep in mind that there are non-optional extras such as almost 20% in state and city taxes).

The Dr. John H. Watson Fund offers financial assistance to all Sherlockians (membership in the BSI is not required) who might otherwise not be able to participate in the weekend's festivities. A carefully pseudonymous John H. Watson presides over the fund and welcomes contributions, which can be made by check payable to John H. Watson and sent (without return address on the envelope) to Dr. Watson, care of The Baker Street Irregulars, at 7938 Mill Stream Circle, Indianapolis, IN 46278; your letters are forwarded unopened, and Dr. Watson will acknowledge your generosity. Requests for assistance should also be mailed (quickly) to Dr. Watson at the same address.

Again, you should check at <www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html> in November to find more complete information about registering for events and making hotel reservations; space is limited at some events, so don't delay registering after information's available at the web-site.

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