

BAKER STREET ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE
OF A
TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

2025

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IN THE FORM OF A FORMIDABLE SCRAP-BOOK OF 2024,
INCLUDING TREASURES CREATED OR UNCOVERED THEN,
WITH A FEW OTHER ODDS AND ENDS TOSSED IN

EDITED BY
ROSS E. DAVIES AND PAMELA J. SULLIVAN



BAKER STREET ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE OF A TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

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the more dreadful parts of the tragedy



Peter Blau in his office in Bethesda, Maryland, with the May 2025 *Scuttlebutt* on his computer screen.

SHERLOCK HOLMES

REAL OR IMAGINED? LIVING OR DYING?

Ross E. Davies*

This is our eighth *Baker Street Almanac*. For an explanation of why the *Green Bag* launched this ship and why we are so optimistic about its course (uncertain as it may be), please read “Laws of Demand and Supply” in the 2019 edition. It is available on our website.¹

FRESH DEVELOPMENTS

Every year, this project brings with it at least a few new and interesting contributors and topics. Here are some examples (“some” because this little preface lacks space to mention all the new niftinesses):

- Linda Hein gives us a fascinating history of Baker Street West.
- Aleš M. Kolodrubec’s report from Czechia includes his interview with leading Czech Sherlockian playwright and artist Peter Kopel, and photographs of (and art from) the premier of Kopel’s new play.
- Randall Stock — renowned for his articles on the provenance and history of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlockian manuscripts for the BSI Press’s Manuscript Series — gives the same kind of impeccable scholarly treatment to a rare pamphlet edition of “The Adventure of the Dying Detective” published by Collier’s in 1913.

There is much more, of course (this is a nearly-500-page book, after all), but the characters and content described above are enough to justify the price of admission all by themselves. Here’s hoping you enjoy the entire show!

SCUTTLEBUTT

Also every year — indeed, every month — since time immemorial, Peter Blau has been writing, publishing, and distributing his *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*. And since 2019, his *Scuttlebutt* has been the centerpiece of our *Baker Street Almanac*. Oddly, though, in all those years, Peter has never been captured on camera while engaged in the production of his uniquely useful periodical. We are pleased and proud to have filled that gap in the record. (See facing page.)

* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

¹ Here: www.greenbag.org. Or here: papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3364282.

ONE OR TWO LITTLE FANCIES

When one of our generous supporters pays for a *Baker Street Almanac* they are buying a copy of the book. That is all. We do, however, like to include a little gift or two, when we can.

Thus, a *Baker Street Almanac* often travels (or at least exits our mailroom) in the company of other Sherlockian items. Sometimes they are wearable (last year, for example, there was a beryl coronet bandana inspired by “The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet” and designed by Madeline Quiñones) or usable in some other way (for example, the 2023 *Baker Street Almanac* was supplemented by a toothbrush from the offices of George William Barlow, L.D.S., R.C.S., dentist to Sherlock Holmes in “How Watson Learned the Trick”).

This year, we are focusing on writing (there is a postcard) and reading (there is a booklet).

A SINGLE POST-CARD: REAL OR IMAGINED?

As the home of the “Conan Doyle Collection Lancelyn Green Bequest,” the Portsmouth Libraries and Archive (PL&A) is one of the most important centers of Doylean-Sherlockian scholarship in the world.² Every year, in June and July, the PL&A hosts its “Worldwide Doyle” lecture series. As part of the 2024 program, the PL&A offered for sale a special limited-edition postcard featuring a photograph in the Conan Doyle Collection.

The caption on the back of the postcard reads as follows:

In the first week of September 1898, Arthur Conan Doyle travelled to Salisbury Plain to witness the largest military manoeuvres in a quarter of a century. This photograph, taken from an album cataloguing his trip, is annotated in the author’s distinctive handwriting. But to whom is the annotation referring — the gentleman holding the bicycle or its invisible rider?

Can you guess what the annotation says?

The *Green Bag* — an enthusiastic supporter of the PL&A — purchased enough of the postcards to include one in many (perhaps all) copies of the 2025 *Baker Street Almanac*. Here’s hoping you find one in this copy! If you want more, you might try visiting this webpage, just in case the PL&A still has a few left for sale.³

² <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conan-doyle>.

³ <https://www.visitportsmouth.co.uk/conan-doyle/shop>.

REAL OR IMAGINED? LIVING OR DYING?



Madeline Quinones (top) and Mark Jones (bottom) wearing their beryl coronets.

A SMALL CASE-BOOK: LIVING OR DYING?

Readers of the November 22, 1913 issue of *Collier's Weekly* magazine had the joy of taking in Arthur Conan Doyle's new Sherlock Holmes story, "The Adventure of the Dying Detective."

Recipients of the nifty little Christmas 1913 keepsake booklet of "The Dying Detective" put out by the advertising department at *Collier's* got to read almost exactly the same story. The typesetters did a near-perfect job of making sure that the text of "The Dying Detective" in the booklet matched the text in the magazine. Indeed, there are just three notable differences between the booklet and magazine texts. The first two differences appear to be intentional and definitely are not defects. The third is, alas, a typographical finish-line fail.

Difference No. 1: Capital letters. In the *Collier's Weekly* magazine version, "The Dying Detective" opens with a three-line dropped capital letter and is broken into sections by 14 two-line dropped capitals, each accompanied by one or two words in all capitals. In the booklet, the story opens with a three-line dropped capital and two words in all capitals, and contains no other dropped capitals or words in all capitals.

Difference No. 2: Paragraphing. The first paragraph in the magazine is split into two paragraphs in the booklet, and the fourth and fifth paragraphs in the magazine are combined into one paragraph in the booklet.

Difference No. 3: Punctuation. The comma in the last sentence in the magazine — "When we have finished at the police station, I think that something nutritious at Simpson's would not be out of place." — is replaced with a period in the booklet, converting a grammatical ending to the story into an ungrammatical one: "When we have finished at the police station. I think that something nutritious at Simpson's would not be out of place." It is a typesetting tragedy.

So, differences between the texts of the *Collier's* magazine and booklet versions of "The Dying Detective" may not provide much room for interesting investigation.

While there does not appear to be much worthy of study in the textual differences between the two 1913 *Collier's* versions of "The Dying Detective," adding *The Strand Magazine* to the mix may change things. There is at least one difference between, on one hand, both of those *Collier's* versions and, on the other hand, the version in the December 1913 *Strand* that might merit a closer look. On page 609 of *The Strand*, while conversing with Dr. John Watson, Holmes says, "Strange how the brain controls the brain!"



The “Dying Detective” facsimile booklet and the Portsmouth Libraries and Archive postcard.

That sentence does not appear in the *Collier’s* magazine or booklet.

It is, however, in the autograph manuscript of “The Dying Detective,” on page 8 of the facsimile published by the Westminster Libraries and the Arthur Conan Doyle Society in 1991. It also appears in some American newspapers — for example, the *Chicago Inter Ocean* on December 21, 1913, and the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* on January 4, 1914 — but not others — for example, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and the *Minneapolis Journal* on December 21, 1913. And it is in the version of the story published a bit later, in 1917, by the George H. Doran Company in *His Last Bow*.

These inconsistencies may be of no greater moment than the typo at the end of the *Collier’s* booklet, but we can only test their value by further inquiry, which is beyond the scope of this little introduction.

In any event, the *Collier’s* booklet is replete with interest all by itself — its commercial and cultural contexts, its functions, its physical characteristics, and so on. Randall Stock explores these topics and others in his scholarly essay about the booklet, “The First Edition of ‘The Dying Detective’: A 1913 Christmas Gift,” which you can read in this volume, on pages 352-361.

In addition, many *Baker Street Almanac* subscribers should have a chance to investigate the *Collier’s* booklet for themselves, because we’ve published a

limited-edition facsimile of it. Check for a pocket attached to the back cover of this volume.

WHISPERS OF “NORBURY”

We err. Often. Or at least too often. Luckily, we have attentive, communicative readers who help us mend our errors, and sometime our ways. Here are a few things we should’ve done differently in the 2024 *Baker Street Almanac*:

As Joe Eckrich gently pointed out to us, “Surely the winner of The Wessex Cup should have his name spelled correctly.” We agreed, of course, and were embarrassed to learn from Joe that we’d misspelled his name on page 254 (“Eckridge”! Oy!), and that we’d done the same thing to Joe’s son Peter on pages 260 and 265. Thanks to Joe for letting us know, and apologies both to him and to Peter.

Madeline Quiñones sent this wonderful note:

I have to tell on myself! I have a self-Norbury, which I only noticed because I’ve started this year’s recap of the BSI Weekend and had last year’s open. The error is on page 253, paragraph3: I misidentify Jim Cox as Jim Webb. Which I feel awful about, because I definitely already knew that Jim Cox is the Jim who runs the Morley Walk! Ugh. So yeah, please run this in the Norbury section with my apologies.

Nicely said, Madeline!⁴

And finally, we have this gem from Peter Blau:

Many thanks for all your hard work with the Almanac, and for your kind words ... I found no mistakes, but there is something you might want to comment on in a future issue: There are other amusing quirks in the 2023 Scuttlebutts. Note, for example, that the first page of the February edition is labeled “Jan 23 #1” which could be a test or a trip up. Who knows? I like to explain that I do my best to insert a typo in each issue, for the pleasure of those who like to look for them. And of course that typo no longer exists in the archival issues of Scuttlebutt conveniently available at the Red Circle’s web-site.⁵

⁴ You will find Madeline’s recap on pages 296–306 of this volume.

⁵ <https://www.redcircledc.org/>.

If you catch an error — large or small — in any *Baker Street Almanac* please do let us know (email editors@greenbag.org).

THANKS

As ever, we thank the librarians, and proofreaders extraordinaire Ira Brad Matetsky and Rich Krisciunas (whose sharp eyes, wits, and pencils are well-suited to annually and tactfully delivering the last word on imperfections in the *Baker Street Almanac*).⁶

And we thank you, reader, for reading. Please do write if you think of something we ought to start or stop doing.

Ross E. Davies
July 30, 2025

⁶ Cf. *Davies v. Mann*, 152 Eng. Rep. 588 (1882).

PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL

*Susan and Ben Vizoskie**

Several noteworthy Sherlockian anniversaries occurred in 2024. The BSI celebrated its 90th anniversary in January, Minnesota honored the founding of its Sherlock Holmes Collections 50 years ago at its conference in July, and September 2024 marked the 25th anniversary of the unveiling of the Sherlock Holmes statue in London.

JANUARY 2024 IN NEW YORK

As part of the 2024 Birthday Weekend, the Baker Street Irregulars presented an exhibition of early historic objects that are seldom gathered together for display. On Thursday morning, January 11, contributors brought their treasures to the Yale Club library to set up the exhibition. A sampling of items on view included an early BSI dinner program with signatures of attendees, minutes of early BSI meetings, photographs, fabric used for the original BSI tie worn by Christopher Morley and accompanied by relevant correspondence, a BSI stock certificate, investitures, a BSI membership card, and special volumes owned and signed by early, prominent Irregulars. Also included was Vincent Starrett's invitation to the first formal BSI dinner, held in June 1934, with Starrett's text of his telegraphic reply to Morley. Providing essential information, each item's caption clearly identified the object, its history and significance, and its current owner.

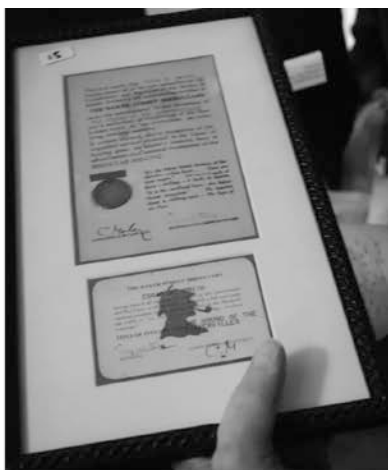
All viewers extend their gratitude and thanks to the objects' owners for their generosity in loaning their treasured objects and their efforts in setting up the exhibition and to the Yale Club for providing space and security.

JULY 2024 IN MINNEAPOLIS

In July, the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and the University of Minnesota Libraries' Sherlock Holmes Collections hosted their 2024 conference, "Sherlock Holmes @50: Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections." At the Elmer L. Andersen Library, a special exhibition, *A Festive Fifty*, provided the perfect complement to the celebration.

* Susan and Ben Vizoskie have long served as officers of The Three Garridebs, in Westchester County, NY. All photos are by Ben, and all photos of the BSI's January exhibition are courtesy of the BSI. Copyright 2025 Susan and Ben Vizoskie.

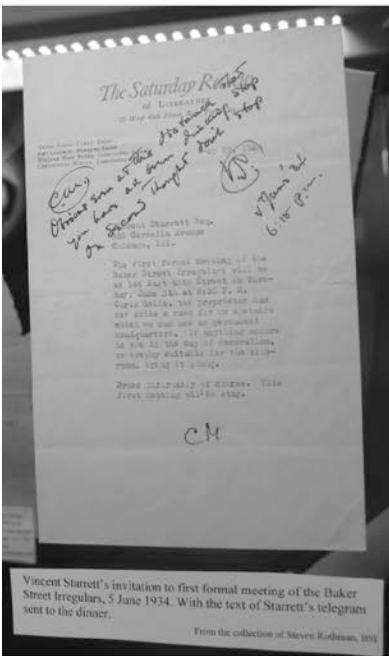
PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



The BSI Exhibition: Top left: One case of the exhibition. Top right: Edgar W. Smith's BSI investiture certificate and membership card. Middle: Exhibition contributors (left to right) Glen Miranker (with Peter Blau's right shoulder visible over Glen's left shoulder), Steven Rothman, Leslie Klinger, and Michael Kean. Bottom: Two copies of *221B: Studies in Sherlock* (1940) signed by many Sherlockians.



PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



The BSI Exhibition: Top: Steven Rothman adjusting cloth from the original BSI tie. Middle left: Vincent Starrett's invitation to the first formal meeting of the BSI (5 June 1934), with the text of Starrett's telegram sent in reply. Bottom left: Gavel made from wood from the door at 111 Baker Street, given to Edgar W. Smith and now held by Michael Kean. Bottom right: Exhibition contributor Mary Ann Bradley holding Michael Whelan's investiture and a BSI stock certificate.



The conference informally began on Thursday evening, July 25, with a reception at the Marriott Courtyard. The conference officially opened on Friday, July 26, with morning registration at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. Over the three days of the conference, attendees heard an array of fine speakers delving into diverse topics such as collecting, phosphorus in *The Hound*, Frederic Dorr Steele, the telegraph, treason, John Bennett Shaw, and others.

Friday afternoon, attendees were welcomed by conference chair Richard Sveum, and the afternoon continued with conference presentations and the annual meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections.

On Saturday the conference resumed at the Marriott Courtyard with more terrific presentations before and following a generous lunch break with time to chat and catch up with friends and patronize vendors with their tempting wares. Attendees to Saturday evening's banquet continued to socialize. Toasts were offered, Leslie Klinger was the evening's speaker, and Peter Blau served as auctioneer for a few choice items.

The conference concluded on Sunday morning at the Elmer L. Andersen Library. The final speakers were followed by a performance of *221A: A Recently Discovered Episode of the Long Running Radio Series "The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes"* written by Jeffrey Hatcher from an idea by Don Shelby. Both Hatcher and Shelby performed with the Red-Throated League in the radio play, and, as always, the Red-Throated League greatly enhanced the production with their sound effects.

The exhibition, *A Festive Fifty*, was exceptional. It illustrated the growth of the Sherlock Holmes Collections since its beginning in 1974 while simultaneously displaying the richness and diversity of the whole. A sampling of items on display included original issues of the 1887 *Beeton's Christmas Annual*; a scrapbook belonging to William Gillette; the original manuscript of "Billy Bones," a children's story written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; Edith Meiser scripts; and manuscripts for the Basil series written by Eve Titus. Also on display were cartoons, paintings, prints, statues, greeting cards, and other items too many to list. A beautiful catalog provided color photographs of the exhibits and additional detailed information about the objects and the collectors.

Thanks to the conference committee for all their efforts in arranging the conference, and additional thanks to Timothy J. Johnson, E.W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections, and Darren Terpstra, Exhibit and Graphic Designer for the University of Minnesota Libraries, for the exhibition *A Festive Fifty* and the accompanying attractive and comprehensive catalog.

PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



The Minnesota Conference: Top left: Richard Sveum opening the conference. Top right: Bill Mason offering a toast. Middle right: Matt Hall presenting "Phosphorus in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*." Bottom: Vendors' room at the conference.



PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



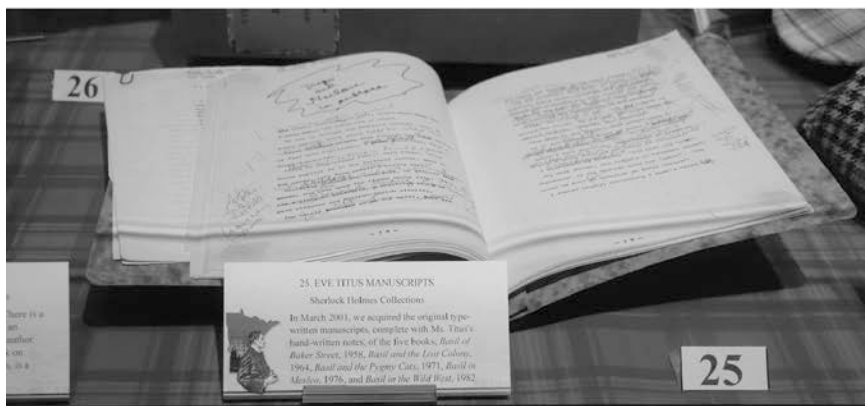
The Minnesota Conference: Top left: Pj Doyle offering a toast. Top right: Peter Blau, auctioneer. Middle left: Denny Dobry presenting "A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room." Bottom: Don Shelby, Jeffrey Hatcher, John Clemo, Paul Agustin performing in *221A*.



PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



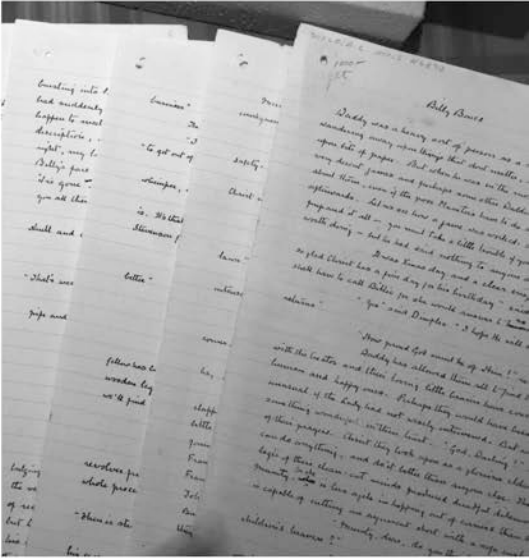
A Festive Fifty Exhibition: Top: Entrance to the exhibition at the Minnesota conference. Middle: Manuscript of *Basil in Mexico* by Eve Titus. Bottom left: Copies of *Beeton's Christmas Annual* that once belonged, left to right, to Vincent Starrett, the 6th Marquess of Donegall, and Jerome Kern. Bottom right: Cartoon by Jeff Decker.



PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



A Festive Fifty Exhibition: Top left: John Bennett Shaw's oversize deerstalker and Ronald Burt DeWaal's *World Bibliography* used and annotated by E.W. McDiarmid. Top right: A selection of Sherlockian greeting cards. Middle right: Manuscript pages of "Billy Bones" by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Bottom left: A Teapot, a Jack-in-the-box, and a William Gillette Scrapbook. Bottom right: Frederic Dorr Steele drawing for "Wisteria Lodge."





A Festive Fifty Exhibition: Top: Comic strip by Edith Meiser and Frank Giacoia. Middle right: Vincent Starrett's guest book and *The Baker Street Dozen*, edited by Pj Doyle and E.W. McDiarmid. Bottom: The *A Festive Fifty* exhibition space at the Minnesota conference.



SEPTEMBER 1999 IN LONDON

September 2024 marked the 25th anniversary of the unveiling of the Sherlock Holmes statue in London. We are unaware of any formal events scheduled in 2024 to commemorate the anniversary, but a celebratory festival surrounded the formal unveiling ceremony in 1999. Although the actual unveiling of the statue occurred on September 23, the Sherlock Holmes Society of London had scheduled events at sites throughout London and beyond from Tuesday, September 21 through Sunday, September 26.

The Statue Festival opened with a welcome reception held on Tuesday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Tower Bridge, in a reception room in the western walkway high above the Thames. The views of the sunset and the river were stunning.

Two events were held on Wednesday, the next day. At a noon reception at the House of Lords, attendees enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres. The terrace adjacent to the reception room provided views of the House of Lords and river traffic on the Thames. At 6:30 p.m. attendees assembled at the British Library for lectures by Richard Lancelyn Green and Bernard Davies. Also, attendees were able to view a small, eclectic exhibition of Sherlockian manuscripts and other Library treasures, including the Magna Carta and the hand-written lyrics for several songs of the Beatles.

Thursday, September 23 was *the day*. At 11:00 a.m. attendees gathered in a roped-off area near the Baker Street Underground entrance. The weather was drizzly, and umbrellas were furled and unfurled throughout the ceremony. The Chairman of Abbey National plc spoke briefly and had some difficulty with unveiling the statue; the white cloth covering kept snagging on Holmes's pipe. Finally, after some assistance from John Doubleday, the statue's sculptor, the statue was unveiled! In the evening, many assembled at the Players Theatre, The Arches, on Villiers Street, for a buffet dinner followed by a special music hall performance.

Tea was served at the House of Lords on Friday afternoon, September 24, at 3:00 p.m. Later, at 7:00 p.m. a film evening commenced at the Museum of London auditorium. Two short films preceded the main feature, the 1931 version of the *Hound of the Baskervilles* with a very sympathetic dog playing the hound.

Saturday morning, September 25, a large group assembled in St. John's Wood in the Grandstand at Lord's Cricket Ground for coffee and Richard Lancelyn Green's presentation about the history of Lord's, the Marylebone Cricket Club, and the Doylean connection. From Lord's, attendees marched

PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION, A CONFERENCE, AND A FESTIVAL



Statue Memories 1999:
Top: Traitors' Gate and the Tower of London seen from Tower Bridge. Left middle: Al Gregory and Jan Stauber on the Terrace of the House of Lords. Right middle: Richard Lancelyn Green (right) outside Players' Theatre at The Arches, Villiers Street. Bottom: Lord's Cricket Ground.





Statue Memories 1999: Top: Transportation from Lord's Cricket Ground to Landmark Hotel. Middle left: Dagenham Girl Pipers at Lord's Cricket Ground. Bottom: Hansom cab from Lord's Cricket Ground to Landmark Hotel.





Statue Memories 1999: Top left: Sherlock Holmes Society of London presents the Sherlock Holmes Statue to the City of Westminster. Top right: The statue on Marylebone Road. Middle right: Roger Llewellyn in *Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act*. Bottom: Speakers (left to right) at the symposium at Imperial College Julie McKuras, Tsukasa Kobayashi, Bernard Davies, Wladimir Bogomoletz, Auberon Redfearn, Michael Meer, Michael Whelan, Michael Ross.





Statue Memories
1999: Top: John Doubleday displays a small version of the statue. Bottom left: John Doubleday's home and studio in Essex. Bottom right: "The game is afoot."



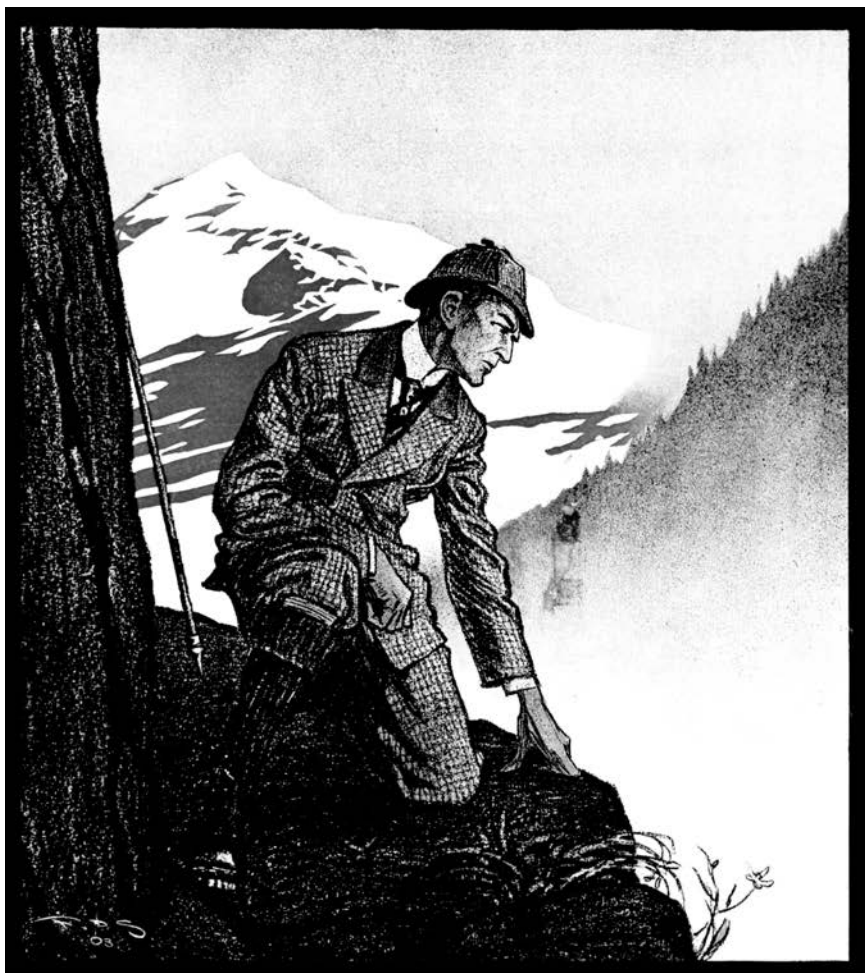
to the Landmark Hotel led by the Dagenham Girl Pipers for the formal presentation of the statue to the City of Westminster. The Deputy Lord Mayor accepted the gift on behalf of the people of the City. In the evening at the Cockpit Theatre, attendees were treated to a performance of *Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act*, a one-man play written by David Stuart Davies and performed by Roger Llewellyn, followed by a Q and A session.

The Festival concluded on Sunday, September 26. In the morning at the Imperial College, South Kensington, a symposium of international speakers was held and was followed by an excursion to Essex to John Doubleday's home and studio. In his studio, Mr. Doubleday explained the sculpting process for the statue and used various statue models to illustrate his points. Tea was available in the garden, and there was much to discuss on the return trip to London.

Many Sherlockians enjoy gathering for special exhibitions and conferences, and 2024 offered outstanding opportunities of both as part of celebrating significant anniversaries. Many Sherlockians are collectors; they enjoy the thrill of the hunt, the acquisition and expansion of their collections and their knowledge, and the people they meet along the way. Many collectors also enjoy sharing their collections, as a whole or in part, with others. The 2024 exhibitions in New York and Minnesota were made possible by the generosity of collectors, and Sherlockians are grateful to the collectors for sharing their treasures and enriching the celebrations. Sherlockians also collect memories, and those memories and experiences become part of our individual and collective memory and strengthen our bonds of friendship.

The 1999 Festival in London was also a carefully curated exhibition, of places and sites familiar to Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The statue of Sherlock Holmes was a noteworthy addition to the London landscape and the statue's unveiling an event to be celebrated. To those who revere Sherlock Holmes, residents and visitors alike, viewing the statue is a special experience and a memory to be made, savored, and added to our personal collections.

Our game continues to be afoot.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 2024

SCIONICAL AND SOCIETAL REPORTS

EDITED BY

ROSS E. DAVIES AND PAMELA J. SULLIVAN

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But unfortunately the power of accumulating knowledge and that of imparting it are two very different things, and the uninspired historian becomes merely the dignified compiler of an enlarged almanac.

Arthur Conan Doyle,
Through the Magic Door,
Cassell's Magazine, Aug. 1907

Editors' note: This still hurts.

SHERLOCK IN AUSTRALIA 2024

*Bill Barnes**

Key

SP = The Sydney Passengers

SHSWA = Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia¹

SHSM = The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne²

UR = The Unscrupulous Rascals (Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia)³

Date	Group	Event	Location	Details
14-Jan	SHSWA	Meeting & AGM	Member's home	Celebration of Sherlock Holmes' 170th birthday, and planning of 2024 events.
18-Feb	UR	Meeting	The Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide	Showing of the 1924 film <i>Sherlock, Jr.</i> and a quiz on DYIN.
23-Mar	SHSWA	Meeting	Members' home	Radio play "The Case of the Adventuress".
28-Apr	SP	Meeting	Online	Presentation by Fran Zilio from the South Australian Museum on "Arthur Conan Doyle, Champion of Spiritualism, Adelaide 1920".
18-May	SHSWA	Meeting	Members' home	"Damian's Choice" Video quiz.
19-May	UR	Meeting	The Rob Roy Hotel, Adelaide	Three short presentations in honour of ACD's 165th birthday, and a quiz on SHOS.
14-Jul	SP	Meeting	Online	Talk by author Stephen Herczeg: "If I Can Write Sherlock Holmes Adventure, Anyone Can!"
28-Jul	SHSWA	The Maiwand Luncheon	Mundaring Hotel, Mundaring	Annual commemoration of The Battle of Maiwand, 1880.

* Bill Barnes is the Captain (president) of The Sydney Passengers. Copyright 2025 Bill Barnes.

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/105055146203626>.

² www.sherlock-holmes.au.

³ <https://adelaiderascals.com>.



Top: SH Society of Western Australia Maiwand Luncheon (July 2024). Bottom: SH Society of Western Australia Croquet Day (October 2024). Photos courtesy of and copyright Carole Rutter.



The Sydney Passengers online meeting (December 2024).
Photo courtesy of and copyright Erin O'Neill.

Date	Group	Event	Location	Details
18-Aug	UR	Meeting	CWA Building, Kent Town	Presentation by Martina Tacker on "Jack the Ripper: The Enduring Fascination with Unsolved Murders", and a quiz on FIVE.
22-Sep	SP	Meeting	Online	Screening of a new short film "Sherlock Holmes: Memories of Murder" and a talk by the film's producer, director and one of the actors, Declan Seefield.
5-Oct	SHSWA	Croquet Day	Sorrento Bowling Club, Duncraig	Playing this genteel game in Victorian attire.
30-Nov	SHSWA	The Blue Carbuncle Luncheon	Members' home	Convivial Sherlockian discussions and a Show & Tell.
1-Dec	SP	Meeting	Online	Presentation by Matthew Hall on "Phosphorus and the Making of a Hellhound", followed by a lively discussion.



Bill Barnes from Sydney (2nd from left) with members of The Copenhagen Speckled Gang in Denmark (December 2024). Photo courtesy of and copyright Bill Barnes.

Date	Group	Event	Location	Details
1-Dec	UR	Meeting	CWA Building, Kent Town	Presentation by George Gal- loway on “The Strange Death of a Sherlock Holmes Fanatic: Richard Lancelyn Green”, and a Sherlock Holmes trivia quiz.
9-Dec	SHSM	Annual Dinner	The Melbourne Club, Melbourne	Presentations by members on LAST, ACD’s activities in WW1, and whether Mycroft was instrumental in the rise in the use of aeroplanes in WW1.

CZECH SOCIETY OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

IN THE YEAR OF 2024 OR 171 ANNO HOLMESI

*Aleš M. Kolodrubec, Markéta Kočí, and Petr Kopl**

Another year in the life of our Society has passed and here is its summary.

We have followed with our monthly on-line meeting studying the Canon of Sherlock Holmes and moved from the stories collected in *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* to those in *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*.

And in summer several of us met in Prague in person. This event was prepared and moderated by our member Markéta Kočí. So let's give her the floor:

. . . .

In June 2024 we enjoyed our in-person meeting in Prague. As always, we started the meeting with our society jingle by the Czech composer Ilja Hurník.

The next item on the agenda was the canonical quiz based on *The Memoirs* and *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*. The contestants were challenged to match the quotes to their stories. All the participants showed maximum concentration even if they had to get by without the canonical 3 pipes, with the time limit much lower than 50 minutes. The happy winner of the quiz, Paul Merild, received the official society's certificate, signed by its President, Mr. Aleš Kolodrubec.

We concluded the meeting with a discussion on the origins of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, focusing on the identification of the sites mentioned in the novel within the Dartmoor National Park area.

We parted with wishes for a pleasant summer hiatus with the prospect of meeting again, this time on-line, in September to continue with our monthly analysis of the stories.

. . . .

However, the peak of the year occurred on November 11, when a play titled *A Scandal in Bohemia* had its first night in Jihlava, the capital of the Moravian Vysočina Region, situated on the historical border between Moravia and Bohemia about 110 kms to the east of Prague. The play received a great reception from the audience.

* *Aleš M. Kolodrubec is the founder of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes and its president. Markéta Kočí is a member of the above-mentioned society and among other things she hosts its on-line meetings. Petr Kopl is a society honorary member and a prolific and appreciated illustrator and (not only) Sherlockian cartoonist.*



Paul Merild, winner of the canonical quiz. Photo by Markéta Kočí.

The script was written by Petr Kopl, an honorary member of our society. He is also the director of the play and creator of its set design and other graphics, as well as text materials connected with it. The script itself is based on Petr's very own graphic novel of the same name. It freely combines two stories by Arthur Conan Doyle — *A Scandal in Bohemia* and *The Speckled Band* — into a detective comedy 90 minutes long and performed without a break.

Petr Kopl was born 1976 in Třebíč, a small Moravian town, and in 2000 he moved to Jihlava, where he lives so far. While working in an advertising agency full time, he devotes his private life to drawing and has become one of the best Czech comic artists, if not the best. Petr specializes in a specific style of drawing called cartooning. He is mainly known for his comic adaptations of Victorian literature, which he collects in the *Viktoria Regina* book series, and for regular comic strips, some of which have also been collected in book form. As an author, Petr is very prolific and diligent, and a highly appreciated winner of several prizes.

PREMIÉRA PREMIÉRA PREMIÉRA PREMIÉRA PREMIÉRA PREMIÉRA

DS NAKOP TYJÁTR JIHLAVA UVÁDÍ

DOBRODRUŽNOU KOMEDII

v hlavních rolích Pavla Živná, Pavel Štěpán a Martin Kacafírek

Sherlock Holmes



SKANDÁL V ČECHÁCH

PODLE ARTHURA CONANA DOYLA NAPSAL A REŽIOVAL PETR KOPL

9. 11. 2024 v 19 hod
v Divadle Na Kopečku



info o vstupenkách:

567 552 232, 604 880 804



Play bill for the first night of *A Scandal in Bohemia*. By Petr Kopl.



Top (left to right): Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson on the train to Stoke Moran in Petr Kopl's *A Scandal in Bohemia*. Bottom (left to right): HM Queen Victoria, the King of Bohemia, and Sherlock Holmes with Dr. Watson. Photos by Petr Kopl.

He has also illustrated almost 40 books and is also an occasional journalist, screenwriter, and actor.

His Sherlockian graphic novels from the Viktoria Regina series are also known to English-speaking readers, as all three of them have appeared on Amazon, and one was translated even into Spanish.

On the occasion of the premiere of *A Scandal in Bohemia*, I interviewed Petr, whom I know personally for more than a decade:

• • • •

Aleš M. Kolodrubec: When did you start drawing comics? When was your first one published?

Petr Kopl: I knew I wanted to draw comics when I was five. The problem was that this profession didn't really exist here, so I actually had a better chance of becoming an astronaut than a comic book artist. But I started pushing my work right after the Velvet Revolution. Still, it took over ten years before I even got a foot in the door. In the meantime, I had to make a living with my actual profession — I was a trained shop assistant. My first solo book came out in 2010. It was *King Arthur*, which already featured the character Morganka, who later got her own book series. She now has seven very successful books.

AK: When was your first Sherlock Holmes graphic novel published, and which one was it?

PK: The first was *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, released in 2011. Since then, it has had three reprints.

AK: How many of them have been published in English?

PK: So far, all the Sherlocks have been published in English — that is, the trilogy: *A Scandal in Bohemia*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and *The Final Problem*. I'm currently working on *The Devil's Foot*, and it's really kicking my ass. I've been at it for four years, and I still can't get it under control.

AK: Since when have you been acting in amateur theatre?

PK: Also since childhood. I've always had a thing for performing. Funny enough, nowadays I tend to hide more. More and more, I enjoy being in the background of a project. I've never been much of a leader. But then, during the COVID pandemic, there was a shortage of directors, so I had to take charge and direct the play *Hansel and Gretel* ... I was surprised myself how calming it was for me. It suddenly opened up new possibilities I'd never considered before.



Top (left to right): HM Queen Victoria, Sherlock Holmes, Julia Stoner, Dr. Watson, and Dr. Roylott in Petr Kopř's *A Scandal in Bohemia*. Bottom (left to right): HM Queen Victoria with her maid. Photos by Petr Kopř.



Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in Petr Kopl's *A Scandal in Bohemia*. Photo by Petr Kopl.

AK: And so, you have slowly gotten into the directing position ... Your play was based on your graphic novel A Scandal in Bohemia, right? How many Czech editions has it had?

PK: Three.

AK: You wrote the script based on it and directed the play. Did you act in it too? What role?

PK: No, I didn't act in it. I was originally supposed to play Sherlock, but thankfully that didn't happen, because the actor I wanted for the role eventually became available. Only after I stepped off the stage did I see how many things were wrong in the staging. So thankfully, I didn't take the part. Apparently, I'm not a good enough director to direct myself — I need to see it from the outside.

AK: Which theatre company did you work with and how long did you rehearse?

PK: Rehearsals took a year. Please highlight this: they're amateurs. Ten actors and a sound technician. Working men and women with kids, entrepreneurs, clerks — they all agreed to rehearse at least twice a week, from 7pm to 11pm or even later. The oldest actress is 80. We rehearsed it with *NaKop Tyjátr* company, and since we were short on people, we brought in three more actors from two other amateur companies. And some actors play multiple roles, as well.

AK: I have the premiere poster saved. Is there a program as well?

PK: Sure, there is. It's printed on A3 and it's designed to look like a newspaper. Before the show, a "paperboy" walks among the audience shouting out headlines. The program also contains a crucial clue to solving one of the side mysteries in the play — just like in the comic.

AK: Thank you, Petr, for you time. And all of us we wish you and this piece of work all the best, and long and successful life.

— ZVLÁŠTNÍ VYDÁNÍ! —

Daily Gazette

Premiéra představení 9. 11. 2024

DS NAKOP TYJÁTR JIHLAVA UVÁDÍ
DOBRODRUŽNOU KOMEDII
v hlavních rolích Pavla Živná, Pavel Štěpán a Martin Kacafírek
— Sherlock Holmes —

SKANDÁL V ČECHÁCH

PODLE ARTHURA CONANA DOYLA NAPSAL A REŽIOVAL PETR KOPL



**JEJÍ VELIČENSTVO VIKTORIE,
Z BOŽÍ MILOSTI KRÁLOVNA
SPOJENÉHO KRÁLOVSTVÍ
VELKÉ BRITÁNIE
A IRSKA, OBRÁNKYNĚ VÍRY,
CÍSAŘOVNA INDIE
LUDMILA MUSILOVÁ
VYHLAŠUJE PÁTRÁNÍ!**



Sherlock Holmes
alias
Pavel Štěpán



Irena Adlerová
alias
Pavla Živná



Dr. John Watson
alias
Martin Kacafírek

PODEZŘELÉ OSOBY:

Program (front) designed to look like a newspaper for *A Scandal in Bohemia*. By Petr Kopl.

Daily Gazette ZVLÁŠTNÍ VYDÁNÍ!



Paní Hudsonová,
ošetřovatelka
alias

Květa Přibyllová



Český král, ceremoniář, revizor,
vágus 1, agent 1, právník
alias

Libor Kabelka



Dr. Roylott,
vágus 2, agent 2
alias

Petr Kočka



Helena Stonerová,
kolporter
alias

Tereza Vojmélková



Julie Stonerová, prostitutka 1 a 2,
Marry Watsonová, květinářka
alias

Lucie Matulová



Dorian Gray, Norton, strážník,
Jack Rozparovač
alias

Tomáš Plesinger

KOMPLICOVÉ:

Zvuk a světla

Jan Vojmél

Choreografie

Natalie Schreková

Předloha předlohy

Arthur Conan Doyle

Autor komiksové předlohy

Petr Kopl

Scénář a režie

Petr Kopl



Předlohu představení lze objednat
www.grada.cz

Skandál v Čechách

Nejslavnější detektiv světa stal se již ikonou a přímo zosobněním detektiva. Autor jeho dobrodružství, sir Arthur Conan Doyle, ho vymyslel pro kratší povídky do *Strand magazine*. Holmesovy příběhy logické a deduktivní schopnosti předurčily směr jeho života. Doyle se tak (možná nevědomky) stal zakladatelem nového žánru – detektivky. Žánru, jehož pravidla se dodnes nezměnila.

Sherlock Holmes a jeho nerozlučný přítel a kronikář Dr. Watson prožili pod Doyleovým dohledem 56 krátkých dobrodružství a čtyři romány.

Celé to začalo roku 1887 v časopisu *Strand magazine*, kde se jako blesk z čistého nebe objevila povídka *Skandál v Čechách*. Od té chvíle byli čtenáři zcela ztraceni a žádali si nová a nová dobrodružství úžasného detektiva, který bydlel na Baker Street 221B. Lidé ho tak milovali, že dokonce uvěřili v jeho existenci a zahrnovali autora prosbami o pomoc s reálnými případy. Sherlock Holmes se tak neúmyslně stal masovou fabulací davu.

Doyle byl po letech postavou tak otráven, že se ji pokusil zabít. Ano, slavný detektiv našel v povídce *Poslední případ* svou smrt. Avšak zvedla se taková vlna odporu čtenářů, a dokonce i královna Viktorie vyslovila svou nevoli nad skonem své oblíbené literární postavy, že byl Doyle donucen přivést krále všech detektivů zpět k životu.

Doyleovy city ke světní výtvaru snad vystihuje jeho výrok, když se chystalo divadelní představení na motivy jeho povídek. Na otázku režiséra, zda by se mohl Sherlock zamílovat a posleze i oženit, spisovatel lakonicky odpověděl: „Oženíte ho, zabijete ho, mně je to úplně jedno!“

Dopis Ireny Adlerové Sherlocku Holmesovi

Drahy Holmase,

prosim Vás, abyste si ponechal dopis,

*který Vám tímto předávám
 Rozhodně musím říci, že poostřel o Vaší inteligenci
 a schopnostiach velkosti. Celé to bylo
 složitě varující a napínavé dobrodružství.*

*Když jsem spolupracoval, byli bychom s Vámi pár
 Těži je, že co dříve jste mne mohl dostat!*

*Moje já už se nechtělo dávat ošar, kvůli tomu muži
 Eva a Adam se rozzlobili tak, jako se milujeme my.*

*Drahy Holmase, celá takhle doba
 spíše je odrazem, se kterými opravdu*

nechtějí mít nic společného. Naflekloje mne. Nar-

*ovněte události prodeje těles. Vyprávě hrati,
 že nemám v úmyslu ho nikterak ohrožit*

Rozhodně ne, pokud proti mně

respondujete nerozumně hrakly

Srdce, přáteli!

Irena Adlerová Nortonová



DS NAKOP TYJÁTR JIHLAVA
INFO A VSTUPENKY 604 880 804



Daily Gazette ZVLÁŠTNÍ VYDÁNÍ!

Soubor děkuje sponzorovi firmě MUSIL spol. s r. o. za mecenášství, Janu Andělovi za pomoc a Psychiatrické nemocnici Jihlava za všechno!

Program (back) designed to look like a newspaper for *A Scandal in Bohemia*. By Petr Kopl.

SHERLOCK IN DENMARK 2024

*M.S. Lambek**

The year that went by the common denominator of “2024” went by last year, swiftly, unremarkably almost, and in Denmark with one primary goal in sight: *viz.* the preparation for the Diamond Anniversary of what was and is the Danish Baker Street Irregulars in the year 2025 — for that is when we shall celebrate our grand 75 Years Jubilee! This may serve as a feeble excuse (necessary explanation, *M.S.L.*) for the deploring low level or lack of activities in the year 2024. However, a few of the usual suspects did manage to act usually suspiciously.

THE AARSMØDE

The year took its inauguration as is wont with the Annual General Meeting: the *Aarsmøde*!

This year, however, was different: *Frederiksberg Rådhuskælder* was the place. Granted, most of the participants had been there before. But the date was new: for once, the meeting could take place actually *on* the Sixth of January itself!

After the always *lassus-faire* (quite polyphonic, *M.S.L.*) recitation of the Musgrave Ritual, the General Assembly saw the Board re-elected as per tradition, but not before the President had delivered her report of the not-so-deplorable number of past activities gone by, and the Scatmester had done the same with his accounts, this year mentioning no figures but quotations from *The Valley of Fear*.

“he made his own preparations for the grim evening in front of him” — VALL

Canonical Toasts had duly been prepared: the one to “Broder Mycroft” by Mr. Torben Carlsen — and a less traditional one to the Vernets and their Canonical Connections by Ms. Dinna Bjørn. “Moriarty” was toasted by another of the Members Ordinaire, Mr. Bjarne Juul.

But then, the President was proud to announce two new Honorary Members this year: Ms. Lise Lotte Frederiksen has been an active member for forty years (and so active elsewhere, alas, to be present this night at this meeting, *M.S.L.*) — and the indefatigable member and photographer Mr. Juul for an unbelievable fifty years! The Honour consists primarily of not *having* to pay the fees (but still choosing to, *M.S.L.*).

* The Scatmester of the *Danish Baker Street Irregulars*, who really is much too busy in preparing for an upcoming event to write these notes. Copyright 2025 Michael Skov Lambek.

I have come prepared to do so,' said Holmes — HOUN

Mr. Svend Ranild, BSI, presented the attendees with his by now usual gift of the most recent issue of his yellow-backed chapbook in the increasingly misnomered series *Studier i Rødt* (*Studies in Red*), as he privately had prepared volume seven, called *Mig og Wilma* as a plethora of data and a cornucopia of titbits concerning Mr./Ms. Wilma Norman Neruda and his/her gender-confusing connections to the Canon and Copenhagen: the last word upon the subject. Subsequently, in the newsletter *Sherlockiana*, Ed Ranild continued his never-ending series of studies in *A Study in Scarlet* on film, which, for some reason, this time focussed on cross-dressing.

And in addition, a small gift to all participants had been prepared: a portion-sized packet of *butter* together with a snip of *parsley*! Not part of the otherwise excellent menu at the restaurant, but a part from one of the untold cases of the Canonical Writings.

"A cunning preparation of it,' said Holmes" — HOUN

Thus, with the AGM well over and done with, nothing much of note really happened the rest of last year; for then members of the Klubben and its Board began to spend more and more time immersing themselves into preparing the coming event, when the Klubben itself is able to celebrate its very own seventy-fifth anniversary in 2025!

221 BE PREPARED

Thus, no plans are in store for an ordinary Annual General Meeting to take place in January 2025, but for another type of AGM: A Gala Meeting in May — and at a new and very fancy venue! To be announced ...

"there was nothing in his house which could account for such elaborate preparations, and such an expenditure as they were at" — REDH

Other preparations include a fieldtrip to Holmes and Doyle's own hunting-grounds in London, Portsmouth, and Dartmoor in September.

Hon. President Jens Byskov Jensen as editor has for a long time been planning the *Baker Street Journal's Xmas Annual 2025*: a number dedicated to celebrating the 75 Years of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben — with contributions on the leading Presidents of the Klubben, the history of the traditions in the society, the Scions, et cetera. Never have so few written in or translated into English so little for so many foreign Sherlockians who *desværre* have not mastered the vernacular of the Danish Klub.

Additionally, board members Messrs. Lambek and Monggaard are planning to act as editors of what is planned to become *Sherlock Holmes Klubben 1950-2025: 75 års jubilæum*: A Danish festschrift anthology privately published on the occasion of the Diamond Anniversary of *The Danish Baker Street Irregulars* in May 2025, featuring a representative selection of cornerstone Danish Writings about The Writings: from the old founding members to original pieces from scholars active even today!

*"I can give you, gentlemen, five minutes for preparation, and that is all."
'And ample for us both,' said Holmes" — VALL*

CANONICAL RESEARCH

Sherlockians everywhere are an inquisitive bunch, and the newsletter in Denmark, *Sherlockiana*, is still — when not too occupied with preparations for the Jubilee — the aptly named standard repository of what goes on in the Danish world of Sherlockiana:

Its editor, Mr. Ranild, BSI, wrote about Extra-Canonical Persons (real, historical people, i.e. apart from Holmes and Watson) — and some more about Norma Neruda: presumably another last word upon the subject ... Then Mr. M.S. Lambek wrote some words about Messrs Ranild and Neruda.

A case of another anniversary is *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*: and one of the 2024 issues of *Sherlockiana* included another entry to celebrate the centenary of "The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire" as per M.S.L., as per usual, with its tenuous deductions on who is the actual — and psychic — vampire hidden in that story. So, it would appear that this writer finally did find time from writing up minutes from social meetings to be able to ponder canonically. Probably the last word upon that case, as the writer is amongst those who have a jubilee to prepare ...

The postal stamp of Dr. Palle Schantz Lauridsen, BSI, and his cross-media approach were indelibly on the new chapter he had prepared and published in his never-ending series of academic studies: this instance about what the Danish Radiophonic broadcasting corporation had done to keep the Master's memory green, including radio shows, dramatizations, and erudite introductory talks such as by one of the old Hon. Members, the tireless Mr. Niels Birger Wamberg on the wireless. Hopefully, we will hear more of this in connection with the forthcoming Jubilee festivities.

Not involved in any actual planning, Mr. Mikkel Lund was able to write a model article about *The Hound of the Baskervilles* as model theatre. And Mr. Michael Lambek felt he did have time enough after all to review all the year's new Sherlock Holmes pastiches available from Danish bookstores —

and not *all* of them children's books or comics! Some included exciting new books by exciting old authors such as Nicholas Meyer, Bonnie MacBird, and Gareth Rubin. But, alas, not Anthony Horowitz ... For not all books are available from physical bookshops.

For the club periodical *Sherlockiana*, Mr. Christian Monggaard this year actually got quite a scoop: an interview with no other than the renowned writer, Mr. Horowitz — about his old Hawthorne and Horowitz series — and his new *Becoming Sherlock* series: the first instalment in the audiobook written in 2023 together with Sarah J. Naughton was called *Den røde cirkel*. After this, in 2024, Ms. Naughton continued on her own with the second instalment called *The Irregulars*, translated into *Afvigerne* by Kim Langer: both books now part of the proposed trilogy issued by Mofibo/Storytel as an original e-book/audiobook.

For a Sherlockian pastiche not even available in proper print, the publisher seems to have been prepared to spend quite a huge amount of marketing budget to promote this.

When Mr. Monggaard is not working to keep the Master's memory green, he is prepared to work for the Danish newspaper *Information*; and when in February he was tasked with writing an article on how he would spend a 'cultural weekend', he combined the two works: In an essay titled *Sherlock Holmes i lange baner*, he chose to tell of his own January visit to New York where, as a guest, he was very honoured to receive the invitation to the Baker Street Irregulars. He had even invested in a new three-piece suit for the evening! So, to him, the visit to the BSI and all the new friendships formed there will very likely soon turn out to be a huge boon ...

However, if Danish Sherlockians are too busy — in preparation for next year's festive Sherlockian shenanigans — to keep up the usual level of activities to keep the Master's memory green, luckily there remain other channels outside the Klubben.

But why is it so that the only publications of Canonical Writings or pastiches to come from Danish publishers these days seem to be aimed at the young readers: young enough to be the children — or even children's children — of the members themselves?

Nevertheless, the publishing firm of Gads Børnebøger has issued a series of ten volumes of Watson's short stories adapted for young Danes. In addition to this, however, this year they published Linda Bailey's biography of Conan Doyle, *Arthur som skrev Sherlock Holmes*, translated from *Arthur Who Wrote Sherlock*, 2022, by Julie Rotne and illustrated by Isabelle Follath.

The publisher Krabat issued *De utrolige historier fra Baskerville Hall* by Ali Standish — translated from *The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall* by

Helle Perrier — as if Enola Holmes meets the Irregulars at Hogwarts! This series is exclusive and one of its kind in Danish publication history in that it is published in actual collaboration with the Conan Doyle Estate™.

"I was prepared for a hound, but not for such a creature as this" — HOUN

And Legind published a so-called *Escape Room-Eventyr* with Alex Woolf's *Sherlock Holmes' største sag — Spændende, interaktiv Escape Room-bog* as illustrated by Sian James and translated from *Sherlock's Greatest Case*, 2023, by Morten Pedersen. There's no escaping the fact that we keep on hearing of Sherlock everywhere ...

CANONICAL COMICAL

Another Danish publisher took on American comic tradition, as Fahrenheit (set up by Klub member Paw Matthiasen) published Culleen Bunn and Matteo Lolli's *Deadpool nakker klassikerne*, translated from *Deadpool Killustrated #1-4* by Astrid Skov-Jakobsen. In this, the Marvel figure Deadpool irreverently takes on classic literature, and aptly, chapter 4, *John Watsons beretning*, features not only the Doctor but also the Detective.

But it is the Danish publisher of comics, Mr. Michael Gabelgaard Nielsen's Zoom, that traditionally, and continually, keeps on doing their bit to keep the Master's memory green — as well as doing their bit to promote the French comic tradition. Thus, 2024 saw the publication of more volumes in the series of *Sherlock Holmes* comics: not only Sylvain Cordurié and Andrea Fattori's most recent entry called *Moriartys krønike*, translated from *Les Chroniques de Moriarty* — but also Stéphane Betbeder and Darko Perović's *Dr Watson*, translated from *Le Grand Hiatus* and both edited as usual by M.G. Nielsen.

In quite another comic style, Zoom additionally published *Arsène Lupin imod Sherlock Holmes*, text by Félix, adapted from *La Barre-Y-Va* by Maurice Leblanc, drawings by Janolle, colours by Delf; translated by Per Vadmand and edited by M.G. Nielsen.

Finally, Cobolt published Serena Blasco's *Enola Holmes: 1. Sagen om den forsvundne markis*, a Y.A. graphic novel adaptation translated by Benny Vigan from the French original of Nancy Springer's book *Les enquêtes d'Enola Holmes 1: La double disparation*. Thus, we can conclude that Watson wrote stories about Holmes, Doyle edited them; much later Springer adapted them into Holmes' sister Enola, Blasco did the graphic novel in French, and finally Cobolt issued the Danish version ... the calculation is a simple one!

Are we thus prepared to see a quartering of the national flags of the *Dannebrog* and *Le Drapeau Tricolore*?

EXTRA CANONICAL

This year in Danish publishing, *however*, was distinguished by something new and for a long time unheard of: as all the common examples of writings and pastiches in children's or comic book form were supplemented by one entirely new, different and original book: and this book is an extra! A proper piece of Canonical Higher Criticism. And not only published in Denmark, but actually written by a Danish writer!

For last year, Mr. Henrik Fibæk Jensen published his survey of all Canonical stories, *Sherlock Holmes og Loven: En bog om Arthur Conan Doyles verdensberømte privatdetektiv* on the relationship between crime and punishment in the Canon. The very well-versed author discusses every case of the Canon in his own chronology, concludes intelligently on Holmes' relationship with the law and — not less interesting — *providence*, crediting Mr. Boström and Dr. Lauridsen along the way, even quoting Mr. Ranild!

Quite mysteriously for a Danish author, even an English-language version is available as *Sherlock Holmes and the Law: A Book about Arthur Conan Doyle's world famous private detective*. The greatest mystery, however, is why the highly apposite author Fibæk is *not* a member of the Klubben? (Once the jubilee plans are well underway, remind us to get back to him and invite him to one of our meetings, *ed.*)

Finally, in 2024, Gutkind published an historical crime novel *De navnløse* (*The Nameless*), featuring a detective based partly on the Danish author Baron Palle Rosencrantz, author of some of the first crime novels in Denmark, featuring the police detective Eigil Holst — partly on whom Holst himself was based on: Holmes. The author must not remain nameless; and we don't mention this solely because this literary work is written by our own, old fellow university student, Mr Tonny Vorm; mostly because he refers to both *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*.

"my friend rose and made his preparations for the day's work" — NORW

CANONICAL SOCIAL

Books can be found in libraries; and in July, the Conan Doyle Collection at Portsmouth Libraries in their "Worldwide Doyle" seminar were so kind to prepare several Zoom meetings with several renowned scholars: and not only prepare — they actually carried them out as well! (An admirable example to follow, *M.S.L.*)

Thus, Sherlockians in Denmark, as well as in the rest of the world, were able to be entertained and educated by some erudite presentations:

Thus, Prof. Christine Ferguson went forward *Towards the Centenary of The Land of Mist*; and Hon. Prof. Douglas Kerr went back to 1909 when *Arthur Conan Doyle Goes to the Theatre*.

Then the inimitable Messrs. Paul M. Chapman, Ross E. Davies, BSI, and Mark Jones, BSI, in usual brilliant form showed and told the by no means pedestrian *Adventure of the Imaginary Pedlar*. And even member of the Danish BSI, Mr. Mattias Boström, BSI, asked the question “*Was Killing Sherlock Holmes a Stroke of Genius?*” Thankfully not in Danish. (Nor in Swedish, for that matter, *M.S.L.*)

As if that wasn’t enough, in September, The Baker Street Irregulars Trust™ also invited us to a Zoom Lecture, where we were treated to another talk by the indefatigable Boström, in which he — through what he does best: analysing thousands of newspaper articles and diving deep into BSI activities — shed new light on the old fact of how the BSI, as we know, has helped to create and shape the Sherlockian landscape for nearly a century.

Back in the Danish capital landscape, in late summer, members of *The Speckled Gang of Copenhagen* met for the less scholarly, but more social, relaxing, and by now highly traditional Victorian-style picnic, our “VicPic”: replete with usual fare of sandwiches and scones and how to pronounce them — this time with the joyful attendance of some irregular participants! A great deal of the conversation in the local Chinese Pavillion went not unconnected with the Master and some of his outings into the cinematic media — another deal with the preparations of a certain upcoming Jubilee.

“I should be prepared to turn to some more placid line in life” — FINA

For some reason, 2024 saw no more board-game playing sessions for the Speckled Gangsters ... but then again, there was still a lot more jubilee preparing to play with. But in late autumn, one of the city’s local theatres staged *The Woman in Black*, the two-hander thriller play adapted from Susan Hill’s Victorian-styled, Gothic book. For want of a play more directly Holmesian, a number of Klub members still went and were thrilled to the bones indeed: some very effective stage effects helped to heighten the suspense. An after-show talk with the two actors — and the secret and highly scary Actress in Black — mercifully helped to lessen the suspense and reduce the fear before we went our separate ways out into the cold, dark night of Gothenhagen. In thought of ghosts. And ghastly jubilee plans ...

“We must prepare for the worst” — LADY

In Aalborg, *The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street* held their Aarsmøde in October, Canonical Toasts aplenty as per tradition. And during the year, the



Friends studied Sherlockian correspondence to and from Messrs. Henry Lauritzen, A.D. Henriksen, Edgar W. Smith, and Aage Rieck Sørensen, who had been the previous owner of the post. Fascinating what information could be gained from such men of letters.

In June, the scion commonly known as *The Common Loafers of Kolding* could celebrate their fifteenth anniversary — and this they did: naturally with toasts and dinner! And with discussions of some of Watson's Canonical or apocryphal cases.

*“it would naturally be an immense advantage
if the candidate could prepare it in advance” — 3STU*

The photo above (courtesy of and copyright by Mr. Bjarne Juul) shows the Honorary Members — per definition, all *Common* Members are Hon. — Peter Borberg, Jens Byskov Jensen, BSI, Lise Kabel, and *Gasogene* Michael Bjarre: in their natural habitat of the local watering-hole, the English pub called *You'll Never Walk Alone*. And, as we know, a picture can speak volumes ...

Another man of letters is Mr. Torben Carlsen (he used to work for the Danish Post Office, *ed.*); and his *Five Orange Pipes* have decided not yet to

refrain from meeting. Thus, their traditional watering-hole is just a stone's throw away from the Frederiksberg Rådhus, where they actually managed to meet no fewer than four times during the past year, every time involving pipe smoking (obligatory) and slow beer tasting and toasting (optional — but usually tolerated).

Finally, and sadly, it must grieve readers of several previous years' instalments of the *Baker Street Almanac* to learn of the announcement that Mr. Carlsen's *Edgar Allan Poe Selskabet* is Dissolved! So, alas, no more plans to postpone for the previously and perennially promised joint seminar on the fabled "Codes & Cryptogrammes".

This might not turn out such a bad thing, after all; at least one of the two societies has no time for any plans other than those for a certain impending Anniversary, as we hope we have not failed to mention once or possibly twice in the above reporting.

"Have you ever heard of this preparation?" — DEVI

More of the continuing story of the great plans for the Diamond Jubilee — and possibly of how they turned out — in the exciting next instalment of "Sherlock in Denmark 2025"!

"a story for which the world is not yet prepared" — SUSS

SHERLOCK IN FRANCE 2024

*Fabienne Courouge**

Many Sherlockian events took place in France this year: animations and activities, exhibitions, publications, theater plays, radio and TV shows.

SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES ACTIVITIES

The Cercle Holmésien de Paris (Holmesian Circle of Paris) met at the Galway Pub on the second Wednesday of every month. At each meeting, they discussed a Sherlockian story, pastiche, or movie.

The Cercle Holmésien also organized special events. In 2024, it started in January with the annual celebration of Sherlock Holmes's birthday. A visit to the Police Museum, then an escape game, then a dinner in Montmartre took place for this occasion.

In this Parisian Olympic year, the Cercle also created the Sherlockian Olympics in the Bois de Vincennes. On the program: Deerstalker throwing, boxing, darts blowing, stick fighting, etc.

The Cercle Holmésien also organized a conference in Saint-Valéry sur Somme (in the northwest of France), with several lectures on the topic "Sherlock Holmes, a hidden son of France".

The Sherlock Holmes Society of France (SSHF) organized, throughout the year, sessions of "The Reading Challenge: Around the Canon in 1,826 Days". The challenge is not just to read a short story or a novel every month, but to maintain this challenge over time (five years), and to accompany it with activities associated with each adventure.

The SSHF also showed their exhibition at the Festival Étrange Grande (genre literature festival) in the Hettange-Grande region of Lorraine, and organized a literary dinner in Lyon with the theme "In the steps of Conan Doyle".

EXHIBITIONS AND FESTIVALS

Festival Sherlock Holmes — 1 character, 1000 adventures, in the Caen region of Normandy, with conferences, theater, music, cinema, workshops, an exhibition, and games. So many ways to sketch the different figures of the master detective.

* Fabienne Courouge is the founder and editor of *La Gazette du 221B*. Text and photos by Fabienne.

SHERLOCK IN FRANCE 2024





Festival Bloody Fleury — A festival of crime and mystery literature, with conferences, shows, games, meetings, and signings.

Exposition Horace Vernet — Sherlock Holme's alleged great uncle's work was highlighted in a major retrospective at the Palace of Versailles. The Cercle Holmésien organized a visit on February 3rd.

SHERLOCKIAN PRODUCTIONS

TV Show: *Mademoiselle Holmes*. For the first time in a long time, a Sherlockian series premiered on French television. *Mademoiselle Holmes* is about Sherlock's great granddaughter, Charlie Holmes, a discreet and shy police-woman. One day, hit by a car, something clicks in her mind. The tasteless and inhibited Charlie suddenly bursts with energy and feels unsuspected talents developing within her. Season 1 was broadcast in April 2024, season 2 in February 2025. Season 3 is currently being written

Theater: 2024 was very fruitful for Sherlockian theater creations, in Paris and all over France. Here are some of them:

L'Heure des assassins — written by Julien Lefebvre, featuring Conan Doyle as a character.

Sherlock Holmes et la mystérieuse Association des hommes roux — by Leila Moguez. An adaptation of "The Red-Headed League".

Sherlock Holmes vs Conan Doyle — by Ophélie Raymond: A confrontation between the creator and his creature.

Le Chienchien des Babaskerville — by Nicolas Turon: a parodic adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

La Bande mouchetée — by Nicolas Jonquères. An adaptation of "The Adventure of the Speckled Band".

Le Signe des quatre — by Christophe Delort (author of two other Sherlockian plays: *Sherlock Holmes et le mystère de la vallée de Boscombe* and *Sherlock Holmes et l'Aventure du diamant bleu*).

Les Aventures de Loufcock Holmès and Loufcock Holmès contre Spectras — a production of the 1920 play by Cami.

Les Hommes qui dansent — by Pascal Maillard: An adaptation of "The Adventure of the Dancing Men".

SHERLOCK IN GERMANY 2024

*Maria Fleischhack**

Here is an overview of some events that the German Sherlock Holmes society hosted in 2024, compiled with the advice of Klaus Hergert.

3-5 May 2024 Sherlocon (Convention of the German Sherlock Holmes Society), Saarbrücken (<https://bakerstreetsb.de/event/sherlocon/>).

30 November 2024 Blue Carbuncle Dinner 2024 at the Parkhotel Wittekindshof in Dortmund (<https://sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de/rund-um-die-dshg/das-blue-carbuncle-dinner-2025-44750/>). The society also awarded den Blauen Karfunkel (“The Blue Carbuncle”) to three winners. The first one was the Publisher Copenrath Verlag, as they published a new edition of the Canon (in the category for literature and print). The award for Drama/Theatre went to the Motown Theater for their production of “Der Hund der Baskervilles” (“The Hound of the Baskervilles”). The third award, in the category of multimedia productions, went to the RadioLiveTheater production of “Sherlock Holmes’ Geheimnis” (“The Secret of Sherlock Holmes”, orig. by Jeremy Paul) (<https://sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de/rund-um-die-dshg/der-blaue-karfunkel-2024-44393/>).

And here is news of some other Sherlockian occurrences unrelated to the society:

The performance of the drama “Der Fall Milverton” (“The Milverton Case”) — written by Tobias Zeitz and performed at the Hoftheater Bergkirchen (<https://hoftheater-bergkirchen.de/spielplan/sherlock-holmes-der-fall-milverton>).

The Munich-based community theatre Entity Theatre Society e.V. performed Ken Ludwig’s “Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery” in July and November 2024 (<https://entitytheatre.com/baskerville-programme>).

The 4th season of the German audiobook production “Sherlock & Watson. Neues aus der Baker Street” came out (<https://www.der-audio-verlag.de/reihen/sherlock-watson-neues-aus-der-baker-street/>).

Jürgen Kaube published an introduction to all things Sherlock Holmes called “Sherlock Holmes. 100 Seiten” (https://www.reclam.de/detail/978-3-15-020716-1/Kaube_Juergen/Sherlock_Holmes_100_Seiten).

* Maria Fleischhack (BSI, “Rache”) is a Research Fellow specializing in British Literature at Universität Leipzig.

SHERLOCK IN HUNGARY 2024

*Adrienn Fray & Pál András Zleszik**

2024 was a very special year in the life of the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club. We have always respected Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who, to our great pleasure, makes several Hungarian references in the Sherlock Holmes works. In 2024, we were delighted to discover that the world-famous author spent a few days in our country.

In February, however, we were proud of our actors. Two artists were recommended for Howard Ostrom's legendary "The A-Z of Sherlock Holmes Performers" list on the No Place Like Holmes website.

Sándor Horváth Sebestyén was included at number 9,211. He played the great detective in Ken Ludwig Baskerville's play ("A Satan's Dog" in Hungarian) at the Móricz Zsigmond Theatre in Nyíregyháza.

Emil Fenyvesi, one of Hungary's leading actors, appeared at number 9,213. He played our favourite detective in the 1906 play "The Experiences of an English Detective", written in German by Ferenc Schöthan. Unfortunately, the translation was not good and the play became boring, although it was performed in the popular Vígszínház theatre with a cast of well-known actors. However, the critics praised Emil Fenyvesi's performance. Renowned artists such as the poet, writer and journalist Endre Ady and the Kossuth Prize-winning Hungarian art historian and university professor Lajos Fülep were satisfied with his performance. Interestingly, Emil Fenyvesi was a man who looked more like Professor Moriarty.

Also worth mentioning is the magnificent and outstanding work done by Howard Ostrom with his legendary list of actors. This indispensable list for Sherlockians now contains more than 10,000 actors and 25,000 photos. A very useful collection for present and future Sherlockians and journalists.

As a cultural association, we have decided to organise free public cultural events at our main venue, the Deák Ferenc Library in Budapest. In addition to the theme of Sherlock Holmes, the events also focus on topics loosely related to the detective. We started organising these events together with the library and the speakers in February. Unfortunately, our club president, Adrienn Fray, was unable to give a talk this year due to illness.

Also in February, our club and the master detective were featured in the centre of the magazine of Szabad Föld, one of Hungary's most widely read print media, a magazine for rural areas and families. The idea for the article

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came from Gabriella Szijjártó, a journalist whose writing style we greatly appreciate.

In May, Zsófia Végyvári, an expert in painting testing and head of the painting testing laboratory, gave a lecture on forged paintings. Her title was: Our contemporary is the forger. She was followed by Dr Sándor Szomor, titular police colonel, invited university lecturer for the training of criminal law specialists. Sándor Szomor is a great expert on world war literature and the history of Hungarian crime fiction. Of course, he also spoke about Conan Doyle and his hero.

In spring we got autographs from actors. Ernő Fekete, the Hungarian voice of Robert Downey Jr. and narrator of several Sherlock Holmes audio books (he plays Ulrik Cillei in the current series Hunyadi). László Szacsavay, winner of the “Actor of the Nation” award, who narrated the story “The Hound of Satan” as an audiobook, and Zoltán Rajkai, the voice of Jonny Lee Miller in the CBS series Elementary. Interestingly, all three actors work at the Katona József Theatre, and thanks to the friendly cooperation with the theatre, we were able to obtain their signatures.

In the autumn, Zsófia Végyvári and Dr. Sándor Szomor once again expanded our knowledge. Our speakers included Dr. Gyula Kovács, criminologist, specialist author and science journalist, editor-in-chief of the *Obsitos Detectives’ Journal*. He spoke about famous Hungarian police officers. During our research with him and Alexis Barquin, the editor of the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, we found out that Doyle, although unknown, visited Hungary when he was on his honeymoon with his second wife.

Prof. Dr. Mária Zajác, an internationally renowned ophthalmologist, had already published in her essay “Interesting facts in the life and work of Arthur Conan Doyle”.¹ However, the interest did not resonate. However, we managed to find the article “A Conversation with Conan Doyle” by the crime correspondent János Fröhlich from 1907. In it, the journalist interviewed Arthur for the once very popular political daily *Az Ujság*. Doyle was in Budapest between November 6 and 8, 1907. During this stay, he and his wife stayed at the Grand Hotel Hungaria, one of the most exclusive hotels in Europe. On the evening of November 7, Doyle received János Fröhlich in his hotel room, where they spoke German. The great writer praised the beauty of the Hungarian Parliament. He mentioned that he had modelled his famous character on his former tutor, the university professor Joseph Bell.

Alexis Barquin, in his usual thoroughness, wanted to know more. He pointed out that before that time there were records of the writer’s visit to

¹ Orvosi Hetilap, 2008, 149(10): 465-467.

Constantinople, which is a long way from Hungary. András Zleszik Paul, a prominent member of our club, suggested that Doyle might have travelled on the Orient Express, which already existed at the time. The famous train stopped in Budapest and went to Paris, which Doyle also mentions as the destination in the interview with János Fröhlich. The train journey also explains why Arthur was able to travel quickly from Constantinople to Paris, where he stayed for a long time.

The newspaper Szabad Föld reported on the visit of our favourite writer to Hungary. The article by Gabriella Szíjjártó was entitled “Majdnem a múltba veszett” (“Almost lost in the past”). Our article about the event, “Conan Doyle and Hungary — from the Sherlockian Spectrum”, was published in the winter issue of the journal Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge of the Sherlock Holmes Society of India.

We are pleased that the Hungarian connection of the famous writer has become better known. We believe that one of the secrets of the Sherlock Holmes stories is that Conan Doyle mentioned many nations in his canon so that they could all feel they belonged to the greatest of detectives.

In September, the Technical University of Budapest hosted a presentation on our favourite as part of the “Researchers’ Night” programme. You could attend the one-hour lecture by Dorottya Egres and Anna Petschner from the Department of Philosophy and History of Science in person and online. We took part in an online event on logical thinking entitled ‘Sherlock Holmes — Mindpalace’ (which can be safely translated as “mind palace”, as BBC Sherlock is very well known abroad), where we learned from a fictional investigation.

We were honoured that literary historian Elzbieta Foeller-Pituch, Deputy Director of Northwestern University, provided us with the material from her course “Sherlock Holmes: Icon of the Great Detective” online, which we were happy to study. In December, we received the good news that the news portal Hírvezeto.hu would publish our blog posts. We also received surprises from our fans throughout the year. Our favourite is a pipe given to us by Tamás Ercsényi.

We were pleased with 2004 and hope for a good sequel for us and the rest of the Sherlock Holmes Society of the world.

SHERLOCK IN ITALY 2024

*Brigitte Latella & Michele Lopez**

The first Italian Sherlock Holmes society, Uno Studio in Holmes (USIH), was founded in Florence in 1987. The time and place were eminently suitable: that year marked the centenary of the publication of *A Study in Scarlet*, and the place was the only Italian city that we know for sure Holmes visited (see *The Empty House*: "... and a week later I found myself in Florence ..."). After that first meeting, the society continued to exist mainly in epistolary form for eight years, then in 1996 another three-day meeting, which was widely noted in the local press, was held in Prato. The publication of the society's review, *The Strand Magazine*, began on that same year, with Enrico Solito (BSI, "Gennaro Lucca") as its first editor. The review is published semi-annually and is still in print. Other meetings followed, until the Annual Meeting, usually a three-day event held in late autumn, became a regular fixture from 2004 on.

The society celebrated its 20th birthday in 2007 in Florence and its 25th birthday in 2012 in Venice with two big international meetings that attracted Sherlockians from many countries and *several* separate continents (U.K., Japan, U.S.A., France, Spain, Australia and Switzerland.)

In 2017 the 30th birthday was celebrated, again in Florence, with a great international meeting (which, again, saw a big international attendance) in connection with the Swiss meeting of the Reichenbach Irregulars one week earlier. In 2022 the 35th birthday saw the Italian Sherlockians meet in Naples, as part of a big convention, the "Festival del Giallo". More than 500 people attended "The Trial of Sherlock Holmes", with the Great Detective in the dock as defendant against grave accusations from a pool of real-life magistrates and prosecutors, accusations from which he was (of course) acquitted.

The past presidents of the society are: Carlo Eugenio Casini (1987-1989), Stefano Guerra, BSI "Count Negretto Sylvius" (1990-1995), Francesco Leprai (1996-1998), Enrico Solito, BSI "Gennaro Lucca" (1999-2001), Gianluca Salvatori, BSI "The Dacre Hotel" (2001-2003), Gabriele Mazzoni (2003-2005), Carmen Savino (2005-2007), Carlo Eugenio Casini (2007-2008), Alessandro Gebbia (2008-2010), Roberto Vianello (2010-2012), Michele Lopez, BSI "Attenta, pericolo" (2012-2016), Marco Grassi (2016-2019) and Brigitte Latella, BSI "Holmes's Alpenstock" (2019-2022). The current pres-

* Brigitte Latella ("Holmes's Alpenstock" in the BSI) and Michele Lopez ("Attenta, Pericolo" in the BSI) are longtime members of Uno Studio in Holmes. Copyright 2025 Brigitte Latella and Michele Lopez.

ident of the Society is Marco Magliocchetti. The term of office was once of two years — except for particular situations — but has been recently changed to three. The mandate remains renewable once, and the new President takes office on the 6th of January. Today, USIH has approximately 110 members, spread all over Italy.

SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN ITALY 2024

In 2024, *Uno Studio in Holmes* finally completed the registration as APS (Associazione di Promozione Sociale, *Association of Social Promotion*), basically an entity that carries out socially useful activities for the benefit of its members or third parties, on a nonprofit basis, making use mainly of volunteer work. APS are entities that operate in the social, cultural, educational or sports fields. In the case of USIH, this means, for example, having access to audiences such as schools, collaborating with other cultural institutions such as libraries or museums and promote the Great Game in a larger way.

Some USIH members and their friends met on the 24th of October to attend the premiere of “Sherlock Holmes — The Musical” of which Enrico Solito is one of the authors and which stars an excellent and well-known Italian actor, Neri Marcoré. Every show of that first season was sold out and critically acclaimed. The story is set in June 1897, and it starts with a murder. Sherlock Holmes’s intervention is requested, and the Master realizes that a great threat looms over London: an assassination attempt, on the very day of the Queen’s Jubilee, that could claim hundreds of lives, including her Majesty’s. To find out where the criminal is going to strike and who that person (or organisation?) is, Holmes and Watson investigate following the trail left by the enemies in a fight against time, revealing secrets, betrayals and deadly pitfalls. It is — as seasoned Sherlockians confirmed — canonically accurate, but also full of irony and capable of capturing the audience with the clever plot, the great music and songs and, last but not least, gifting the audience with a roller coaster of emotions.

The Annual General Meeting was moved to January 2025 because of the chance — for those who didn’t see it in October — to see the musical and, during a special Sunday morning, meet the cast starring in this masterpiece.

USIH’s publications were a little slow in 2024. Only one number of our usually bi-annual review *The Strand Magazine* (No. 46) has been issued. This is mostly due to the effort of registering as an APS.

For Italy’s publishing industry Sherlock Holmes is still a household name. Publisher Mondadori keeps on issuing their monthly “Sherlock” book series of pastiches from both Italian and foreign authors. In 2024 there were

books by David Stuart Davies, Margaret Walsh, Daniel D. Victor and from several Italian authors.

Sherlock Holmes is still a favourite testimonial in advertising. The recurring TV campaign with Holmes and Watson vouching for an online real estate company is experimenting with several variations on the theme, though farther and farther away from the initial concept, which was more faithful to the role of Holmes as Master Detective.

In 2024 Uno Studio in Holmes has worked to lay the foundations for the society's future. In 2025, we shall begin to reap the fruits of many days of planning and organizing, always aiming to keep the Master's memory green.

SHERLOCK IN JAPAN 2024

*Mitch Higurashi**

A trend in the Japanese Holmes scene over the past few years has been the increase in performances such as stage plays and recitation plays. There has also been an increase in the number of cases where parodies and pastiches based on “manga” and online games have been made into animation films or musicals for the theater.

THE ACTIVITIES OF JAPAN SHERLOCK HOLMES CLUB (JSHC)

Organizer: Akane Higashiyama

The official monthly newsletter, *Baker Street Information*, is published 11 times a year, with a circulation of around 650. The annual journal *The World of Holmes* published its 47th issue in December 2024. This year’s special feature was “Holmes Studies: 120 Years of Progress”, based on the presentations and panel discussions took place at the Tokyo Seminar in March.

The 91st General Meeting was held on March 24, 2024 in Tokyo. (86 participants)

The 2023 Japan Sherlock Holmes Grand Prize was awarded at the meeting. The award-winning work was *The Anatomy Book of the Characters in Holmes Stories* by Enokoro Kobo (illustrations and text,) published by X-Knowledge, February 2023. It is a complete visualization of a total of approximately 250 characters from STUD, SIGN, and ADVEN. Meanwhile, TV program “Famous Books in 100 Minutes Sherlock Holmes Special” (commentator: Yumiko Hirono, NHK E Tele, September 4-25, 2023) was awarded a special prize of the same award.

The 12th Tokyo Seminar was held on March 23, 2024. (70 participants)

The main theme was “A Review of Post-War Books on Sherlockiana and Doyleana in Japan.” A panel discussion was held with Masamichi Higurashi as the moderator, and Hirotaka Ueda, Kiyoshi Arai, Akane Higashiyama (all from BSI), Ichiro Akeyama, and Naohiko Kitahara. They listed all the non-fiction books published in Japanese in Japan after World War II, and looked back on the history of Holmesian and Doylean research in Japan.

The 35th Karuizawa Seminar was held on August 24-25, 2024 in Karuizawa Town, Nagano Prefecture. (35 participants)

* Mitch (Masamichi) Higurashi is “Baron Adelbert Gruner” in the BSI, and the advisory editor of *The World of Holmes* of JSHC and *The Baker Street Information* issued by JSHC. Copyright 2025 Masamichi Higurashi.

Presentations: Mayumi Okamura “The Basics Have Not Changed in 100 Years!?” — Information Security in the Digital Age which overlaps with the Holmes case”, Yuka Eto “Holmes’ Works and Sound Expression”, Masaharu Ono “A Comparative Reading of Canon Adaptations in the Meiji Period”, and Koji Kiguchi “Holmes and Cthulhu: When Holmes Meets Something Beyond Human Knowledge”

The 92nd General Meeting was held on October 13, 2024 in Matsuyama city, Ehime prefecture. An optional tour was held to visit the filming locations of Japanese film *Sherlock Theatrical Version: The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

In addition, small meetings of 30-40 members were held in Tokyo every month except March, August, and October.

SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN 2023 (PRINCIPAL ONES)

Publications

Sherlock Holmes no Gaisen (The Triumphant Return of Sherlock Holmes) by Tomihiko Morimi, Chuo Koron Shinsha, January 2024. A Holmes parody set in Victorian-era Kyoto, featuring Sherlock Holmes and Watson. Holmes has fallen into a slump after his big failure in the “Red-Headed League Case”, and he and Watson have had a fight and he is now shut up in his room. Morimi, who is also a best-selling author, was suffering from a slump, but he made a comeback with this book, which sold over 100,000 copies.

Shirley Holmes and the Scandal of Joe Watson by Madoka Takadono, Hayakawa Shobo, January 2024. The third book in the series featuring the semi-cyborg consulting detective Shirley Holmes and the female doctor Joe H. Watson, in which the genders of all the characters are reversed from the original Canon.

Moriarty the Patriot — The Remains 2, Shueisha, February 7, 2024 and *Moriarty the Patriot — The Remains 3*, Shueisha, August 7, 2024, story by Yosuke Saita and artwork by Hikaru Miyoshi. The manga series *Yukoku no Moriarty* (Moriarty the Patriot), which is also known overseas, has been adapted into stage plays, musicals, and novels. These two works are another comics made from such novels.

Japanese edition of *The Sherlock Holmes School of Self-Defence: The Manly Art of Bartitsu as used against Professor Moriarty* by E.W. Barton-Wright, translated by Shimon Tauchi, Heibonsha, March 2024.

Sherlock Holmes vs. Hirobumi Ito 2 by Keisuke Matsushita, Kadokawa, June 2024. The English edition of the volume 1 was published in 2019 by Vertical, Inc. under the title *Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Japan*.

Japanese edition of *The Worlds of Sherlock Holmes* by Andrew Lycett, translated by Masamichi Higurashi, Kawade Shobo Shinsha, October 2024.

Movies, Plays & Performances

A digitally remastered version of the theatrical version of the anime *Sherlock Hound* directed by Hayao Miyazaki was screened again across the country for two weeks from March to April 2024, to commemorate the 40th anniversary.

The TV anime series *Kabukicho Sherlock* has been adapted to the stage and performed at the Tokyo IMM Theater in May 2024.

The Nosaka Labo's reading play *Taste of Sound Wave — Reading with Live music Sherlock Holmes 4* was performed in July 2024. The program included REDH, BLUE, and FIVE.

Theater OM's *The Naval Treaty Document Incident / The Great Rat of Sumatra* (script by Minoru Ohki) was performed in February 2024 in Tokyo. This 10th anniversary performance featured a double bill of NAVA and "The Giant Rat of Sumatra".

The theme park Immersive Fort Tokyo opened in March 2024 and *The Sherlock*, an interactive theater show, begun. The second act, *James Moriarty Strikes Back*, begins in March 2025.

Diogenes Club's reading plays at Ikebukuro Field, Tokyo — Jan: "Dr. Watson and the Last Letter", April: "Prologue of A Study in Scarlet", May: "Scandal in Bohemia", July: "Dr. Watson and the Last Letter", September: "The Abbey Grange".

Art

The works of Kunihiro Ariga, who has turned Canonical texts into art through Japanese calligraphy "Shodo" (the way of writing with brush and Sumi ink), which is probably the only canonical art work in the world, were exhibited at two Shodo exhibitions this year. The 45th "Gifu Prefecture Shodo Exhibition" at Gifu Takashimaya in February, and The 73rd "Chunichi Shodo Exhibition" at Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art Gallery in June.

Lectures & Talk Show

"Sherlock Holmes Stories, An In-Depth Look" by Masamichi Higurashi at Waseda University Open College, Tokyo. IDEN, BOSC, FIVE, TWIS, BLUE, ENGR from April to May, STUD, SIGN, NOBL, BERY, COPP from October to December.

"Introduction to Sherlock Holmes & Doyle: Using Takarazuka Revue as a Point of Contact" by Naohiko Kitahara. July at Yomiuri Culture Center, Tokyo.



The Sherlock Holmes Society's Annual Dinner (January 20, 2024). Top: The Top Table – Andrew Lycett, Vaseem Khan, Bob Ellis, Judi Ellis, Iain Sanderson and Philip Gillibrand. Middle: Earnest conversation at Table 3. Bottom: At Table 5 – Jan Kipping, Kate Cheema, Roger Kilshaw, Christine Kilshaw and Adrian Upton. Photos courtesy of and copyright Roger Johnson.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.K. 2024

*Roger Johnson (RJ), Laura Sparks (LS),
Paul Gillings (PG) & John McNabb (JMcN)**

First, an apology: The last couple of years have been, let's say, unusual — for me as for most people, in and out of the world of Sherlock Holmes. I've no specific reports from the smaller UK societies, such as The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, The Crew of the S.S. *May Day*, and The Deerstalkers of Welshpool. So what immediately follows refers specifically to The Sherlock Holmes Society of London, as recorded by Laura Sparks, Paul Gillings, John McNabb and me.

RJ

“THE MONGOOSE MUNCH”: THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, 20TH JANUARY 2024

A little later in January than usual, we returned to the Members' Dining Room at the House of Commons, by courtesy of our sponsor, Gareth Bacon, MP.

Some of us are old enough to remember when the security check on arrival at the Palace of Westminster was little more than a formality, but *che sera sera*, and the staff are very polite about it. That business over, it's always a pleasure to enter the Houses of Parliament through Westminster Hall, more than a thousand years old and the only part of the mediaeval Palace to survive the disastrous fire of 1834.

Following an excellent meal, the Loyal Toast was proposed by the Society's President, Robert Ellis, after which Catherine Cooke, now in her final year as Chairman, welcomed the nine Honorary Members present (I think I've counted correctly), and the members and guests from overseas — from, it seemed, all four corners of our spherical globe. Then Catherine had two important announcements to make: first, that this year's winner of the Tony Howlett Award for outstanding service is our Membership Secretary, Carole Markham; and second, that Heather Owen, who has completed an astonishing forty years as Layout Editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*, is now the Society's newest Honorary Member. Both announcements were received with delight by the recipients, and well-merited applause.

* Roger Johnson, Laura Sparks, Paul Gillings and John McNabb are members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. Each holds copyright to their respective signed portions of this report.



The Sherlock Holmes Society's Annual Dinner (January 20, 2024). Top: On Table 4, Michael Meer spots the photographer. Bottom: Vincent Delay and Laurence Pernet chat with Brigitte Latella; Jean-Christophe Remont has a question for Marcus Geisser.
Photos courtesy of and copyright Roger Johnson.

And so to our speakers. The Guest of Honour was Vaseem Khan, author of two award-winning sequences of detective novels set in India: the “Baby Ganesh Agency” series, and the Malabar House historical crime novels. He is the current Chair of the Crime Writers Association, and a keen cricketer with the Authors XI — whose earliest members included one Arthur Conan Doyle. Born and raised in the UK, in his twenties Vaseem Khan spent a decade in Mumbai, which inspired his first novel, *The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra*. Forced into retirement, and surprised to inherit a baby elephant, the Inspector sets up the Baby Ganesh Agency, named after the elephant-headed Hindu god. “In many ways,” said Vaseem, “the Mumbai in my books — or Bombay, as it used to be called — serves the function of London in the Holmes canon.”

He noted that India is a pervading influence throughout the saga of Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson. From the very first, with Watson’s experiences in the Second Afghan War, India has a significance in more than a quarter of the sixty stories. Vaseem’s current series, the Malabar House mysteries, begins in Bombay in 1950, with India’s first female police detective, Inspector Persis Wadia, uneasily partnered with Archie Blackfinch, a forensic scientist from London. The character of Blackfinch is directly inspired by Sherlock Holmes, and in that period after Indian Independence, his working relationship with Inspector Wadia is at the least awkward. The first book in this new series, *Midnight at Malabar House*, won its author the Crime Writers Association Historical Dagger in 2021.

After the toast to The Immortal Memory, Catherine Cooke presented Vaseem Khan with the magnificent facsimile of “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange” manuscript, published jointly by the Society and the Fondation Martin Bodmer.

The second speaker was our own Andrew Lycett, biographer of Arthur Conan Doyle and valued member of the Society’s cricket team. Andrew first met Vaseem Khan on the cricket field at Dulwich College, where they were playing for The Authors against the Rathbones financial services company. (Yes, that company was founded by relations of the actor who’s still considered by many to be the perfect incarnation of Sherlock Holmes — which means that they were also related to our late friend and colleague Nicholas Utechin. Small world!) “I heard more that day,” said Andrew, “about Vas’s work at University College, London’s Department of Security and Crime Science than about his highly successful crime novels.” It didn’t take him long to discover the novels, though.



The Sherlock Holmes Society's Annual Dinner (January 20, 2024). Jonathan McCafferty's patience is rewarded, as Vaseem Khan signs his menu; next in line is Marina Stajic ...

Photos courtesy of and copyright Roger Johnson.

Sherlock Holmes, as Andrew noted, is everywhere, but there's more emphasis now on the rôle of Arthur Conan Doyle, and as his biographer, Andrew is pleased to have played his part in that growing appreciation of the author. And I can't resist quoting this charming little story: "I can tell you today, this very afternoon in fact, I inscribed a copy of my book *The Worlds of Sherlock Holmes* to *Sherlock Holms*! I kid you not. He is an 8-year-old living in Primrose Hill, called Sherlock Holms, though the surname is spelt without an e. I was given a very specific message to write: 'To the new Sherlock Holms: the significance of the character who inspired your name.' I was told by the neighbour buying the book as a gift that Holms without the e is the Scottish spelling of that surname. With the e is English." (How about that!)

After the traditional toast to Dr John H Watson, the Chairman expressed our thanks to the admirable House of Commons staff, and to the members of the Society who had organised this stimulating and entertaining evening. And that was the last of the formalities. Conversations, anecdotes, photography and all continued for quite a while longer!

RJ

“CONAN DOYLE: MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE” IN KENSINGTON

On the 14th March, Queen’s Gate House in the heart of Kensington was the ideal setting to reunite with friends and welcome a multitude of new members to the well-attended dinner and film screening. Nestled in close proximity to so many of London’s most notable museums, the locale was a fitting place to discover a piece of television history that was nearly lost to time. Society member and *Doings of Doyle* podcaster Mark Jones gave a conspectus of the little-known 1967 BBC television series, before treating attendees to the single surviving episode of *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle*.

Far from biographical as the title implies, the series originally consisted of thirteen adaptations of Conan Doyle stories unrelated to the eminent occupants of 221B Baker Street. While few Sherlockians are aware of it today, Mark elucidated on the significant connection between the series and another Holmesian link: the man behind *Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* was none other than John Hawkesworth, who later developed the celebrated Granada *Sherlock Holmes* series for television. With this context and history in mind, we eagerly viewed the episode *The Mystery of Cader Ifan*, an adaptation of the original 1890 Conan Doyle story “The Surgeon of Gaster Fell”.

To tie a common thread through the previously unrelated narratives, the *Conan Doyle* series featured a rotating roster of four main characters. In the fifty-minute episode we screened, one such ‘Doyleverse’ series regular, Dr Philip Hardacre, travels to Wales where he meets the charming Julia Lambert. The young doctor is soon pulled into the Lambert family’s uncanny world when he spots a curious elderly man wailing and traipsing along the paths of the mountain. The secret is gradually unravelled when Hardacre discovers the man’s true identity and the reason for the family’s isolation. The veil surrounding the mystery lifts to a tense conclusive altercation between Hardacre and the strange bedraggled man on the edge of the eerie Cader Ifan crags. The episode’s director Peter Sady’s Hammer horror classic accolades are apparent throughout the production, as he masterfully captures the haunting landscape of North Wales and instils in the watcher a pervasive sense of unease. The chemistry between the male and female leads, played by Michael Latimer and Charlotte Rampling, is palpable and adds to a mounting dramatic tension, which is debatably upstaged only by Sydney Bromley’s portrayal of the elderly man; a performance which was, in Hawkesworth’s own words, “a little ripe.”

Whereas some erstwhile programmes have been recovered due to existing overseas broadcast copies following the BBC’s 1970s junking of video tapes, this series was never sold internationally, due to restrictions imposed by the

Conan Doyle estate. This lack of duplicates very nearly plunged the entire series into obscurity, if not for the remarkable find of this one surviving episode, which made for a fascinating and singular glimpse into a Conan Doyle universe outside of the Holmesian adventures we all know and love so well.

LS

AGM AND LECTURE: “DISJECTA MEMBRA”

On Thursday the 23rd May, the Annual General Meeting was held at a new venue for the Society: the Wellington Hotel — officially The Wellington by Blue Orchid — in Vincent Square, Pimlico.

During the AGM, Paul Thomas Miller was announced as the winner of this year’s Tony & Freda Howlett Literary Award for his book *Finding Sherlock Holmes: A Guide to Locations in England Mentioned in the Sherlock Holmes Canon*. Calvert Markham was elected Chairman of the Society — the 25th member to hold the post since our (re)foundation in 1951.

And after the formal business we were transported into the early life of Sherlock Holmes by our American member Mr. David Houle, who was invited to show us on screen his extensive and intriguing collection entitled ‘*Disjecta Membra*’. His presentation was the third instalment to his previous monographs *A Splendid Mirage* and *A Case Of Identity*.

Latin for “scattered fragments”, the term *Disjecta Membra* is used in the study of literature to describe the piecing together of fragments of an identifiable literary source. David presented a seemingly disparate assembly of photographs, daguerreotypes, portraits, intimate personal effects and other items; objects which seemed to be the unrelated artifacts of some inexplicable mystery. Through David’s remarkable story-telling, these miscellanea were shown to be connected by a common thread to the young life of Sherlock Holmes, all revolving around the keystone artifact of an intricately carved ivory figure of a maiden proffering an English Daisy, which David revealed to be a figurine of Sherlock’s late mother Marguerite.

By applying Sherlock Holmes’ own methods of deduction in a mixture of imagination and reality, David allowed this variety of artifacts from his collection to tell their stories, and in so doing, revealed the secrets of the Holmes family’s past.

During the narration, we heard a detailed missive from Sherlock’s grandmother, the Dowager of the Mycroft Estate, who told us how Sherlock’s mother and father met and began their courtship. We also discovered a letter from Rosamund Sherrinford, the younger sister of Sherlock’s mother and the young Holmes’ governess and mentor. Through these prominent and influential women in Sherlock’s childhood, we uncovered the harrowing family

history of loss and tragedy which ultimately left Sherlock and his older brother Mycroft alone at a young age. We learned how this experience would shape the adult lives of the men they would become and discovered why these *disjecta membra* of Sherlock's were not displayed in a prominent location, but rather safeguarded in a box where he kept his most private personal effects.

These insights and interpretations of the early life of Sherlock Holmes captured our imagination as we and David contemplated the previously lost childhood of the Great Detective.

LS

“... FOUND OURSELVES IN BOW STREET”

Bow Street was London's first police station. In 1749 the magistrates at the courthouse there (Henry Fielding and his half-brother Sir John Fielding) recruited a team of constables — the famous Bow Street Runners. Eighty years later, the Metropolitan Police was founded, and a station house was built in Bow Street. The present building was erected in 1881, to accommodate both police station and magistrates' court. The former closed in 1992 and the latter in 2006; now the NoMad Hotel occupies most of it, but a part of the old cop-shop houses Bow Street Police Museum. And that was our destination on Friday the 24th May.

Duly assembled by the entrance in Martlett Court, we were divided into two groups: one to investigate the Museum first, and the other to explore the surrounding area. I was with the second group, guided by Alan, who led us first back into Bow Street itself, where we could appreciate the splendid classical frontage of the Royal Opera House, directly opposite. Walking the length of the NoMad Hotel, we came to the unaltered entrance to the former Magistrates' Court on the corner of Bow Street and Broad Court. A plaque on the other side of Broad Court commemorates the Fielding brothers and other notable residents of Bow Street, including the sculptor Grinling Gibbons, the actor Charles Macklin and the playwright William Wycherley. A little way along Broad Court, we turned into Crown Court, past the back of the NoMad and the Crown Court Church of Scotland, emerging in Russell Street, facing the side of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

Minutes later, opposite the grand frontage of the Theatre Royal (in Catherine Street; Drury Lane is at the back of the building) Alan explained that from the 17th to the 19th centuries, only three London theatres were licensed to stage “spoken drama”: the Theatres Royal of Drury Lane, Covent Garden and Haymarket. That was our cue to proceed by way of Russell Street to Covent Garden and the *back* of the Royal Opera House (the *front* is in Bow Street; perhaps it's London thing). Here Alan told us that the then Theatre



The Sherlock Holmes Society's visit to the Bow Street Police Museum (May 24, 2024). Top: The entrance to the Museum is in Martlett Court, just off Bow Street. Bottom: In the courtroom of the old Magistrates' Court with our guide Ciara, who relates some of the stories associated with this famous old courthouse. Photos courtesy of and copyright Roger Johnson.

Royal, Covent Garden had to be rebuilt after a disastrous fire in 1809, and the subsequent increase in prices sparked a series of riots demanding the restitution of the Old Prices. At first, the managers of the theatre called in the Bow Street Runners from across the road, but their attempts to quell the “O.P Riots” only made matters worse. After three months, the management was forced to give in.

Then it was our turn to visit the Museum itself — and we learned that Auberon Redfearn had previous experience of Bow Street Police Station. On the evening of the 14th August 1945, the five-year-old Auberon accompanied his mother into central London. It was VJ (Victory over Japan) Day, the end at last of the Second World War, and London was celebrating. Amid the overwhelming crowds, they completely lost their bearings, but fortunately a constable took them in hand and brought them to Bow Street, where they were able to rest for a while before making their way home.

Like most English police museums, Bow Street’s is an educational charity; unlike the others, it isn’t owned and run by the relevant constabulary, but its situation gives it a unique advantage. Our guide Ciara first took us through hotel corridors to the former Court no. 2, passing on the way an unusual item of furniture — the original dock from that same courtroom. (In the Museum is a page from *The Illustrated Police News*, covering the trial of Oscar Wilde at the Old Bailey in May 1895, with a vignette showing him in the dock at Bow Street earlier in the year.) The courtroom is now used for functions at the hotel, and the walls and ceiling are atmospherically decorated, but the impressive door, surmounted by the Royal Arms, remains, and the room’s original purpose is easily recognisable.

Back in the Museum is a fascinating collection of objects, photographs and documents, telling the story of this one historic police depot, the court to which it’s attached, and the two different constabularies it housed over two and a half centuries. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are recorded as visiting Bow Street Police Station on just one occasion, in “The Man with the Twisted Lip”, but there must surely have been many more!

RJ

GAMES AFOOT IN THE SPYING ROOM

On Saturday the 25th May, we gathered in the “Spying Room” on the upper floor of the Morpeth Arms, a charming, history-steeped Grade II listed pub with views over the Thames and MI6, to learn about the Sherlock Holmes board games designed by our speaker, Mr. Dave Neale.

Dave is a game designer specialising in narrative and mystery games, or

“interactive fiction”. For his talk, he focused on his games of a specifically Sherlockian sort.

Dave set the stage with a short history of the board game industry, a market which has enjoyed a boom in growth, popularity and diversity in recent years. The genre has branched off into various subcategories and play styles for children and adults alike seeking ways to have a greater diversity of social play experiences. Enter the narrative board game, which Dave explained can take many forms; multiple or single ending, single play or replayable, pre-existing or player-created narratives.

Dave took us through the steps of game creation, from concept, design and prototype to extensive playtesting and subsequent adjustments to ensure a play experience that is neither too easy nor too difficult for players to enjoy. He also explained the subtleties and challenges of writing for this type of game, which must account for players’ ability to make decisions and follow the storyline in any order they choose.

Dave then presented his Sherlock games. First was *Sherlock Holmes Consulting Detective: The Baker Street Irregulars*, a co-operative game where players take up the mantle of one of Sherlock’s “unofficial police force” under the capable leadership of Wiggins to help the great detective solve one of ten unique mysteries. He then showed us the more kid-friendly *Animals of Baker Street*, a beautifully illustrated story game where players operate as a troupe of small and quirky animals under the guidance of Toby the dog, while interacting with other characters and racing against the clock.

During the break, the amiable pub landlord visited to tell us about the fascinating history of the building as we partook in a hearty lunch buffet. We then had an opportunity to ask Dave questions before splitting into two teams, to play through a mini case as a ragtag member of the Baker Street Irregulars. In the end, our plucky players got to the bottom of the strange happenings, and while we may not have cracked the case as fast as Mr. Holmes himself, we had a great time along the way!

LS

THE ADVENTURE OF THE NAVAL TREAT TEA

On the 26th May, a lovely Sunday was spent in good company at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich. Our gathering began in the Undercroft café, where we enjoyed lively conversation alongside a fine selection of teas, finger sandwiches, homemade scones with clotted cream and jam and an array of cakes and pastries, all served on three-tiered stands.

After the tea, we tested our knowledge of all things Holmes and Conan Doyle with a congenial trivia game. The quiz was followed by an engaging

performance of an excerpt from the aptly chosen “Adventure of the Naval Treaty” by actor Jonathan LeBillon.

Following the diverting and delectable tea, we stepped out into the sun to make our way to the welcome centre. The picturesque college was abuzz with visitors taking advantage of the pleasant afternoon, as well as various canine friends who had gathered for the Greenwich Dog Show.

The iconic riverside Old Royal Naval College is a UNESCO heritage site which has become one of the most popular filming locations in the world. Our group met with our two informative guides, Isabel and Jackie, who took us on a walking tour of the estate to discover the nearly century-old history of filming. We heard behind-the-scenes tales of a number of projects, with a particular emphasis on the campus as a locale in various Sherlock Holmes movies, notably the two Guy Ritchie films. An informative collection of photos accompanied the talk, giving us an intriguing look at the versatility of this remarkable site, which can be transformed to fit with a variety of styles and eras.

The most breathtaking part of the college was saved for last, as our tour concluded in the splendour of the Painted Hall, a spectacular 18th-century space featuring more than 3,700 square metres of Baroque walls and ceilings covered in striking images depicting hundreds of kings, queens and mythological creatures.

With thanks to Sean Barlow and Joanna Fitzpatrick at the Old Royal Naval College who helped organise this visit. It was the perfect way to finish off the Society’s long weekend of events with this splendid outing filled with excellent company and fascinating history in our very own Sherlockian “Adventure of the Naval Treat Tea.”

LS

THE SHSL VS “THE GOLD BATS” OF THE P.G. WODEHOUSE SOCIETY

Our annual cricket match against the P.G. Wodehouse Society at the delightful West Wycombe cricket ground was played on Sunday 23rd June 2024. This year the fixture had an extra edge! The magnificent Grits Trophy, specially commissioned by the Sherlock Holmes Society in memory of Nicholas Utechin, was up for grabs to the winning team.

Playing to the laws of cricket from 1895 is not the only tradition in our fixture. The Gold Bats get to bat first and they did well despite a shaky start. At 26 for 2, they needed someone to steady the ship — and up stood Stephen Thatcher. He weaved together a magnificent unbeaten 101 to put the Gold

Bats in command. Martin Southall chipped in with an unbeaten 31, which allowed the Gold Bats to declare at a formidable total of 219-4.

Whether it was the pressure of the Grits Trophy or one too many sandwiches at tea, the Society's 11 could not get anywhere near matching the Gold Bats total. The Hamill brothers, as ever did well, Rob scoring 27 and Ed 30. Gilligan scored 33, but our innings closed on 111 all out, with Society captain Peter Horrocks stranded on 7 not-out.

Our Chairman, Calvert Markham, presented the Grits Trophy to the Gold Bats captain — but it was immediately handed back for the Society to act as custodians. Michael Howarth once again provided a warm welcome to us all at West Wycombe, and he was presented with a copy of the Society's booklet about the fixture, as a small token of our gratitude for his role in creating a wonderful day of sport and friendship.

THE GRITS TROPHY

In Memory of NICHOLAS UTECHIN 1952-2022

STEEL TRUE BLADE STRAIGHT

Team: P. Horrocks (Captain), N. Luke, E. Hamill, R. Hamill, R. Stone, J. Abraham, G. Gilliver, Basab Majumdar, E. Horrocks, T. Atkinson, M. Howarth, P. Gillings

PG

“ONE OF OUR GREAT UNIVERSITY TOWNS”

Between the 6th and 8th of September, the Society descended on Oxford for this year's autumn excursion. It was a welcome return to what Matthew Arnold called the City of Dreaming Spires. We last visited in 2011, when our frontman was the much-missed Nick Utechin. Then the topic of debate was which university had Holmes attended, Cambridge or Oxford? Nick's view was St John's, Oxford. The debate is an old one, initiated by the Reverend R.A. Knox in a paper read to two Oxford Colleges in 1911 and then published the following year in the *Blue Book*. If I read him correctly, he seemed to side with Peterhouse, Cambridge, but waspishly concluded that if Holmes had gone to Oxford he had not studied “Greats”. The debate has continued since then with neither side able to inch ahead. Wisely, our trip's organisers sidestepped that debate and focused on the character of Professor Presbury from “The Adventure of the Creeping Man” published in *The Strand Magazine* March 1923 and collected in the *Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* in 1927. Our frontrunners for this trip were Helen Dorey, Marcus Geisser and Rakshita Patel.

We met on the Friday with friends bumping into each other in the porter's lodge at Christ Church College, the Society's home for the weekend. It is not difficult to imagine a tall spindly undergraduate with dark hair and a prominent nose hurrying through the colonnaded quadrangles heading for another lecture. Our first formal meeting was a drinks reception at 6.00pm in Christ Church's Research Centre, a modern thatched barn in the Meadow, fitted for conferences and lectures. A welcome by our Chairman, Calvert Markham, drew some good-natured cat-calling, as in his totally unbiased opinion Holmes was a Cambridge man like himself. We were then into our evening lecture by Mark Jones, who explored the broader context of "The Creeping Man", and why it is considered one of the weaker of the canonical tales. Sherlockians may remember the lamented Neil McCaw and his facsimile of Doyle's original manuscript for the story, published by the Winchester University Press. Mark wove a convincing picture of the story's context in the 1920s, but then pointed out how in 1903, when the story is actually set, the case makes little sense. He then dropped his bombshell: John Watson deliberately backdated his tale as a cover for his general readers. He was in fact delivering a very contemporary 1920s warning to a smaller group who would recognise the true context of the story. Mark drew interesting parallels with other literature, in particular Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (on the theme of transformations), and what the real basis was for the rumours about Presbury that pervaded "Camford". Mark suggests that an unhealthy dabbling in the occult was the real background of the story. Baker Street was delivering notice — you have been found out; you have been warned.

Suddenly the cloistered halls took on a more sinister aspect. A subdued group made its way through the evening shadows to the Great Hall, not without the occasional backward glance. Dark robed figures flitted in and around, though these turned out to be Japanese students on a Harry Potter weekend. Our evening meal was in the magnificent 16th century Great Hall. It is said to be one of the inspirations for the dining hall at Hogwarts, though many of us were relieved that, unlike Hogwarts, Christ Church retained its roof. Wine and Sherlockian conversation flowed liberally.

After a relaxed breakfast next morning, there was a chance to wander round the college and the magnificent chapel, which also serves as cathedral to the diocese of Oxford. Then on Christ Church Meadow we encountered an equally magnificent sight, a very large grey wolfhound named Donal. Kindly brought along by his owners, he was an excellent stand-in for Roy, Professor Presbury's faithful pet from "The Creeping Man". He was a great favourite with everyone.

Then it was a short stroll southwards to the Folly Bridge and a cruise up

the Isis (as Oxford's stretch of the Thames is known) as far as the Old Stone Bridge at Iffley Lock. The weather held good, and we shared tales of Sherlock Holmes and Philip Pullman, author of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy, with our marvellous captain — who had been Pullman's paper-boy when he was a lad! We also shared the river with fleets of rowers. College boat houses lined both sides of the river, and to starboard as we headed downstream, a quay-side of house boats, narrow boats, and every craft imaginable, had all been turned into permanent homes. I even spotted a World War II Motor Torpedo Boat; now that's recycling!

We were free for lunch, and afterwards there was an opportunity to join a Dorothy L. Sayers and Lord Peter Wimsey walk, with Marcus Geisser and Catherine Cooke. Never having read any Sayers, I was particularly interested in this. The walk began down Brewer Street, a narrow side street across the road from Christ Church: Dorothy Sayers was born in no. 1 Brewer Street. The walk took us through the centre of Oxford to Somerville College, where Sayers won first-class honours in 1915, although it wasn't awarded until 1920 when Oxford first began to confer degrees on women. At various points we stopped while Catherine and Marcus drew a surprisingly large number of parallels between Lord Peter and Sherlock. Sayers was a Doyle fan. Our walk ended outside Balliol, Lord Peter's *alma mater*. Catherine and Marcus reinforced a point that Mark Jones had made the night before. Rejuvenation and the "glandular theory" underpin Sayers' *The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club* (1928), as well as "The Adventure of the Creeping Man" (1923).

Drinks that evening were once again in the Meadowcroft Research Centre. The evening's lecture was by Helen Dorey. After an enthusiastic introduction by Jonathan McCafferty, Helen developed her thesis — that of the key importance of reference collections, and the museums that curate and house them. Where would Holmes be without his tobacco collection, and less palatable, severed ears? Helen described the Victorian obsession with collecting, and with displaying sequential (progressive) order, nowhere better exemplified than in the Pitt Rivers Museum — a museum about an idea: the slow march of evolutionary progress. There was too a sub-text to Helen's talk that struck me forcibly. Reference collections are as important today as they ever were, and museums, their curators and guardians are as vital to our understanding of today's world as they were to Holmes in his. What I "heard" Helen say was *protect our museums and their collections*. I am sure the Society would echo that warmly.

Proof of that particular pudding, after a last breakfast in the Great Hall, was a visit to the Pitt Rivers Museum itself. The museum is accessed through the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Both are cathedrals to

science, set to rival Christ Church, only fashioned in stone, glass and wrought iron (if you ever go back, look up at the roof: its builders believed the sky was not the limit). Helen's talk perfectly set up the Pitt Rivers, a museum about Victorian museums, almost a fossil in itself. The obsession with collecting ordering and sequencing is writ large. As you thread your way amongst the original glass cases and many of their unchanged contents, you can almost hear a well-built man with a bowler hat remarking to his companion, "You have an extraordinary genius for minutiae," while his tall ascetic friend in a frock coat replies, "I appreciate their importance ..." The Pitt Rivers shows us why.

From the museum it was a short walk to The Chequers pub. Although we were unable to check whether the port or the linen were above reproach (well, certainly not the latter), lunch was a happy occasion to reminisce on the weekend's adventures and say our goodbyes, with a warm vote of thanks to Marcus, Helen and Rakshita for all their hard work. A fascinating and insightful weekend. Can't wait for the next one!

JMcN

"THE BLACKEST STREETS OF CONAN DOYLE'S LONDON"

We gathered on the 17th October in the charming event space at the Wellington Hotel for the annual Richard Lancelyn Green Lecture. Following dinner and drinks, this year's engaging speaker, Professor Sarah Wise, transported us back to Victorian times via the famous *Poverty Map* compiled by Charles Booth. Widely regarded as the "grandfather of English social science," Booth undertook the herculean task of charting the economic reality of London's 5.5 million inhabitants in the late 1880s.

Professor Wise introduced us to Booth, a successful businessman with a propensity for statistics and numbers, who recognised the need for further facts and figures regarding the city's socio-economic landscape. To collect the data, he self-funded a project in which he and a team of 20 social investigators charted the multi-layered mysteries of London to uncover the living conditions of its denizens. They embarked on this double life of discovery by taking lodgings in some of London's most notorious areas to assess the spirit of each neighbourhood. Booth reportedly enjoyed the simple food and lively conversations of his East End life.

Using the London Ordnance Survey maps, Booth and his team laboriously superimposed a system of colours upon the streets to indicate the varying socio-economic levels; the result was a striking visual picture of the general conditions of each class. The map was accompanied by a 17-volume survey *Life and Labour of the People in London*, published between 1889 and 1903.

(The full set is available in the London Archives and the British Library.)

Booth sought to dispel phantasmagoric depictions of the poor, and while he does impose moral judgement of the lowest class as “vicious and semi-criminal,” the other categories tend towards a more unbiased and objective view. Despite his stated purpose to simply document the nature and extent of the actual problem, his advocacy for state pension as well as observations regarding the conditions of impoverished children brought about real social change.

Professor Wise then took us on a journey via the map to explore several neighbourhoods in more detail, including the common lodging houses of Whitechapel, the suburbs of South Norwood, where Conan Doyle resided for a period and, of course, the retail shops and houses of our familiar Baker Street.

This fascinating lecture gave insight into the social fabric of Victorian London and the context in which Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote his stories. Professor Wise posited that, not unlike Holmes himself, Booth had a methodology, framework of discovery and system of cross-referencing to fill in his data gaps. By exploring “those interesting little problems which the complex life of London so plentifully presents,” Charles Booth charted the multi-layered mysteries of London and attempted to put a kind of order into the chaos of the capital.

LS

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“THIS GREAT AND SOMBRE STAGE”

I can’t recall another year in which so many plays — dramatic and comedic — about the Detective and the Doctor were mounted throughout the UK. This list is certainly not exhaustive, but it must suffice:

A Sherlock Carol, Mark Shanahan’s delightful mash-up of Doyle and Dickens, returned to open the year at the Marylebone Theatre, just a short walk from Baker Street Station and John Doubleday’s now-iconic statue of the great detective. It seems set to be a regular Christmas treat there.

From the 2nd February to the 16th March, the Watermill Theatre near Newbury housed a new British rock (or, some said, middle-of-the-road) musical, *Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood*, which had a modern-day Sherlock Holmes (played by two actors) investigating an unexplained death in the “infamous environmental protest camp at Oakenwood”. Reviews were generally favourable.

Nearly 100 miles away, *Sherlock Holmes and the Whitechapel Fiend* by Toby Hulse & Ross Smith held the stage throughout February at the Barn Theatre

in Cirencester. Whatever the title might suggest, the play is a comedy, and apparently very funny.

That same month, Kyle Gallagher's play *The Man in the Shadows: An Original Telling of Sherlock Holmes* had its world premiere at the Halifax Playhouse in Halifax, West Yorkshire. This one came with warnings of "blood & violence, bad language, mention of sexual assault, flashing lights, drug use ..."

In March, Colin Baker and Terry Molloy both former stars of *Doctor Who*, launched a new tour of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, staged as a radio play.

Nick Lane's excellent dramatisation of *Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear* for Blackeyed Theatre had its world premiere tour in 2022/23. In March 2024 the company began another national tour.

By contrast, *Sherlock And Watson, A Murder in the Garden* by the company called Calf2Cow (yes, honestly) is "an outrageous comedy full of slapstick, multi-rolling and pumped full of live music and rock n roll". A tour of open-air performances began in June.

Another outfit with an unusual name is Catkids, which is actually a children's drama group. In June, at Thame Players Theatre, they produced *Sherlock and the Case of the Horrible Thing*, described as "packed with songs, dances, laughs and lunacy".

Later that month, Chameleon Theatre Company toured south-west England with their comedy *Sherlock's Excellent Adventure*.

In July, Southwater Junior Academy gave us *Sherlock and Cinders* — a title that suggests a Christmas pantomime — at the Capitol Theatre in Horsham, West Sussex.

Later that month South London Theatre staged Steven Canny and John Nicholson's superb comic take on *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The company's home is a historic former fire station in Norwood, a town well known to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson, who were played respectively by Caroline Doyle and Tom Watts.

In late August, as part of the Leeds Opera Festival, Northern Opera Group performed *Sherlock Holmes and the Sign of Four* by Lliam Paterson. Holmes was played by Edward Hawkins (bass) and Watson by Davis Horton (tenor).

And the NTC Touring Theatre Company visited the Chapel FM Arts Centre in Leeds in their autumn tour with *Sherlock Holmes and the Sting of the Scorpion*, "an original mystery by award-winning writer Stewart Howson, with music by Lucy Desbrow and directed by Alice Byrne and Louis Roberts".

Nigel Miles-Thomas now back in Britain, continued his wide-ranging tour with *Sherlock Holmes — The Last Act*, the one-man play that David Stuart Davies wrote for the late Roger Llewellyn. It's a delight to report that this production is enjoying the same outstanding success as the original.

At the end of November, *A Sherlock Carol* enjoyed what was probably its first British amateur production in the village of Appleton, some 12 miles from Oxford. I'm assured that it was very successful.

Throughout December, *Sherlock Holmes and A Christmas Mystery* held the stage at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham. Adapted from "The Blue Carbuncle", this well-reviewed Black Hound production had female leads in Katriona Brown and Charlotte East as Holmes and Watson.

In mid-December, Oxford's own Wild Goose Theatre offered *A Sherlock Holmes Christmas*, a comic take on *The Blue Carbuncle* and *The Beryl Coronet*, told through a frame narrative device.

And back in London, *A Sherlock Carol* returned to see the old year out and the New Year in at the Marylebone Theatre.

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SILENT SHERLOCK: THE RETURN OF EILLE NORWOOD

Anthony Edward Brett, who became famous under the name of Eille Norwood, was not the first actor to portray Sherlock Holmes, but it was he of whom Arthur Conan Doyle said, "His wonderful impersonation of Holmes has amazed me." From 1921 to 2023 Norwood portrayed the great detective for Stoll Pictures at their Cricklewood studios and on location. These were silent movies, of course: forty-five of the short stories, each a two-reeler lasting about twenty-five minutes, and feature-length films of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Sign of Four*.

Until recently, it was generally believed that only half a dozen or so still existed. In fact the British Film Institute has prints of all forty-seven, and thanks to an arrangement with the Really Useful Group, which acquired the rights in 2000 along with the Stoll-Moss Theatres, a restoration project is under way, funded by Iron Mountain. The initial results were screened on the 16th October in the appropriately Victorian setting of Alexandra Palace, during the BFI's London Film Festival, and they were beyond impressive.

A full house of cinephiles, Holmesians and more, was greeted by Bryony Dixon, the BFI's Curator of Silent Film. We welcomed the eleven-piece Royal Academy of Music Soloists Ensemble, conducted from the piano by Joanna MacGregor; the house lights were dimmed, and the programme began. First was *A Scandal in Bohemia*, with music by Joseph Havlat. It was followed by *The Golden Pince-Nez*, the score this time by Neil Brand — specialist composer for silent movies and talented dramatist, whose adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was recorded for BBC Radio 3 in front of a capacity audience at the Barbican Theatre two years ago.

The climax, naturally, was the third film, *The Final Problem*, and this time Joanna MacGregor conducted and played her own music. For practical reasons, the fatal duel between Norwood's Holmes and Percy Standing's baleful Moriarty takes place at Cheddar Gorge instead of the Reichenbach Falls, but the scene is as powerful as one could wish, especially with Ms MacGregor's atmospheric music.

The visual quality of all three films was remarkable: crisp and clear for the most part, appropriately sombre when required. I hope it won't be too long before the complete Norwood/Holmes archive is fully restored, and that it's made available to us at a reasonable price!

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“IT IS WITH A HEAVY HEART ...”

After a long illness, David Stuart Davies died on the 16th August. Publication in 1976 of his book *Holmes of the Movies* — with a foreword by Peter Cushing — led to a career as author, editor, scholar, dramatist, actor and speaker. David's Holmesian expertise extended well beyond screen and stage. For ten years, he and his wife Kathryn jointly piloted The Northern Musgraves, the Yorkshire-based society that Kathryn founded. He was the longest-serving editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Gazette* (which became *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* and finally *Sherlock*) and became a valued contributor to the current *Sherlock Holmes Magazine*. For ten years he devised and presented the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's annual Film Evening, and for twenty years he edited *Red Herrings*, the journal of the Crime Writers' Association. He had nine Holmes novels published, as well as books in his own detective series, variously featuring Johnny Hawke, Paul Snow and Luther Darke. His non-fiction includes *Bending the Willow: Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes*, an excellent account of the actor's character and performance. In 1995 David and Kathryn were invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as, respectively, “Sir Ralph Musgrave” and “The Musgrave Ritual” and in 2016 David was granted membership of that exclusive body The Detection Club. His most wide-ranging success, much to his surprise, came with the two plays he wrote for our late friend Roger Llewellyn: *Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act* and *Sherlock Holmes: The Death and Life*. David himself is sadly missed, but his work lives on.

Unlike the passing of David Stuart Davies, that of Kelvin I. Jones, a prolific writer and researcher, was not widely covered. Born in south-east London, he, like David, became a teacher — but even before going to university, he had contributed a notable article “The Geography of *The Hound of the Bas-*

kervilles” to *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. Living successively in Kent, Norfolk and Cornwall, he became fascinated by English regional folklore, witchcraft and the supernatural. These — as well as Holmes, Watson and Conan Doyle — were subjects for his essays and books. He also created his own sleuths, Dr. John Bottrell, Chief Inspector Ketch, and the psychic John Carter, but the greater part of his output relates to Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes. The books, long and short, include the biographical *Sherlock Holmes: Consulting Detective*, *The Sherlock Holmes Pharmacopoeia*, *A Sherlock Holmes Dictionary*, *Sherlock and Porlock: A Study of the Literary Influences in the Sherlock Holmes Stories*, *The Annotated Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Kent Railways*, *The Criminal World of Sherlock Holmes* and many more.

I’ve found only one obituary, written by a friend from his university days and published in *The Guardian* on the 26th November, a month or more after we began to suspect that he had died. It seems that, like me, the writer was unable to discover the date of Kelvin’s death. He had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in 2008, but he continued to read, write and publish until it became absolutely impossible. The sadness of the situation was compounded by the fact that, a year or more before, his beloved wife Debby, a talented artist, had been hospitalised with severe dementia. While he was still able to make the journey, Kelvin would visit her, but apparently she had no idea who he was.

One more loss should be noted. Oscar Ross died at Belfast’s Marie Curie Hospice on the 5th December. In October 1991 he responded to a small notice in the *Belfast Telegraph* about the journalist Alex Kane and his love of Sherlock Holmes. Alex was a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and he hoped to contact people in Northern Ireland who read and enjoyed the stories. Oscar’s response led to the founding of The Crew of the S.S. *May Day*, the Sherlock Holmes Society of Northern Ireland, and Oscar becoming its Secretary, or Purser. There’s no record of Holmes having visited Belfast, but Arthur Conan Doyle did, notably to speak about spiritualism, though the fact is rarely mentioned in the many biographies. Oscar spent hours researching at the city’s famous Linen Hall Library, and I hope that the results will be published. Meanwhile, this BBC NI article is worth reading: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-32842995>. But whatever the topic — Doylean, Holmesian or other — Oscar was knowledgeable, helpful and amiable. Although we met in person only once or twice, he and I were frequent correspondents over the years. He was a good friend, and he is greatly missed.

RJ

THE SOCIETY PAGES

SCIONS, SOCIETIES, AND ASSEMBLAGES ACROSS
CANADA, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB

*Pamela J. Sullivan*¹

INTRODUCTION

Welcome, Almanac-ers, to a fresh installment of the BSA's collection of societal and scionical reports, now (aptly, we think) dubbed "The Society Pages". As Faithful Readers know, Sherlockians around the world are invited each year to share a chronicle of their group's adventures, and to enjoy the escapades of others. We — and all Faithful Readers — are grateful to contributors and heartily enjoy reading about all that our fellow Sherlockians are doing, discussing, and learning.

In furtherance of that enjoyment, we would draw your attention to A Few Features of Interest: a sampling of our favorite phrases from this year's bounty. Be on the lookout for these particularly charming phrases, which you will find among the many excellent reports herein. Consider it a BSA Where's Waldo to add a few more smiles to your experience of these pages.

"... which led to a discussion about whether Watson is a blabber-mouth."

"... six degrees of separation between Arthur Conan Doyle and Mick Jagger ..."

"... presenting ... while wearing a recreated 1380s suit of Steel Armour."

"... alleged Christmas movie *Die Hard* ..."

"... Watson Time ... a chance to share favorite passages from the story we're examining."

One final editorial note: In our ongoing efforts to provide an exceptional Almanac experience, we receive support from many quarters. In one instance this year, the question arose, "When citing Vincent Starrett's Great Poem,

¹ P.J. Sullivan is active in numerous Sherlockian groups in New England and the Mid-Atlantic, and in numerous Sherlockian and Doylean events.

These authors retain copyright in their contributions to *The Society Pages*: Anns Behrens, Johanna Draper Carlson, Elaine Coppola, Ruth Goehmann, Resa Haile, Bruce Harris, Terry Hunt, Candace Lewis, Steve Mason, Michael McClure, Robert Musial, Rob Nunn, Troy Reynolds, Xander Sobacki, and Janice L. Weiner.

should we capitalize the “B”, or use the lowercase?” For a definitive decree, we turn to the Voice of Authority, the inestimable Ray Betzner, BSI, who offers this illumination:

221B or 221b? That is the question. When his sonnet to Holmes and Watson rolled out of the manual typewriter on March 11, 1942, Vincent Starrett did not know he had created a classic. More than eight decades have rolled by since then, and Starrett’s poetic homage to the immortal duo has become the benediction many groups use to end their meetings and warm their members before passing into the foggy chill. And for those who wonder about how its title was punctuated, I can assure you that it was named “221B,” with the letter standing uppercase and proud against the preceding numbers.

As always, the BSA encourages all Sherlockian congregations to be a part of the *Baker Street Almanac’s* Society Pages. Perhaps you belong to a regional society not currently represented in these pages. If so, please join us next time — your like-minded colleagues everywhere are as eager to share your experiences as you are to learn of theirs!

SHERLOCK IN CANADA 2024

The Bimetallic Question, Edith Pouden

The Bimetallic Question (est. 1979) is a Montreal-based scion society of the Bootmakers of Toronto. The society meets in person at the Westmount Library (est. 1897), with out-of-town guests and some members attending via Zoom. By tradition, each Bimetallic Question meeting includes toasts to Sherlock Holmes, Doctor Watson, Mrs Hudson, The Woman, and the Society, as well as any additional toasts proposed by members, a show and tell segment, and a quiz and story discussion on a specific Sherlock Holmes story.

Following a hiatus of four years imposed by the pandemic, the society celebrated a return in 2024 to its annual Sherlock Holmes birthday dinner, held January 20 at a new (to us) venue, L’Ambroisie. The guest speaker was Dr. Joe Schwarcz, Sherlock Holmes enthusiast and director of the Office for Science and Society at McGill University. Various toasts and other presentations were provided by members.

January also saw the return of yearly membership dues, which had been paused since the start of the pandemic.

The first regular meeting of the Bimetallic Question was held in February; the society meets once every two months to discuss a canon story selected by the winner of the quiz held in the previous meeting.

Sherlock Holmes Stories Discussed in 2024	
February	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
April	"The Norwood Builder"
June	"The Man with the Twisted Lip"
August	"The Solitary Cyclist"
September	"The Final Problem"
December	"The Disappearance of Lady Francis Carfax"

Discussions are underway with a view to holding a colloquium to celebrate the society's 50th anniversary in 2029. Footage of our 1989 colloquium was played at a luncheon hosted by co-founder Wilfrid de Freitas for the benefit of the society, which will aspire to reach the heights set by the scholarship and entertainments, if not the hairstyles, of this past event. The colloquium planning committee consists of Rachel Alkallay, Raf Jans, Anne Millar, Edith Pouden, and Bruno Paul Stenson.

Board elections were held in December. Anne Millar was confirmed as continuing Sovereign, while the remainder of the board is composed as follows: Edith Pouden (Shilling), Paul Billette (Florin), Wilfrid de Freitas (Telegraph Operator), Chris Herten-Greaven (Mrs Hudson). In the absence of a volunteer for the position of Scribe, Vivianne Lewis continued in the role through the end of the year.

In addition to its regular Sherlockian meetings, the Bimetallic Question holds a bimonthly meeting to discuss non-Sherlockian works by Arthur Conan Doyle. This meeting is held online only and is organized jointly by Kristin Franseen, Phil Ehrensaft, and Edith Pouden. The 'All of Doyle' discussion group has covered a wide range of works, and often invites speakers selected to complement the theme of the meeting.

Works discussed by the Bimetallic Question 'All of Doyle' group in 2024		
Date	Works	Speaker
January	The Stark Munro Letters, A Medical Document	Edith Pouden
March	Hilda Wade (Grant Allen); The Dying Detective (Doyle)	Brian Busby

Works discussed by the Bimetallic Question 'All of Doyle' group in 2024		
Date	Works	Speaker
May	Photographic essays: After Cormorants with a Camera, On the Slave Coast with a Camera, Up an African River with a Camera, Dry Plates on a Wet Moor, Southsea: Three Days in Search of Effects, To the Waterford Coast and Along It, A Day on "The Island", Easter Monday with a Camera, Arran in Autumn, With a Camera on an African River, A Few Technical Hints, Trial of Burton's Emulsion Process, The "New" Scientific Subject	
July	A Cricket Collection: "The Field Bazaar," "The Story of Spedegue's Dropper," "A Reminiscence of Cricket" (Doyle); "Grit: A Talk with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (P.G. Wodehouse); "Gentlemen and Players" (E.W. Hornung)	Monica Schmidt
October	The Great Boer War, The War in South Africa: Its Cause and Conduct	Phil Ehrensaft
December	<i>A Duet, with Occasional Chorus</i> (Doyle); <i>The Woman Who Did</i> (Grant Allen)	Richard Sveum



THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

P.O. Box 232, Westmount Station
Westmount, QC, Canada H3Z 2T2

Logo by Edith Pounden.

The Bootmakers of Toronto, Chris Redmond

The Bootmakers of Toronto (the Sherlock Holmes Society of Canada) continues to be one of the world's largest Sherlockian associations. According to a report presented at the annual business meeting in December 2024, the Bootmakers have just reached the auspicious number of 221 members, including 125 in Toronto and other parts of Canada, and 96 in other nations.

Members from around the world can take an active part in the life of the Bootmakers because of the now well-established pattern that the majority of the society's meeting are held through Zoom, while a few events each year call for in-person participation in Toronto. During 2024 there were two such occasions, a strictly social gathering on July 20 (featuring a radio drama presentation of Sherlock Holmes in "A Comedy of Errors") and the annual general meeting on December 7.

Meanwhile, the society met on January 27, February 24, April 13, September 7, and October 26, continuing the tradition of examining one canonical story at each meeting, except for the January "birthday" celebration. The Bootmakers are currently working through selections from *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*. Speakers at these meetings included such prominent Sherlockians and authors as Andrew Lycett, Steve Doyle, Roger Johnson, A. J. Low, and Jeffrey Rosenthal, and society members provided other presentations both long and short. In addition, it would hardly be a Bootmaker meeting without a quiz from long-time member Karen Campbell, and the society has been graced by music from two performers, Karen Gold and (since his return to Toronto after years in exile) Jim Ballinger.

Apart from its meetings, the Bootmakers continue to publish the quarterly magazine *Canadian Holmes*, under the editorship of Mark and JoAnn Alberstat. CH is now in volume 47, and publishes Sherlockian scholarship, insights into Arthur Conan Doyle and Victorian life, verse, reviews, and news. The society also has an important outreach through its website (torontobootmakers.com) and its Facebook page, which at last count had 564 members from around the world.

At the birthday event in January, the status of Master Bootmaker (MBt) was conferred on two distinguished society members, Michael Brown and Steve Emecz. The December business meeting approved Michael Ranieri to serve as the Bootmakers' president, or Meyers, for another year.

The Bootmakers are proud to recognize scion societies across Canada, currently including the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia (Vancouver), the Wisteria Lodgers of Edmonton, the Singular Society of the Baker Street Dozen (Calgary), the Cesspudlian Society of London (Ontario), the Stratford on Avon Sherlock Holmes Society, the Bimetallic Question of Montréal, and the Spence Munros of Halifax.

The society continues to have good relations with the Toronto Reference Library and with the organized Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection there. The group was saddened, however, by the death on December 1 of Doug Wrigglesworth, the founder of the Friends organization and a leading member of the Bootmakers for many years.

The Stormy Petrels, Sheldon Goldfarb

Founded in 1987 as a scion society of the Bootmakers of Toronto, the Stormy Petrels of British Columbia are based in Vancouver, British Columbia. We meet monthly to discuss one of the stories from the canon, and we also hold social events. In 2024 we finished off the year with a three-session discussion of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, including a display of various Baskerville edition covers and a talk on telegraphy. Earlier in the year we did stories from *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, including “The Six Napoleons” and “The Three Students” (the moral of which, we decided, was don’t cheat on exams). Also “The Golden Pince-Nez” and the comic but sad “Missing Three-Quarter,” which led to a discussion about whether Watson is a blabbermouth.

Along the way we did some research and discovered that besides being a bird mentioned in the canon, the term “stormy petrel” can mean a troublemaker. (And as to why our group chose to call itself the Stormy Petrels back in 1987, that was probably because the petrel is a seabird and in Vancouver we are on the sea; or perhaps it is because stormy petrels are always on the hunt for food.)

We had our usual social outings: a “birthday” brunch for Holmes in January, our Master’s Luncheon in his honor in April, and a movie night in July at which we watched the 1971 comedy classic *They Might Be Giants*, starring George C. Scott.

The year also saw the election of Sheldon Goldfarb as President, replacing Fran Martin, who stepped down after many years of noble service, and who remains as President Emeritus.

The Petrels also paid a visit to the home of Len and Elsa Haffenden, long-time Petrels who are selling their house and distributing the vast Sherlockian collection accumulated by Len, including facsimiles of Beeton’s Annual and innumerable editions of canonical works and other works by Conan Doyle.

The Petrels also discussed putting on a repeat performance of “The Ghost of Conan Doyle,” a skit in which the ghost discusses his reputation, and which was first performed at the 2019 book launch for Sheldon’s book, *Sherlockian Musings* (MX Publishing).

President: Sheldon Goldfarb (“The Priory Schoolmaster”)

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SHERLOCK IN THE UNITED STATES 2024

CALIFORNIA

The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay, Maxine Reneker

The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay meet monthly in members' homes and occasionally at local pubs. The society's members are domiciled around the Monterey peninsula, from Carmel Valley to Marina. Meetings begin with a reading of "221B" by Vincent Starrett and often end with an Isaac Asimov limerick. Occasionally group members watch a video version of the story under discussion with comments about the faithfulness or not of the adaptation. We often discuss commentators' views of the story and locate the geographical references in the stories on maps of London and Great Britain. In the course of the year, we viewed several options for our logo. The result is below, with pins of the logo for scion members.

The January 23, 2024 meeting began with a surprise celebration acknowledging the investiture of member Maxine Reneker in the Baker Street Irregulars as Lomax, the Sub-Librarian. John Durein gave a paper on education in the canon, with the title "The Scholastic Holmes." It was very relevant to the evening's discussion of "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane." John noted that "the nineteenth century in England featured tremendous growth and progress in education" and cited the quote in "The Naval Treaty", when Holmes and Watson took a train out of London, "[the train] allow[s] you to look down upon ... those big, isolated clumps of buildings The Board Schools ... Lighthouses, my boy! Beacons of the future! Capsules, with hundreds of bright little seeds"

The February meeting focused on "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier" with fairly strong negative comments on the story as a whole, especially what was considered a weak ending.

Members at the March meeting discussed "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs," noting the plot similarity to "The Red-Headed League."

Three chapters from *The Sign of Four* were discussed in each of the meetings from April through July. We watched the Granada version of this novella.

"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" and the comments on the student perspectives/submissions to the Joel R. Senter Essay Contest were intertwined during the August meeting.

In September, "A Case of Identity" was our story, and in October it was "The Boscombe Valley Mystery," with viewing and discussion of the Granada video version.

November was a very special meeting at the home of Michael Kean, Wiggins in the Baker Street Irregulars, who presented an overview of the history of Sherlockian publishing, with examples of the books and stories cited in his talk. Michael began with the background of the increasing rate of literacy among the British population in the 19th century, the impact of the railroads on access to the stories, and a brief history of the life of Arthur Conan Doyle. He then discussed the state of copyright law and compliance, or noncompliance of American publishers and its impact on the money earned by Conan Doyle. Scion members were privileged to view Michael's library with its comprehensive collection of various editions of the Canon, as well as pastiches, fiction and non-fiction works by Arthur Conan Doyle, and other forms of Sherlockiana.

In December scion members returned to our format of story and video, this month with "The Cardboard Box" and the Granada version of the story.

We believe our scion fulfills the mission of "keeping the game alive" particularly in the spirit of "it's always 1895."

Point of contact: Maxine Reneker, mreneker@pacbell.net.



Logo by Maxine Reneker.

The Holmes Hounds Sherlock Holmes Society, Linda Hein

The Holmes' Hounds Sherlock Holmes Society (Jackson, California), founded in January of 2014 by Linda Hein and Beth Barnard, meets the first Tuesday of every other month on odd-numbered months, except for Janu-

ary, when Holmes' Hounds always gather on January 6 for a Birthday Soiree. Beth Barnard is the Gasogene, Linda Hein the Tantalus, and Joe Svec the Commissionaire. A canonical story is discussed at every meeting with questions submitted by our member Wiggins (Andy Rodriguez). Our membership consists of 55 Sherlockians. Meetings give members opportunities to present their characters to the membership. When they have done so, they receive the Holmes' Hounds Society pin. In March of every year, the annual Holmes' Hunt takes place within our 10,000 square-foot building.

Empirically, the three-story edifice (Hein & Company Bookstore, Baker Street West, and Hein & Company Estate Sales) was used in imaginative ways to conduct a hunt with teams who search for clues (rhymes, puzzles, invisible ink!) amid books, antiques, and hidden spaces. Alas, after 27 years of occupying this building by Hein & Company Bookstore, all businesses have relocated, including Baker Street West and Holmes' Hounds. Fortunately for BSW and HH, they are now occupying the Old Historic Courthouse in Jackson, plus the building next door, which has been christened "Scotland Yard."

January of 2024: It was a blithe celebration despite the fact that Baker Street West had already started packing its belongings. Sequoia (a dedicated duo, Maude Selby and Frank Crosse, from Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *Duet*) played music on hammered dulcimer and other stringed instruments. Book plates commemorating Mr. Holmes 170th birthday were given as gifts to every Hound.

Toasts were freely offered. Crackers were pulled and enjoyed. "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax" was discussed and questions eruditely answered. Our own Sherlock Holmes (John Lee) presented a monologue culminating in a raucous applause.

March of 2024: Holmes' Hounds March meeting was canceled due to lack of venue. Volunteers, both Holmes' Hounds and Baker Street Players, began dismantling Baker Street West and moving to their new venue, the Old Historic Courthouse, on January 16 and completed the arduous task on April 16, 2024.

Unfortunately, Holmes' Hunt was scrapped for lack of venue.

May of 2024: Holmes' Hounds met at Boilerworks Cafe at 1 Main Street, Jackson, CA. Beth Barnard and Linda Hein were finally able to discuss their trip to the Sherlockian festivities in New York earlier in January. They described it as a profound experience where they were able to meet in person many Sherlockians they had already met online and in Zoom meetings. The Sequoia Duo, Maude and Frank, played, as they always do, at the meeting. "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot" was discussed, questions posed, and answers proffered. Holmes' Hounds held a trivia contest in lieu

of Holmes' Hunt. Prizes were given, and the team's name, The Abbey De-ranged, was added to the Holmes' Hunt plaque.

July of 2024: Holmes' Hounds held their first meeting at Scotland Yard, the small yellow brick building next to Baker Street West's new venue at the Old Historic Courthouse in Jackson. Joining us were Michael Kean (Wiggins of the BSI) and Connie Kean (The Woman of BSI). The BSW Board of Directors gave Michael and Connie a tour of the new venue and afterward took them to dinner at Teresa's Italian Restaurant. Two new members were presented — Pinks, A Pinkerton Agent (William Tarchala), and Flora Millar (Aksana Jordan). The Sequoia Duo played their fine music. An update of the progress of Baker Street West's new venue was discussed. A raffle was held, and Flora Millar (Aksana Jordan) and Marie Devine (Cyndy Isaac) won two posters to be displayed in the new venue. The fundraiser film, *Sherlock Holmes and The True Believer*, was discussed, and volunteers for cast and crew were solicited. Appreciation certificates and medals were given out for outstanding service by volunteers packing up and moving all of Baker Street West's belongings to the new venue. All were inducted into The Order of the Calabash. "The Adventure of the Dying Detective" was discussed, questions asked, and answers given.

September of 2024: Because of the extreme heat at the Scotland Yard building (air conditioner broken), Holmes' Hounds met at the Boilerworks Cafe. The Sequoia Duo performed their lively music. A book raffle fundraiser was held.

Updates on the new venue and the film *Sherlock Holmes and The True Believer* were given. Mr. Holmes (John Lee) asked everyone to attend the production of *Nemesis* in the Sacramento area where he performed the lead role. Mr. Holmes also recited a monologue referencing "His Last Bow", which was the story discussed at this meeting. A Sherlockian-themed Pic-tionary was played to entertain the membership.

November of 2024: Holmes' Hounds met back at Scotland Yard. Sequoia Duo played their stellar music. An Edgar Allen Poe book was raffled off as a fundraiser. There was a discussion of the correlation between Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allen Poe. Elsie Cubitt (Amanda Reis) recited "The Raven" by Edgar Allen Poe. All Hounds were gifted origami ravens made by Jack Stapleton.

A discussion of "The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone" was had, questions proffered, and answers expertly given.

December of 2024: Holmes' Hounds admitted three new members to the society. Danna Wilberg, author and film maker; Tim Walton, Emmy-award-winning film maker; and Terry Shepherd, author of action/thriller novels.

For more information on Holmes' Hounds, please contact Mrs. Hudson at info@bakerstreetwest.com.

The Knights of Gnomon, Marc Kaufman

The Knights of the Gnomon, Redwood City, California scion of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, began in 1978 after an eight-session course on "Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Today" taught by Orval Graves through the Community Services Department of Cañada College in Redwood City. Some students from the class then met at the invitation of Graves and decided to form a scion, and by August petitioned the Baker Street Irregulars for official recognition. The gnomon is the part of the sundial that casts a shadow, and Mr. Graves had a special interest in sundials, which appeared several times in the Canon. A special sundial was made which has a gnomon with a cut out in the shape of Holmes' profile wearing a deerstalker. Members meet on the first Monday night of every other month at the home of different members. The sundial is in the middle of the room, and placed on it are member pebbles/rocks, inscribed with name or initials, some with the dancing men cipher. At each meeting Starrett's poem, "221B", is read by the host, minutes are distributed and a quiz on an assigned story is given with discussion following. After a show-and-tell session, refreshments are served.

Unfortunately, we could not meet in person for our regular meetings in 2024, but we tried to maintain the format, absent the refreshments. One upside, though, was the inclusion of members who do not live locally, including one in London.

January saw the Knights celebrating the 170th birthday of Sherlock via Zoom, rather than at a local restaurant. January is the month for the election of officers: Master Caster (he/she who casts the longest shadow, Amanuensis (secretary and reporter), and Cox & Co. (treasurer). For 2024 the officers were:

Master Caster: Maxine Reneker

Amanuensis: Marc Kaufman

Cox & Co.: Cade Deverell

Hans Sloan of Our Age: Maxine Reneker (archivist)

The minutes of each meeting are published as Gnomic Gnotes and are available as PDF documents. Contact info for the Knights is via KnightsOfTheGnomon@gmail.com.

January 7, 2024	Knights meet via Zoom
March 4, 2024	Knights meet via Zoom
May 8, 2024	Knights meet via Zoom

June 22, 2024	Knights meet in person for lunch
July 1, 2024	Knights meet via Zoom
September 16, 2024	Knights meet via Zoom
November 4, 2024	Knights meet via Zoom

The Scowrsers & Molly Maguires of San Francisco, Marc Kaufman

The Scowrsers and Molly Maguires, founded by friends William Anthony Parker White, better known by his penname, Anthony Boucher, and Joseph Henry Jackson, book editor of the San Francisco Chronicle, first met on March 31, 1944, at Fred Solari's Italian restaurant on Maiden Lane in San Francisco.

Although the Scowrsers initially followed the tradition of a male only group, a female auxiliary, the Molly Maguires, quickly followed. Women did attend the second meeting, and this scion became the first to admit women to full and equal membership. Normally, the Scowrsers try to meet approximately three times a year for a luncheon with toasts, papers, quiz, and frightful pun to close.

We now meet via Zoom but are able to record most meetings. Overall, Zoom attendance is better than in-person attendance, with international attendees. Copies of the recordings, which we hold for as long as practicable can be obtained by request to McMurdo@Scowrsers.org.

March 10, 2024: Spring meeting via Zoom. Our speaker for March was Jim Hawkins on "The Brothers 3: Moriarty in New Mexico". John Bennett Shaw was the subject. This meeting was recorded.

September 15, 2024: Autumn meeting via Zoom. Finally, our September speaker was Marilynne McKay, MD, ASH, BSI, speaking on "The Scarlet Thread of Venery". Marilynne tells what really killed Jefferson Hope and explains the natural history and surprisingly high prevalence of syphilis in the American West and Victorian London. This meeting was also recorded.

Contact info for the Scowrsers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco: McMurdo@Scowrsers.org.

COLORADO

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients, Derrick Belanger

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients is an organization of Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts located in Denver, Colorado, named after the patients Dr. Watson left behind to follow the investigations of his friend. The Neglected Pa-

tients is a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) literary society. Current Board members include Derrick Belanger (Chief Surgeon), Jeff Fladung (Staff Surgeon), Jim Bates (intern), Jennifer Petkus (intern), David Schwartz (intern), Kathleen O'Leary (intern) and Hilleary Waters (intern). Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients meets for events throughout the year. A subset of the group known as The Outpatients meets monthly at Pint's Pub in Denver on the first Sunday of the month to discuss and take a quiz on a story from the Canon.

The group started 2024 with its annual Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner which was held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Arvada, Colorado on January 27. At the dinner Jeff Falkingham had the group play a game he calls "There Once Was a Man from ...". Jeff also won the Brick Award for winning the evening's Sherlock Holmes Canonical quiz. That evening, Darlene Cypser stepped down as the Chief Surgeon and Larry Feldman stepped down as Staff Surgeon. Derrick Belanger and Jeff Fladung were elected as the new Chief Surgeon and Staff Surgeon.

In June, the group held the annual spring tea which is held at the Denver Women's Press Club in Denver, Colorado. This year was quite special as Stan Moskal and Sally Kurtzman told stories on the history of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Stan was one of the founding members of the organization back in 1974.

September brought the society's first virtual conference which was held on Saturday, September 14. Speakers for the event included Derrick Belanger, Eric Scace, Larry Feldman, Dr. Ed Chan, and Jim Hawkins. The event was well attended and had viewers from around the world.

Field trips for the year included members going to see Ken Ludwig's *Murder on the Orient Express* at the vintage Theatre in Aurora, Colorado on September 29 as well as seeing David MacGregor's Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear at The Miner's Alley Theatre in Golden, Colorado on November 9.

The final event of 2024 was on December 1 when, at the monthly Outpatients meeting, the Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients 50th anniversary coin was unveiled to the group. The coin was designed by Jeff Fladung and Brian Belanger. The limited-edition coin will be presented to all members who attend the Sherlock Holmes birthday celebration in 2025. A limited supply of the coins will also be made available to the public for purchase.

CONNECTICUT

The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society, Andrew Tranquilli



Top: Sherlock Holmes 171st Birthday Party at the Victorian House, Cheshire, CT.
Bottom: Members of the Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society at the Party.
Photos by Andrew Tranquilli.



Top left: Founder Andy Tranquilli and Rosemary Tranquilli. Top right: Dana Canavari and Jan Franco. Middle: Andy Delivering his Annual Review. Bottom left and right: The 171st Birthday Cake. Middle photo by Diane Calabro. All others by Andrew Tranquilli.

The CSHS was founded in February of 2016. We have met 98 times in the past nine years and are looking forward to celebrating our tenth anniversary late this year. This year we discussed STOC, GLOR, MUSG, REIG, SUSS, and CROO as well as the ACD horror stories “The Captain of the Polestar”, “Ring of Thoth”, and “Horror of the Heights”. We also read and discussed “On Murder as One of the Fine Arts” by Thomas de Quincey, and *House of Silk* and *Moriarty* by Anthony Horowitz. We heard presentations on the Adventure of a Sherlockian in Tampa, FL; the Poe Actor; annotating what we read; female vampires by Diane Calabro; Sherlock’s Everyday Carry (Andy); Otherness and Foreigners in the Canon by Rosemary Purdy (who Zoom-attends from Naples, FL); the elements of a great Holmes story; writing a pastiche; why we toast; and book reviews. Danna Mancini, BSI, delivered his updated Musgrave paper. I initiated a new series of mini-lectures I called Sherlock Holmes 101 as background for new members. We recently examined first editions of UK Sherlock Holmes stamps presented by Jan Franco.

The scion re-created a 221B sitting room as a photo opportunity along with a collection of books and collectables in May. Our group tried an escape room adventure in November. Deb Terrill was invested as “A Heart of Gold” in December. We also participated in the second annual postcard art show at the Ball & Socket Art Gallery. Several of our members entered postcard artwork for fund raising on the theme of local community and the CSHS. The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society celebrated the 171st Birthday Party for Sherlock Holmes at the local Victorian House Restaurant on January 12.

The Men on the Tor, Greg Darak

Harold and Theodora (Teddie) Niver of Rocky Hill, CT, founded The Men on the Tor in April 1977. Since a tor is a rocky hill, the name of the scion (which was suggested by Peter Blau) seemed a natural. After a third of a century, the Nivers retired from running the group in 2010, and passed the leadership on to new co-gasogenes Mike Berdan and Greg Darak.

Taking advantage of Mike Berdan’s temporary residence in Mystic, CT, home of the world-famous Mystic Seaport maritime museum, the decision was made to hold the group’s spring meeting there, with the story of the evening being “The Adventure of Black Peter”. Since Black Peter was a whaler, and the Seaport is the home of the *Charles W. Morgan*, the only existing wooden whaling ship of the 19th century, it seemed like a perfect fit.

And so, on April 21, 29 Sherlockians met at Mystic Seaport for a private tour of the *Charles W. Morgan*, a National Historic Landmark, and the second-oldest seaworthy ship in the world (the *USS Constitution* being the oldest). We were guided all over the ship, apart from the rigging, and got an idea of what Peter Carey's life must have been like when he was learning his trade. (Although Carey's *Sea Unicorn* was a later steam whaler, he most likely learned his trade on a sail-powered ship such as the *Charles W. Morgan*).

Afterwards, attendees repaired to the Italian restaurant Andiamo and its private dining room. Our lead speaker was Bob Madison, not only a Sherlockian but a Herman Melville scholar as well, who naturally knows quite a bit about whaling. His talk was titled "Just Slingshot You a Yarn: Ice, Hardware, and Bankers in 'The Adventure of Black Peter'". In addition to delivering his talk, when one attendee raised one of the leading canonical questions about the story — why was Holmes planning to go to Norway at the end of the story? — Bob was able to give an answer.

Mike Berdan's talk ("1895 Reconsidered") explored the paradox raised by the fact that in 1895, the year of the adventure, Holmes's practice was at its busiest despite the fact that, as far as readers of *The Strand* knew, he had perished in Switzerland.

Toasts were made by P.J. Sullivan (to Patrick Cairns), Becca Reynolds (to rum and harpoons), and Danna Mancini (to Sherlock Holmes).

Investitures were given to Bob Madison ("The Great Unknown Ocean") and James O'Leary ("The Express Office"). In addition, an autographed picture of McMurdo, the boxer in *The Sign of Four*, had been discovered, and was presented to Danna Mancini, who in January had been invested in the BSI under his name.

The quiz was different from most other quizzes in that everyone received a prize, thanks to the generosity of Charlie Adams's widow Carol and son Chris. Charlie, a long-time member of the BSI and The Men on the Tor, had left behind a large collection of Sherlockian items, a selection of which was brought to the meeting. People were allowed to pick from them in the order of their score on the quiz. Jose Rodriguez received the top score and selected a collection of Baker Street Journals.

The quiz was followed by a Sherlockian word-search game created by Vickie Wittman, who also supplied prizes for the three winners: P.J. Sullivan, Troy Reynolds, and Isabel Rathbone.

Although David Houle could not attend, he supplied Victorian-era photographs of Patrick Cairns, Stanley Hopkins, and the *Sea Unicorn*, from his collection.

In the fall, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the publication of “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire”, our meeting was held at the Transilvania restaurant, an authentic Romanian restaurant whose private room is decorated to look like a traditional Transylvanian inn. As the meeting was held four days before Halloween, vampires of the Eastern European variety were much in evidence among the decorations.

The lead talk, “When Vampires Did Apply — Right Here in New England”, was delivered by Mike Berdan, who explained that in the 19th century, the still mysterious transmission of tuberculosis, then known as consumption, between family members, was believed by some rural communities to be the result of Celtic vampirism.

Greg Darak then spoke, comparing two Jeremy Brett Holmes films — *The Last Vampyre* (supposedly based on “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire”) and *The Eligible Bachelor* (supposedly a version of “The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor”) — and trying to determine which was worse.

Toasts were made by Carol Beitel (to Mrs. Ferguson), Tom Sullivan (to Conan Doyle), Michael Barton (to Mrs. Hudson), and Greg Darak (to Doyle’s connection with “The Mummy”).

Investitures were given to Carol Beitel (“The Lady of Service”), Sharon Foster (“The Telegraph Office”), and Rob Hammerman (“A Stone Axe”).

The quiz followed the pattern of the previous one, with all participants receiving an item from Charlie Adams’s collections. Again, Jose Rodriguez came in first, followed closely by Boris Rabinovich.

Mike Berdan delivered some important news — due to his recent move to Newburyport, MA, he would no longer be able to continue his primary duty as co-gasogene, scouting out restaurants with a thematic link to one of the Holmes adventures and negotiating our dining arrangements. That job will be taken over by new Baker Street Irregular and long-time Tor member Danna Mancini.

Mike then closed the meeting, and the year, for The Men on the Tor, by reading “221B”.

April 21, 2024	Charles W. Morgan, Mystic Seaport, and Andiamo's, Mystic, CT
October 27, 2024	Transilvania, East Haven, CT

HAWAII

The Shaka Sherlockians, Joseph T. Page, Jr.

The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii was founded in 2020 by Joe Page, the current Gasogene. Hawaii is officially composed of eight (8) islands and meetings are held quarterly using the convenience of Zoom on the second Saturday of February, May, August, and November. Previous Hawaiian sci-on societies were The Andaman Islanders (1975-2002) founded by Marcia Chapman Eveland and The Baker Street Irregulars of Honolulu (1943-1945) founded by Jerry Siegel during WWII while serving in the military as a Stars & Stripes reporter. (It is interesting to note that Jerry Siegel was the co-creator of Superman.)

The inaugural meeting took place in November 2020 and featured Peter Blau, BSI (Black Peter) as the initial guest speaker. 2024 meetings were hosted by the Gasogene and co-hosted by Steve Mason, BSI who is Third Mate (President) of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Texas. Efforts were made to limit meetings to no more than one hour. Each was opened and closed with an enthusiastic Aloha and a Sherlockian Shaka for all in attendance. New attendees were introduced with a Hawaiian Welcome (E Komo Mai). After brief general announcements, each guest speaker was introduced followed by a Q&A session. The 2024 guest speakers were consistently top drawer and extremely well-received. (NB: Videos of meetings are available online at www.shakasherlockian.com.) Following additional announcements of interest to Sherlockians, a challenging one-question Sherlockian Pop Quiz took place with a special prize for the first correct answer. 2024 winners include Jennie Paton, Howard Ostrom, Rich Krisciunas, and Charles Prepolec. Final comments and announcements were presented and each meeting ended with a traditional video reading of Vincent Starrett's timeless "221B" poem. Official closure occurred with a final Sherlockian Shaka and Aloha.

Membership in The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii is open to anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes no matter his/her level of knowledge of The Canon. Although the original stories are at the heart of our interest, fans of movies, TV, pastiches, blogs, etc. are more than welcome to join The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii. There are no dues. The only requirement for membership is congeniality. Complimentary "Charter Member" certificates are available upon request after attending a meeting (or extending a kindness) and include award of the "BSS" (Boom Shaka Sherlockian) post-nominal title. Send email certificate requests (with name and mailing address) to shakasherlockian@gmail.com. We are officially recognized as a Baker Street

Irregulars scion society and are dedicated to “keeping green” the memory of Sherlock Holmes.

February 10, 2024	Zoom Meeting featuring Steven Doyle, BSI
May 11, 2024	Zoom Meeting featuring Brian Patrick Duggan
August 10, 2024	Zoom Meeting featuring Dr. Mimi Okabe
November 9, 2024	Zoom Meeting featuring Adrian Braddy

ILLINOIS

The BeeSpeckled Band, Brenda Rossini

The BeeSpeckled Band, a scion society, was founded by the great Ely M. Liebow, BSI “Inspector Gregory”—author of a biography of Conan Doyle’s professor at medical college: *Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes*. It was made into a film starring Ian Carmichael as Joe Bell. 35 years later, the group is intellectually active in Sherlockiana. Host and author Ron Levitsky is in charge of herding the cats. We meet every two months, on the first Tuesday of that month. The Highwood (IL) Public Library has remained our venue, where we meet beside the warmth of an inviting fireplace (air conditioning substituting in the warmer months). The library includes our Sherlock Holmes group on its website and its monthly newsletter, so we are not short of publicity or new members.

Our discussions proceed with a leader who provides questions in advance. Repartee is always ... scintillating. Also included have been Power-Point presentations: Ron Levitsky’s program about Bertram Fletcher Robinson, a journalist and Boer War acquaintance of Conan Doyle’s; and Brenda Rossini’s narrative of her book: *Oscar Slater: A Killer Exposed*.

We celebrated with cake and prizes in a “Holmesapalooza” and observed with due reverence the birthday of Sherlock Holmes. In other words, we take seriously the task of Keeping the Memory Green.

The Chester Baskerville Society, Michael McClure

The Chester Baskerville Society celebrated their 37th year in 2024. Founded by Michael W. and Susan McClure, the organizational meeting was held in their home, Baskerville Hall, in Chester, Illinois, on Oct. 19, 1988. *Without A Clue* debuted in theaters that same year, only 2 days later, so Michael (alias Lord Baskerville) was inspired to launch a campaign to reach out to its stars. Sir Michael Caine (Sherlock) and Sir Ben Kingsley (Watson) were delighted to accept honorary memberships in the group, and a later

acquisition of the deerstalker used in the movie's production was a welcome addition to the society's museum. Many other Sherlockian actors would join our ranks in the years that followed, including Jeremy Brett, who would call occasionally during our meetings with his well wishes. Peter Cushing OBE was an incredibly kind, active member, and illustrated a color logo for our scion's use. Prior to his generous offer, we used a Sherlock Popeye design, produced by King Features Syndicate, to represent our group. Our flagship journal, *The Devonshire Chronicle*, carried our research (we've covered the Canon multiple times) to distant members, and in 1989 we began publishing the popular children's magazine, *Holmes for the Holidays*. A sub-scion was soon formed, Cartwright's Companions, to engage the imaginations of our own scion's scions, and with the help of our latest periodical, youngsters throughout the world. Working with talented artists and authors, *HforH* found its way into the hands of many young children ... and those that were young at heart. The February 1991 issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* carried a flattering review of our humble publication, and subscriptions soared! Through 2024 The Beacon Society has been reprinting some of our *HforH* features in their new online publication, *Sherlock's Spotlight*.

We endeavor to assemble for four or five regular meetings each year (during non-pandemic-restricted times), and any other excuse to acclaim Conan Doyle's celebrity sleuth. We have placed Sherlockian floats in regional parades, given lectures to various community groups, and, in 2019, erected the first full-size granite tribute to Sherlock Holmes anywhere in the world (and the first permanent, public statue Sherlock in the US). Covid restricted the tourist flow to our community in 2020, but by 2023 thousands of devotees annually visit Sherlock (and his stoic friends). The Illinois House of Representatives passed House Resolution No. 497 to commend the Popeye & Friends Character Trail (mentioning Michael and Sherlock Holmes) for its tourism impact on the region. In the summer of 2021, Luis Guillermo Solis, a past president of Costa Rica, came to Chester just to see the monuments! He was only following the well-worn path of footsteps left by tourists from all 50 states and 96 different countries.

Michael has been in discussions with other Sherlockians to create a new scion dedicated to kilt wearers, and those with interest in the Scottish culture. He suggested the name "The Glorious Scots", and everyone enthusiastically agreed. Stay tuned for more regarding this matter.

We are very thankful to the organizations that have held their meetings online, primarily through Zoom Video Communications, Inc. Michael W. McClure (Stimson & Company-1992 BSI) and other CBS members have continued "virtually" to travel the globe attending various scion and national

gatherings. The Bootmakers of Toronto (Canada), Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and too many other scions to name, have hosted an eager community of Sherlockians at their online convocations. They deserve our unceasing thanks for helping us stay social in our sodality.

Our tabletop game, *The Original Sherlock Holmes and his Baker Street Irregulars*, an engaging card drafting game created by Michael W. McClure, B.S.I. and his son, Michael W. McClure II, has had phenomenal success since its release in 2020, having incredible sales in 41 countries. The Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., coordinated by the late Jon Lellenberg B.S.I., granted the Michaels a full license to use all Arthur Conan Doyle's works, characters, plots, settings and other creations in the production and marketing of their products. We appreciate the confidence that the CDEL has shown in our creations and are working on new avenues to further commemorate the genius that was Conan Doyle. Games continue to sell through our society website and can be viewed at www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi. We currently have four countries exploring options to reprint our game in their own languages. In 2024 we attended several large gaming conventions, including GenCon, DieCon, Archon and Wicked Fest, where our Sherlock Holmes game enjoyed brisk sales. The detective still has a huge fanbase encompassing all ages!

During the cruise-line season, Chester's port on the Mississippi River attracts many paddlewheel boats and excursion vessels. Michael leads buses loaded with tourists on visits throughout Chester and showcases the statues he has erected over the last four decades. Our Sherlock Holmes statue is always a hit, which allows him to expound upon the virtues of our Grand Game.

Our current tabletop game being developed is in homage to the world of Magic ... but our favorite detective is also a part of the fun. The game pays tribute to the Master magicians of the last two centuries, the legendary magi from over the past two thousand years, and the Mythic roots of the Art. The unique reward at the end of the game is a large set of magic tutorials, some of which teach Sherlock Holmes themed effects. These will be perfect for anyone to perform at a scion gathering, or to even combine to create an entire act for the public. Masters to Mythics: Behind the Magic will launch its Kickstarter campaign on May 4, 2025 and be available to ship by September. Extra Sherlockian packet tricks will also be available for purchase during the campaign. The game can be previewed at <https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/masterstomythics>.

All of our endeavors can be followed by visiting our website at www.baskervilleproductions.com or by dropping Michael a line at watson7654321@gmail.com.

The Chicago Baritsu Society, Xander Sobecki

The Chicago Baritsu Society meets quarterly both in the city of Chicago and virtually. Their meetings focus on story discussion as well as finding speakers related to martial arts, weaponry, and cultural influences in the canon.

The Criterion Bar Association, Ruth Goehmann

The Criterion Bar Association, established in 1972, currently holds four meetings a year. The January meeting is held by Zoom in deference to the unpredictable Chicago weather. Other meetings are held in-person or by Zoom, depending on the speakers. The program portion of in-person meetings is simulcast on Zoom. Meetings include a speaker on a Canonical topic and a quiz. Occasionally a raffle of Sherlockian items is held. Prizes are awarded for quiz and puzzle winners. In 2024 we had an eclectic mix of interesting programs.

January 27, 2024. At a Zoom-only meeting, Donny Zaldin, leading member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, spoke from Canada, on “A Study in Sources of Arthur Conan Doyle’s Short Story ‘The Adventure of the Dancing Men’” in which he discussed the possible ciphers that may have inspired the story.

March 16, 2024. At an in-person lunch meeting, The Cri Bar Thespians presented “The True Story of the Blue Carbuncle,” a radio play by Cri Bar member Jim Goehmann that tells the “true” ending of the story that was suppressed by Watson in the published version.

May 18, 2024. At a Zoom-only meeting, Dr. David L. Leal, founder of the Thorneycroft Huxtables in Austin, TX, spoke from London on “Arthur Conan Doyle and Spirituality” and his conclusion that ACD saw spiritualism as a set of facts that had been demonstrated by the scientific testing of its time.

October 26, 2024. At an in-person lunch meeting, Brenda Rossini, Cri Bar member, gave an informative program on the Andaman Islands, their inhabitants, and perceptions by Victorians entitled “Tonga Cries Out: I am a Man.”

The Cri Bar Crier, newsletter of the Criterion Bar Association, is published four times a year and sent by e-mail prior to meetings. Dr. Franklin Saksena, our current “Stamford,” creates an original crossword to accompany each issue. Short essays on Sherlockian topics, a summary of the previous meeting, and toasts from the previous meeting are included. Information on the upcoming speaker and topic and how to reserve a place at in-person meetings are given.

For more information about the Criterion Bar Association or to receive the Cri Bar Crier, please email Franklin Saksena, MD, BSI at franklin.saksena@gmail.com.

The Scotland Yarders, Janice L. Weiner

January 2024. The meeting was canceled due to a number of members being ill.

March 20, 2024. We discussed “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”. We also watched the Jeremy Brett video of the story. A report was given by the Commissioner on the Colonel Sebastian Moran’s Secret Gun Club and Mongoose Hunt that took place on February 29. The Commissioner helped set up the event.

May 15, 2024. We discussed “The Five Orange Pips”. We watched the video version of the story from the series Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century. We also saw a short video on the Ku Klux Klan.

September 11, 2024. We made a mention of the 9/11 tragedy before starting our story discussion. We talked about “The Man with the Twisted Lip”. We then watched the Jeremy Brett version of the tale.

November 9, 2024. We had our holiday party luncheon. The program was a reading of the play “Fixed Point: The Life and Death of Sherlock Holmes” by David Stuart Davies.

The Scotland Yarders was founded in 1988. For various reasons over the years, and due to the pandemic, we changed our meeting dates from the original second Tuesdays of certain months to whatever days we could book at the library we have been meeting at for some time. We do try to meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays if possible. Our usual meetings occur in January, March, May, and September, with a holiday party in November. The party is our only event with a charge. We currently do not charge dues. We gave up an informal summer July get-together at a suburban music venue due to changes in the venue’s classical music schedule. We started meeting at Scotland Yard Books (in a northern Chicago suburb), from which we took our name, and then switched to meeting at various northern Chicago suburban public libraries after the bookstore closed. The pandemic caused us to use Zoom for some of our 2021 meetings, though we went back to in-person meetings in 2022.

Our meetings have featured such things as: speakers, story discussions, quizzes, puzzles and games, and we have watched TV episodes/movies of various Holmes and mystery series, and also on historical topics. We are open to anything that can be related to Holmes, crime, the Victorian Era, and other such subjects. We are not a serious study group for the Canon.

Currently, we are revisiting the Canon as members realized we hadn't studied it for some time.

Many of us became more involved in Sherlockian events after attending seminars on the Canonical stories given, now many years ago, by Tom Joyce, a BSI member and antiquarian bookseller, at Scotland Yard Books.

The current Commissioner (Janice) also writes/edits the newsletter (sent by email) and can be reached at jlweiner@sbcglobal.net.

The Torists International SS, Linda Crohn and Jonathan Shimberg

It has been another year of growth for our scion. At our March meeting we learned about Rob Nunn and his ongoing blog. He presented us with a compendium of the many responses he has heard from 100 Sherlockians interviewed for his podcast.

In June we celebrated the 65th running of the Chicago Silver Blaze race with the Watsonians which included an entire weekend of Sherlockian doings. Friday evening, we heard Monica Schmidt talk about John Straker in a presentation titled "A Horse of a Different Color". Saturday morning saw a group outing to Graceland Cemetery and a visit to the grave of Vincent Starrett. Saturday afternoon we were off to Hawthorne Race Course and the longest consecutive-run horse race bearing the title Silver Blaze. After the race we next went to a pizza party hosted by Robert Sharfman on the roof of his Ambassador residence. The Windy City was true to its name and in spite of the breezes a good time was had by all. People came from all over the United States to join in the festivities.

Our September meeting Jim Hawkins continued in his mission to spread the word of John Bennett Shaw. True to his word he spoke about how JBS help him join the world of Sherlockians. Jim showed many pictures of Shaw's library, which in itself was amazing.

In November our member Robert Sharfman met a young Sherlockian, Owen Erickson, age nine. At eight years of age, Owen wrote a story entitled "The Adventure of the Obscured Opal". The *Torist Times* ran a special edition publishing his story as a treat for all our readers.

Our December meeting, as always, celebrates the tale of the blue carbuncle. Max Magee provided the director's cut version of "Becoming a Sherlockian." There was also be a reading of Vincent Starrett's story "Monologue in Baker Street," a Torist tradition.

As always, the meetings have been preserved on our YouTube channel — <https://www.youtube.com/@toristinternational.s.s>. You can also check on upcoming events at our webpage toristinternational.org.

IOWA

*The Sign of Four Cities of the Quad Cities on the Mississippi River,
Iowa, and Illinois, Susan Perry*

We meet nearly every month to discuss a story from the Canon. In January we toasted Sherlock's birthday and enjoyed cutout cookies shaped like Sherlock, a deerstalker hat, a pipe and magnifying glass. After "The Final Problem" in April, we decided to take a break from Sherlock and discussed other works by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle plus the play he and William Gillette wrote. We enjoyed reading parts of the play aloud.

We toast each story in the canon with Phil Angelo's toasts from Raise your Glass to Sherlock Holmes. In the summer, we meet outside at Susan Perry's home and during the winter meet at the Bettendorf Public Library Malmos room.

January 8, 2024	"Silver Blaze" discussion and celebration of Sherlock Holmes's birthday
March 4, 2024	"The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" discussion
April 1, 2024	"The Final Problem" discussion
May 6, 2024	"The Field Bazaar" by Arthur Conan Doyle "The Story of the Man with the Watches" by Arthur Conan Doyle "A Gaudy Death" interview with Arthur Conan Doyle 1900
July 1, 2024	"The Story of the Lost Special" by Arthur Conan Doyle "The Adventure of the Tall Man" by Arthur Conan Doyle "Jack the Ripper-How Sherlock Holmes would have Tracked Him" from The Evening News July 4, 1894
August 5, 2024	"The Classic Victorian Melodrama Sherlock Holmes" by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle, acts 1 and 2, reading and discussion
September 2, 2024	"The Classic Victorian Melodrama Sherlock Holmes" by William Gillette and Arthur Conan Doyle, acts 3 and 4, reading and discussion
October 7, 2024	"The Adventure of the Empty House" discussion
November 4, 2024	"The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez" discussion
December 2, 2024	"The Adventure of the Three Students" discussion



Sherlockian Cookies. Photo by Susan Perry.

MARYLAND

The Black Pearls of the Borgias, Greg D. Ruby

The Black Pearls of the Borgias is the Baltimore-based chapter of SPODE (Sherlockians Preventing Oysters from Destroying Earth) and met twice in 2024 to battle evil bivalves. Both dinners were held at Jimmy's Famous Seafood Restaurant in Baltimore on March 2, 2024, and September 6, 2024. Members enjoyed dining on Chincoteague oysters, Maryland blue crabs and other bounty from the nearby Chesapeake Bay while enjoying good conversations with each other.

During the traditional SPODE Dinner at Grand Central Station's Oyster Bar during the January 2025 BSI Weekend, members were presented with membership cards made from local Maryland oyster shells stenciled with their names.

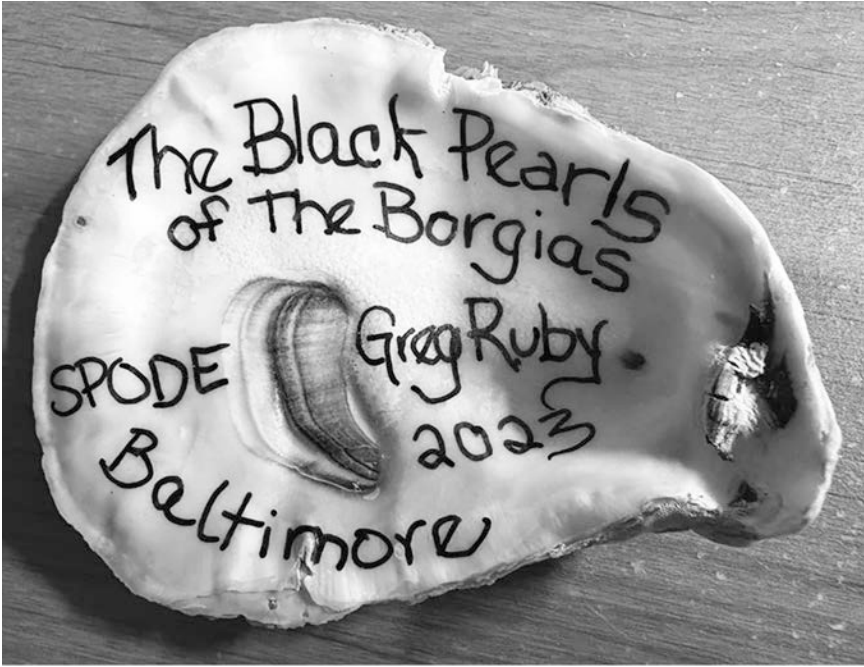


Photo by Greg Ruby.

The Denizens of the Bar of Gold, John Knud-Hansen

This scion of the BSI is the only one on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The meeting took place on April 27, 2024, at the Cambridge Yacht Club with 39 Sherlockians in attendance. The story for the evening was "The Retired Colourman", with both the rookie and expert quizzes written by Carol and Gordon Vincent. Alice Zalik crafted another beautiful pillow based on the story of the evening; it was on display for the entire evening while raffle tickets were purchased. The proceeds go to Alice for construction of the next pillow, subject to be determined by the choice of story for the next meeting. Bill Hart won the pillow this night. Art Renkwitz, BSI, led a "Stand with me here upon the terrace" moment for Tom Howell and new members were given certificates. Art then raised a toast to the Master. A tasty dinner was served with choices of tenderloin, salmon, and chicken. During the meal, an animated video titled, "Who is Sherlock Holmes?" was played. Answer: a palimpsest. Dr. Stephen Oppenheimer read our signature poem, "The Beggar", by William C. Thomas with his usual panache. Bob Madison read a poem he had written several years ago but which was appropriate for this night's story: "The

Amberly Gambit." Art Renkwitz gave a presentation, "Holmes on the Shore," based on the probability that Holmes had visited the Eastern Shore at one time in pursuit of oysters. The Vincents gave the answers to their quizzes and the winners were Bob Madison and Steve Bergeholtz. Bradley Harper, MD, gave an update on his latest book, still in the works. John Knud-Hansen, your humble scribe, recited "A Long Evening with Holmes," part of our traditional closing sequence. The final poem is a recording of Vincent Starrett reciting "221B." The date and story of the Spring Meeting to be determined.

Our meeting last Fall was on the 30th anniversary of our scion's founding. Art Renkwitz has been leading the meetings for many years and has been looking to ease out of the picture while I played padawan to his Jedi Master. (If the references are obscure ask any Star Wars fan.) However, both Art and I have some medical issues as well as aging and neither of us represents a long-term option for leadership of the scion. We were faced with the possibility of the Denizens having to go on hiatus. However, a triumvirate of Gordon Vincent, JD, Steve Bergeholtz, and Terry McCammon, BSI, have stepped up.

A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes at the Pratt Library, Greg D. Ruby

The Six Napoleons of Baltimore, the Sherlockians of Baltimore and Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City partnered with the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore for the 45th annual Saturday with Sherlock Holmes program at the Pratt's Wheeler Auditorium at its Central Library building in downtown Baltimore.

With a theme honoring Arthur Conan Doyle, presenters included Peter Blau, Carla Coupe, Matt Hall, S. Brent Morris, Daniel Stashower, Daniel Thomas and Karen Wilson.

Thanks to Andrew Solberg for organizing this year's event.

The Sherlockians of Baltimore, Greg D. Ruby

The Sherlockians of Baltimore postponed their first luncheon meeting of 2024 to allow our members to attend the funeral mass of John Baesch, an early Certified SOB of our group, who will be sorely missed.

The SOBs held their next mob on June 8, 2024, where Matt Hall presented a paper on Phosphorus and earned his Certified SOB investiture of Mount Vernon, a Baltimore neighborhood. Karen Wilson led the group on a discussion of "Shoscombe Old Place" and quizzed the attendees.

September 7 was the date of the next SOB mob, where Ross Davies presented his argument that "How Watson Learned the Trick" should be considered as the 61st tale of the Canon.

Xander Sobecki presented on Street Weapons of Victorian London and was later investitured as a Certified SOB with his investiture of the Bladensburg Dueling Grounds.

Evy Herzog presented “More Than a Client” to the gathered SOBs on November 23, while Mark Rollinson presented on “The Influence of Edgar Allan Poe on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle,” and was thus honored as the Poe Toaster for his Certified SOB investiture.

Karen Wilson led the story discussion and quiz on “The Crooked Man”.

For more current information on the SOBs, please check out their new website: SherlockBaltimore.com.

Sherlockians of Dooby-ous and Questionable Memory, Greg D. Ruby

Sherlockians of Dooby-ous and Questionable Memory is a breakfast group that meets the morning after Six Napoleons dinners to enjoy good conversation and cheer while enjoying breakfast sandwiches at Dooby’s, a local Baltimore restaurant that is within walking distance of the Hotel Ulysses, where many out-of-town attendees to the Six Napoleons dinner stay for the weekend.

Having gathered on March 2 and September 6 in 2024, topics included BSI Press publications, memories of previous BSI Weekends, and Baker Street sitting room recreations, among others.

Six Napoleons of Baltimore, Greg D. Ruby

March 1, 2024, saw the Six Napoleons hold their first dinner meeting at the Maryland Club in downtown Baltimore. The Maryland Club building dates to 1895, and its first President was Jerome Napoleon Patterson-Bonaparte, the son of Elizabeth Patterson Bonaparte, who inspired our group’s name back in 1946.

Ira Brad Matetsky presented on “Sherlock Holmes and Liberty Magazine.”

The Six Napoleons next met on September 6, 2024, and featured Xander Sobecki presenting on “A Firsthand Account of the White Company,” while wearing a recreated 1380s suit of Steel Armour.

MICHIGAN

The Amateur Mendicant Society, Robert Musial

As one of the Original Eight scions, the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit was founded in 1946 and has been meeting regularly — and irregularly — since then.

Traditionally, meetings include a buffet dinner, toasts to canonical characters, discussion of the assigned story, a “scholarly” presentation or two and the awarding of door prizes. Meetings conclude with the spirited singing of “God Save the Queen” and the solemn reading of the poem “221B.”

At its annual spring meeting on April 20, AMS Gasogene John Kramb welcomed 36 members and visitors to the Commonwealth Club in suburban Warren.

After the usual toasts to The Woman, Mrs. Hudson, Mycroft Holmes and Watson’s Second Wife, AMS Commissionaire Chris Music offered a “Mendicant History Minute” detailing the many past (and now shuttered) venues that have hosted the society over its 78-year history.

Then, member and Sherlockian playwright David MacGregor led a discussion of the talking points for the evening’s story. “His Last Bow,” noting that it was an outlier in that Dr. Watson did not write it.

Next, Steve Doyle, who leads the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, dished up the evening’s first course, “The Case for the Scion Society,” which detailed how important local groups of Sherlockians are, from founding the Baker Street Irregulars in the 1930s through the more than 80 scions worldwide today.

For the second course, Scott Monty detailed “Luck in the Canon,” which noted that, besides Holmes’ reliance on science, logic and an encyclopedic knowledge of crime, Lady Luck also played a large part in the conclusion of several Canonical adventures.

The group also honored John Kramb, Chris Music, Chris Jeryan and Anne and Rob Musial who have been Mendicant meeting planners for 20 years or more.

At its October 19 fall meeting, the AMS welcomed 39 people back to the Commonwealth Club. Attendees included the peripatetic Monica Schmidt, a BSI member from Iowa.

The evening’s assigned story was “The Final Problem,” chosen in part because it seemed like the final meeting at the Commonwealth, which is looking for a new home. But the audience learned that night that the Club had several months remaining on its lease and so may host at least one more AMS meeting in 2025.

Then came a surprise announcement: Kramb is stepping down as Gasogene after 20 years. Fortunately, Scott Monty has agreed to take the reins. Besides being a BSI member, Monty is a member of several Sherlockian societies and the co-host of the regular podcast I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere and Trifles, a weekly podcast of Holmesian minutiae.

Appropriately, Chris Music's Mendicant History Minute detailed the "Past Gas," those who have led the AMS since the beginning. In order, that roster included Russell McLaughlin, Bill Rabe, Bob Harris, Gene Leeb, Tom Voss, Ed Stein, Peter Spivak, Roy Pilot and Kramb.

Jerry Kelly then gave a detailed presentation on "Everything You Didn't Know About Sherlock Holmes," capturing many of the great detective's on-screen portrayals, from cartoons to feature films to online. Along with a 30-page booklet on his research, Kelly also handed out individually wrapped slices of British bread pudding.

Also dished up was the dessert of the night, an artfully decorated round cake that featured a waterfall of icing spilling down one side, in honor of the Reichenbach Falls from the evening's story.

Glenn Walters then regaled the audience with his presentation, "The Doctors of the Canon," looking at those medical men who filled in for Watson or were mentioned in the stories. Walters also detailed the rather casual med school requirements and curriculum of the time, which may explain why Watson was a bit vague on the exact location of the wound he received while serving in Afghanistan. Finally, Walters noted that in 1953, the Mendicants had erected a plaque at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London, where Watson first met Holmes.

For more information on the Mendicants, visit www.amateurmendicantsociety.org. To be added to the club's email list, just message amateurmendicantsociety@gmail.com.

April 20, 2024	Dinner & discussion of "Scion Societies" & "Luck in the Canon."
October 19, 2024	Dinner & discussion of "Everything You Didn't Know About Sherlock Holmes" and "Doctors in the Canon."

The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing, Rich Krisciunas

Originally, the Greek Interpreters were formed on April 16, 1945 by six students and their English professor at Michigan State College in East Lansing, Michigan. They were the first academically based scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars. Of the six students, four were women. The initial group met for a few years before dispersing. It wasn't until 1960 that the group was reorganized and met regularly for dinner and the traditions of the Greek Interpreters were put in place. Meetings were typically held three times a year (fall, winter, spring) at a local restaurant. Four Canonical toasts would be offered: to The Woman, Mrs. Hudson, Mycroft, and the Second Mrs. Watson. A quiz tested the members' wits, and the meeting would close



Photos by Rich Krisciunas.

with a reading of the sonnet "221B" by Vincent Starrett and the singing of "God Save the Queen."

There were a few breaks in meetings until the group started meeting regularly in the 1990's with 30 to 40 members until the Covid pandemic in 2020 resulted in the interruption of in-person meetings. Rich Krisciunas, ASH, a member of the Ribston-Pippins and Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit, obtained an email list of members from the group's leader, Jim Conroy, and attempted to resuscitate the group. After a hiatus of three years, eight Greek Interpreters met again in August 2023.

On Saturday January 20, 2024, twelve members met at Coral Gables restaurant in East Lansing to discuss "A Case of Identity." Rich Krisciunas led a discussion of the story and Etta Abrahams tested attendees with a quiz.

The summer meeting was held at the Saddleback BBQ in Okemos on August 31. The story was "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez." Attending were Etta Abrahams, Bill Ballenger, Jane Koegel, Marny Payne, Celia Seniff, Bev Sobolewski, Tom Szpakowski, Gil Wanger and Charlotte and Bob Wilkes. The group reminisced about the scion's history and key leaders such as BSIs Donald Yates and Howard Brody. After lunch, there were traditional toasts to The Woman, by Rich Krisciunas, Mrs. Hudson, by Bill Ballenger, Mycroft Holmes by Bev Sobolewski and the Second Mrs. Watson by Bob Wilks and Krisciunas, who also toasted Willoughby Smith and Susan Tarlton. At the end of the meeting, Bev Sobolewski read the poem "221B" and we all sang "God Save the Queen."

The Greek Interpreters held their winter meeting on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at the Saddleback BBQ in Okemos when the group discussed "The Second Stain." There were 20 members in attendance. The group was treated to toasts to The Woman, by Regina Stinson BSI, to Sherlock Holmes, by John Sherwood BSI, to Dr. Watson, by Mike DeGrow, to Moriarty by Etta Abrahams and to Lady Trelawney Hope by Bob Wilks.

Krisciunas led an active story discussion on the finer points of "The Second Stain", including the killing of Eduardo Lucas by his wife, what could have been in Lady Trelawney Hope's indiscreet letter and Sherlock Holmes' habit of letting guilty people go unpunished. The group remembered Howard Brody BSI who passed away recently and spoke affectionately of former scion leaders Jim and Shari Conroy who were unable to attend. The Greek Interpreters are back, alive and strong and the group plans to meet again in the spring with a tentative date of April 5, 2025.

The Ribston-Pippins, Regina Stinson

The Ribston-Pippins was founded in 1988 by Regina Stinson, who continues to serve as Gasogene. Meetings usually occur on the second or third Saturday every other month. Our meetings generally have several toasts to

various characters from the story we are featuring. We also have one or more presentations, a story discussion, Sherlockian show and tell, and a 50/50 drawing. Our quizmaster, Leslie Brudne creates awesome quizzes for each story and prizes are awarded to the winners. During the summer and early fall we have our annual film festival and a field trip to somewhere with a Sherlockian connection.

We started off the year with one of the best stories in the canon, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Toasts were given by Chris Music, Cindy McCormick and Regina Stinson. Rich Krisciunas gave a wonderful presentation called: “25 Things You Didn’t Know About *The Hound of the Baskervilles*”. Rob Musial led a lively story discussion, we had a lot of wonderful show and tell items, the quiz was great, and John Kramb closed the meeting with a reading of “221B”

“The Copper Beeches” was our story for the March meeting. Rich Krisciunas gave a toast to the “other women in the canon”. We had a little diversion by giving everyone a word from the story and asking them to write a cinquain, which everyone did admirably. During the dinner, we viewed the Granada version of the story. Regina Stinson did a presentation on Violet Hunter, which was followed by a dynamic story discussion led by Rudy Altergott and a delightful quiz by Leslie Brudne. We also had show-and-tell, a 50/50 drawing and the meeting closed with a reading of “221B”.

The May Ribston-Pippins meeting featured several clever toasts by Rudy Altergott, Rob Musial, Jack Ebright and Regina Stinson. A delightful paper was given by Madeleine Quiñones, and Rich Krisciunas led a fascinating discussion on “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”. We had dinner and a movie, show and tell, a quiz with prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. To cap off our meeting, Anastasia Klimchynskaya read “221B”.

Our July meeting was a combination S.P.O.D.E. (Sherlockians Preventing Oysters Destroying Earth), and scion meeting, held at an all-you-can-eat seafood restaurant. Several members from Chicago attended. Rich Krisciunas spoke about “The First of Criminals, Palmer and Pritchard”. Toasts were given by Elaine Johnson, Rudy Altergott and Linda Crohn. Bob Sharfman gave an amusing and lively story discussion, which was followed by a quiz by Leslie Brudne and prizes. The meeting was closed by a group reading of “221B”.

On August 17, our illustrious contingent took a field trip to the newly refurbished Michigan Central Train Station in Detroit. The place was awesome! There were posters from the past and a lot of historical information about the station. Afterwards we dined at a local restaurant in Mexican town.

In September we had our second annual Sherlockian film fest! This time the Berkley Public Library graciously provide the space and equipment. We had several features including *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, starring Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce; *Deduce, You Say!*, with Daffy Duck; the first meeting of Holmes and Watson, starring Ronald Howard; *The Slobbery Hound*, with Wishbone; and a Pink Panther cartoon. We invited the public to join us for this occasion, (and as a result we got a few new members!) Afterwards, several members enjoyed a S.P.O.D.E. dinner at Tom's Oyster Bar in Royal Oak, MI.

Our 36th anniversary celebration took place in November and was a smashing success! The story was "The Naval Treaty", so the programs were rolled up and tied with ribbon to resemble the treaty. We had a delightful guest speaker, Monica Schmidt, all the way from Iowa, who shared her vast knowledge about brain-fever, including a PowerPoint presentation. Additionally, Steve Doyle gave us a toast to Percy Phelps, Rich Krisciunas to Annie Harrison, Christian Klaver to Joseph Harrison, and Judith Davis to Holmes and Watson. Regina Stinson made each attendee a Christmas ornament commemorating the scion's 36th year. Steve Doyle led the story discussion. Several people brought show-and-tell items, in particular Cary Black, who had an original poster from the movie *The Scarlet Claw*. There was a quiz and prizes. David MacGregor shared his cigarette cards and closed the meeting with a reading of "221B".

January 28, 2024	Dinner meeting: <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
March 16, 2024	Dinner Meeting: "The Copper Beeches"
May 26, 2024	Dinner Meeting: "The Boscombe Valley Mystery"
July 11, 2024	Dinner Meeting: "The Stock-broker's Clerk"
August 17, 2024	Field Trip: Michigan Central Train Station
September 30, 2024	Second Annual Sherlockian Film Fest
November 16, 2024	36th Anniversary Celebration: "The Naval Treaty"

MINNESOTA

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, Tom Gottwalt

Our organization was founded in 1948 by five University of Minnesota professors, most of whom were of Norwegian or Scandinavian ethnic heritage. Hence our name.

We have a strong history and legacy of publishing a great deal of Sherlockian materials and items of interest. Our Christmas Annual consistently has great contributions from a variety of individuals and in a variety of formats. This year was no exception, and copies were distributed to attendees at our December Annual Dinner and to guests at certain of the New York City events in January. We also host conferences every three or four years that typically sell out to capacity.

Several Norwegian Explorers also edited and/or contributed to other publications throughout the year.

In addition to our monthly Notices of Study Group meetings and other upcoming events, we also publish our more formal newsletter, *Explorations*, about three or four times a year.

Our affiliated vocal-acting troupe, The Red-Throated League, performs vintage Holmes radio scripts once or twice a year complete with music and sound effects.

We typically organize groups to attend local Sherlock Holmes or other mystery themed plays, movies, etc.

Visit our website at www.norwegianexplorers.org to learn more about our organization and to join. Annual dues are only \$25 per family.

President: Tom Gottwalt tomgottwalt@gmail.com

Secretary & Treasurer: Phil Bergem

Study Group Meetings — All via Zoom:

January 20, 2024	"The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez"
February 17, 2024	"The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter"
March 16, 2024	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
April 20, 2024	"A Case of Identity"
May 18, 2024	"The Adventure of the Illustrious Client"
June 15, 2024	Noncanonical Detour: The Little Old Man of Batignolles
September 21, 2024	"The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax"
October 19, 2024	"His Last Bow"
November 16, 2024	"The Adventure of the Lion's Mane"
December 14, 2024	"The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"

Other Events and Happenings:

January-February	<i>Dial M for Murder</i> ran January 20 through February 25 at the Guthrie Theater
February	Baker Street West — Gathering to hear from those attending

	NYC weekend
May	Issued call for papers for Christmas Annual with theme “The Collection Mania”
July	Hosted wildly successful conference: “Sherlock Holmes @ 50: Celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections”
July	Twin Cities Antiquarian and Rare Book Fair — many Explorers attended
September	Joint Explorers and Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections featuring Nicholas Meyer to discuss his book <i>Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell</i>
October	Sherlockian Pumpkin Carving Event
October-November	“Holmes/Poirot” at the Park Square Theatre October 9 — November 3 — special Norwegian Explorers event at final performance November 3
December	Annual Dinner and Business Meeting (featuring Larry Millett)
December	Began work on Norwegian Explorers Wikipedia entry

MISSOURI

The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, J. Andrew Basford

The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn, the Sherlock Holmes Society of St. Charles, MO, is a scion society of experts and amateurs (especially those who THINK they are experts or amateurs) in the Canon accounts of Sherlock Holmes. So, whether you are brand new to the “stories of Sherlock Holmes” or know the Canon like the back of your hand (“where’d that scab come from?!?”), we welcome you to our humble association.

The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn was founded by Michael Bragg and company in 1989 (recognized as #198 by J. B. Shaw on 23 November, 1988; and recognized by Peter Blau as #255 on 12 December, 1988). We typically meet on the third Friday of every month (with some periodic exceptions we may make in case of scheduling conflicts) to share news, converse about Sherlockia in general, and discuss and observe whatever story or stories we have planned for the month. We have gone through the Baring-Gould order, The Oxford, the Apocrypha, the Brett and Rathbone films, the Klinger editions, the Doubleday editions, and we have attempted another way to observe the Canon (which we called “The Modified Baring-Gould Order”) whereby we would observe each Canon account during the month when it is reported to have occurred.

In 2023, we began observing the Canon in publication order as outlined in the *Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia* (www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/The_62_Sherlock_Holmes_stories_written_by_Arthur_Conan_Doyle). We have also incorporated something called “Three-Minute Problems” where we pose four questions about the Canon account we are observing and discuss it all at length. At the time of this writing, we have finished the STUD and SIGN novellas, we have completed *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, and we have observed half of *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* and are looking to pick up again with REIG when we meet again in January.

As other scions and societies have noted, we missed (and still do miss) seeing each other in person, but we get to meet with people across the country (sometimes across the planet) as we hold these meetings via Zoom. We do hope to meet in-person once again, even if it is limited to a few times each year.

You can find more information about our group, our meeting schedule, and reviews of our meetings through our eNewsletter The Whaling News, our schedule page, and our online bulletin board:

The Whaling News: [<https://whalingnews.wordpress.com>]. Updated monthly, we feature a review of our previous month’s observances, discussions, and/or presentations called “The Blow Hole”; a section entitled “Whale Songs” where we list various news items about Sherlockia; a little light entertainment in the middle we call “The Blubber” which includes four editions of Baker Street Elementary, and three puzzle games called The Reigate Squares, The Rebus Gables, and The Devil’s Grate; a Harpooners’ Calendar of historical and pending events for the next month; a review of the previous month’s meeting called “The Fluke”; a listing of what Canon accounts we will be observing over the next few months; and a final tally of publishing info and what we plan over the next couple of meetings in “The Baleen”.

Our Schedule Page: <https://harpooners.wordpress.com/schedule>. A listing of the Canon accounts we will be observing and when.

Our Online Bulletin Board: <https://harpooners.wordpress.com/bulletin-board>. Various news about our own organization as well as some from our sister societies.

Our main site: <https://harpooners.wordpress.com>. Along with this, we also re-post various editions of Baker Street Elementary including current ones and those from three, six, and nine years ago <https://harpooners.wordpress.com/bse>.

We also maintain a presence on social media. You can follow us on Facebook [[@Harpooners.MO](https://www.facebook.com/Harpooners.MO)] and on X (the social media platform formerly known as Twitter) [[@Harpooners_MO](https://twitter.com/Harpooners_MO)]. Feel free to join our email list

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNPG7xbTFQG_Dg1L1ArIhzNT93XyMh2bcuOmrVmTJfciUt8g/viewform] or contact our Pilot Whale/Editor for more details [pcairnes26@icloud.com].

We hope we can see you at our next meeting!

January 19, 2024	Zoom discussion of ENGR
February 16, 2024	Zoom discussion of NOBL
March 15, 2024	Zoom discussion of BERY
April 5, 2024	Zoom discussion of COPP (and celebration of Holmes' birthday on 5-April, 1854)
May 17, 2024	Zoom discussion of SILV
June 28, 2024	Zoom discussion of CARD
July 19, 2024	Zoom discussion of BLAC (our "story"!!)
August 30, 2024	Zoom discussion of YELL
September 27, 2024	Zoom discussion of STOC
October 18, 2024	Zoom discussion of GLOR
November 15, 2024	Zoom discussion of MUSG
December 20, 2024	Zoom discussion of BLUE

The Parallel Case of St. Louis, Rob Nunn

The Parallel Case of St. Louis was founded by Joe Eckrich in 1988. We meet on the second Saturday of every other month to discuss a story, share news, discuss Sherlockiana, and host giveaways. We also meet via Zoom three times per year so we can stay in touch with our Sherlockian friends from across the country and around the world. The format is similar to a book club that encourages everyone to share their thoughts on that month's story.

A schedule of all of The Parallel Case of St. Louis's meetings can be found on our website (<https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home>) and you can get detailed information about upcoming meetings on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/parallelcasestl>).

The Parallel Case of St. Louis continues to post some wonderful scholarship and opinion pieces by our members on our blog, The Parallelogram (<http://parallelogramstl.blogspot.com/>).

THE SOCIETY PAGES 2024

January	"Dogs in the Canon of Sherlock Holmes (with a short mention of cats)" by Michael Waxenberg
February	"The True Story(ies) Behind the Politician, the Lighthouse, and the Trained Cormorant" by Brad Keefauver, Sandy Kozin, Edith Pounden, Alisha Shea, Bob Sharfman, and Michael Waxenberg
March	"The Holiday" by Elaine Lintzenich
April	"She Continues to be Dictated to by Men: A comparison between Violet Smith and Violet Carruthers from The Solitary Cyclist" by Heather Hinson
May	"Chess Archives and Sherlock Holmes" by Adam Presswood
June	"Good Sherlock Hunting" by Kristen Mertz
July	"Canonical or Apocryphal?" by Rob Nunn
August	"Stories for the Long Haul" by Brad Keefauver
September	"Medicine in the 19th Century: A Canonical Perspective" by Srinivasan Raghavan
October	"Scion Societies" by Joe Eckrich
November	"Another Adventure of Sherlock Hunting" by Kristen Mertz
December	"'I Believe in Hard Work and Not in Sitting by the Fire Spinning Fine Theories' Or, Why is Inspector Lestrade So Popular?" by Heather Hinson

And looking forward to the future, The Parallel Case of St. Louis will host our third Holmes in the Heartland weekend in St. Louis. Mark your calendars now for July 24-26, 2026. Come at once if convenient!

January 20, 2024	In-person discussion of "The Lion's Mane"
February 10, 2024	Zoom discussion of "The Veiled Lodger"
March 9, 2024	In-person discussion of "Shoscombe Old Place"
May 11, 2024	In-person discussion of "Retired Colourman"
May 22, 2024	Victorian Picnic
July 13, 2024	In-person discussion of The Apocrypha
September 14, 2024	In-person discussion of <i>A Study in Scarlet</i>
October 19, 2024	Zoom discussion of <i>The Sign of Four</i>
November 9, 2024	In-person discussion of "A Scandal in Bohemia"
November 10, 2024	Field trip to Sherlock statue in Chester, IL
December 14, 2024	Zoom discussion of "The Red-Headed League"

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Monadnock Sherlockians, Anna Behrens

The Monadnock Sherlockians began in 2016 and meet monthly in a private home in lovely Keene, NH. We are an active group and hold monthly meetings. The meetings consist of reading stories of the canon in order of publication, a member presents on background for the story, and then we hold a discussion. We also watch Granada Television adaptations, for the stories that have them. We have food and drink, and celebratory cakes for special occasions such as the group's anniversary and Sherlock Holmes's birthday. One member of our group is a maker of puzzles and games, so he often has something Sherlockian to play with the group.

We took several field trips this year, including our yearly pilgrimage to Naulakha, the former home of Rudyard Kipling in nearby Dummerston, Vermont. Arthur Conan Doyle came to stay at this house over Thanksgiving weekend in 1894. We also toured Gillette Castle in CT to take part in the book launch of Belanger Books' new Willam Gillette book. Our group's leader, Anna Brindisi Behrens, also visited Edinburgh where she saw sights related to Arthur Conan Doyle including his birthplace, his medical school, his baptismal church, and of course the Sherlock Holmes statue. Our group is open to both novice and seasoned Sherlockians. Please contact Anna Behrens at monadnocksherlockian@gmail.com for more information.

January 7, 2024	Sherlock Holmes's Birthday celebration with food, prizes, and clever games and puzzles provided by member David Beffa-Negrini.
February 25, 2024	Sherlock Holmes Murder Mystery Evening
March 10, 2024	"The Three Gables" presentation and discussion, viewing the Granada Television adaptation.
April 14, 2024	"The Blanched Soldier" presentation and discussion.
May 10, 2024	"The Lion's Mane" presentation and discussion.
June 3, 2024	Gathering at Naulakha for tour and dinner (Rudyard Kipling's home where ACD came to stay in 1894), Dummerston, VT
June 15, 2024	Gillette Castle — Tour and book signing of Belanger Books' William Gillette story.
July 18, 2024	Leader Anna Behrens traveled to Edinburgh, Scotland tour of Arthur Conan Doyle's birthday place, baptismal church, Medical School, and Sherlock Statue.
August 25, 2024	End-of-summer social gathering and celebration of the publication of the Monadnock Sherlockian Anthology 2024, which contains writings of some of our members.

September 8, 2024	"The Retired Colourman" presentation and discussion.
October 20, 2024	A private tour of the Sherlock Puzzles and Games exhibit by David Beffa-Negrini (curator) at Mariposa Museum, Peterborough, NH, followed by lunch and Sherlock Bingo at David's home.
November 10, 2024	"The Veiled Lodger" presentation and discussion, followed by a presentation on Jean Leckie.
December 8, 2024	"Shoscombe Old Place" presentation and discussion, followed by a viewing of the Granada Television adaptation. Holiday dinner and celebration of 9th year anniversary of the Monadnock Sherlockians

The Sherlock Holmes Club of the Upper Valley, John C. Tiholiz

Our scion was founded in 2006 by Tom Brydges, BSI "Waterloo Bridge". Our main goal is to have fun getting together and learning about Sherlock Holmes and the times in which he was the world's greatest detective. In 2024, our nineteenth year, we held in-person meetings as well as hybrid meetings at the Howe Library in Hanover, NH, and enjoyed two luncheons at local inns. In January we celebrated the Master's birthday with a Shepherd's Pie luncheon, and after lunch we heard a presentation about Dr. Joseph Bell by Club member Harold Schwartz, M.D. Dr. Schwartz also gave very interesting presentations at other meetings about the advances in medicine during the Victorian Age, and the challenges confronted by Dr. Watson while practicing medicine in the military in the Second Afghan War.

Club member Charles Umpleby gave a presentation on Victorian Era Cuisine, and he also gave a presentation on Beer and the Evolution of the Pub Culture in Victorian London, both of which were followed by wonderful tastings. Anna Behrens, MA, CCC-SLP, Club member and Founding Leader of The Monadnock Sherlockians in Keene, NH, gave a presentation on "The Adventure of the Three Gables", and led a discussion of the role of women in English society in the early 1900s and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's depiction of black characters in "The Adventure of the Three Gables", "The Adventure of the Yellow Face", and "J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement".

Molly Braese, Esq., an Attorney with the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., joined us virtually to lead an interesting discussion about the use of the telephone in the Canon and the current challenge of using of century-old legislation to battle crime in virtual spaces that did not then exist nor were even imagined.

Club member Gary Johnson, Professor Emeritus, who has done extensive geological research in Peshawar, gave a presentation that provided

unique insights into Dr. Watson’s wartime adventures in the Afghan borderlands and beyond during his service in the Second Afghan War.

Club member John C. Tiholiz, Esq., led a discussion of “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange” and the contemporary laws relating to divorce and spousal property rights, murder in self-defense or subject to provocation, whether Sherlock Holmes was an accessory after the fact, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle’s subsequent service as President of the Divorce Law Reform Union.

For more information about our club, please contact John Tiholiz at jctiholiz@gmail.com.

January 6, 2024	SH Birthday Luncheon — “Dr. Joseph Bell” — Harold Schwartz, M.D.
February 13, 2024	“Victorian Medicine” — Harold Schwartz, M.D.
March 12, 2024	“Victorian Era Cuisine” — Charles Umpleby
April 11, 2024	Discussion of “The Adventure of the Three Gables” — Anna Behrens
May 9, 2024	“The Practice of Military Medicine in the Victorian Age” — Harold Schwartz, M.D.
June 11, 2024	Summer Luncheon — “The Use of the Telephone in the Canon” — Molly Braese, Esq.
September 12, 2024	“Dr. Watson and his War at the Edge of the Empire: A Thorny and Untrimmed Hedge beyond the Indus” — Gary Johnson, Professor Emeritus
October 24, 2024	“Beer and the Evolution of the Pub Culture in Victorian England” — Charles Umpleby
November 14, 2024	“Discussion of The Adventure of the Abbey Grange” — John C. Tiholiz, Esq.

NEW JERSEY

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State, Terry Hunt

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State was organized in 2013 to commemorate the redoubtable Christopher Morley, Rhodes Scholar, author, bon vivant, and founder of the Baker Street Irregulars. The Club is named after two of Morley’s creations in the 1920s. For several years, we met annually over a three-hour lunch on a weekend close to Morley’s birthday, May 5. Since our first happy convocation of kinsprits, we alternated gathering in Hoboken, New Jersey with going to places of significance to Morley such as Roslyn, Long Island; Haverford, Pennsylvania; Boston, and Manhattan.

Unfortunately, we have been forced to bring these convivial in-person gatherings to an end: our go-to restaurant in Hoboken closed; we've been unable to find easily accessible alternatives; and a combination of increasing springtime scion meetings, religious holidays, and Mother's Day have made scheduling a meeting near Morley's birthday too complex. As a result, we have decided to stick to remote Zoom celebrations, as we did during Covid. On November 3, approximately six months after Morley's 134th birthday, we offered a PowerPoint presentation about his exploits in Hoboken during the late 1920s. The program for 2025 will be the story of his writer's cabin, The Knothole, for its 90th anniversary.

The Club continues to issue a newsletter, The Bowling Green, and a journal, Hoboken Nights.

The Grillparzer Club has PowerPoint presentations about various aspects of Christopher Morley's life that are available for Zoom talks to scions and other organizations. For information about these, and to find out about joining the Grillparzer Club, contact me at Hobokenfreestate@gmail.com.

November 3, 2024	Christopher Morley 134th-and-a-half Birthday Brunch
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The Middlesex Constabulary, Paul Hartnett

The Middlesex Constabulary, a scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars, was founded some nine years ago by Paul and Eileen Hartnett. Having enjoyed the fellowship and frivolity as members of other Sherlockian scion societies (The Epilogues of Sherlock Holmes, Mrs. Hudson's Cliffdwellers, The Montague Street Lodgers, The Priory Scholars of NYC), we began our own group here in Middlesex County, NJ.

The Constabulary follows the adventures of The Master Detective and The Good Doctor through the 60 stories of the Canon. Along the way, discussions include the life and times of Victorian England — everything from the difference between a shilling and a sovereign or a dog cart and a hansom cab. Mysteries are explored such as ... what in the world is a tantalus, gasogene, etc.? We have been honored along the way by BSI guest speakers such as Rich Kitts, Bob Katz, Alexian Gregory, Peter McIntyre, author Rich Ryan and others.

Most every month a story is selected for discussion. The meeting begins with a group recitation of Vincent Starrett's "221B", followed by the presentation of investitures. Constables are invited to select a person, place, or thing from the Canon, then speak about their choice, and are afterward awarded a Certificate of Investiture featuring their new nom. The dastardly,

devilish quiz follows: 10 questions designed to engender discussion and analysis of the case at hand. Prizes are awarded (e.g., copies of Sherlockian books, the BSJ, The Serpentine Muse, etc.) to the top scorers.

The heart of our meeting comes next — discussion of the case. Topic suggestions are emailed a week before we gather so members may prepare to examine and express opinions about questions and items of interest. Spirited (though always friendly) exchanges result in greater understanding of Victorian times, Sherlock’s reasoning, and Watson’s reporting, among other things.

A “slide show” illustrating items (e.g., a Scotch bonnet, lumber room, brig) or maps of places in the story, plus film clips — often the Jeremy Brett/Granada series- supplement and wind up the discussion segment.

Our own I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere section, led by charter member Francine Kitts (ASH, BSI), is the last installment of our get together. Yes, he is everywhere!

We close by reciting together William Schweickert’s “A Long Evening with Holmes”.

So, turn off that phone for a while, escape the modern rat race and retreat to a simpler time and place. Climb the 17 stairs to the sitting room and join Holmes and Watson by the cheery fire as they await their next exciting adventure. The Game is afoot!

For further information, contact Chief Inspector Paul Hartnett, The Middlesex Constabulary, at Middlesex.Constabulary@gmail.com.

January 2024	“The Sussex Vampire”
March 2024	“Wisteria Lodge”
April 2024	Guest Speaker Alexian Gregory, “The Coin of the Realm”
May 2024	“Shoscombe Old Place”
June 2024	“Black Peter”
September 2024	“The Final Problem”
October 2024	“The Empty House”
November 2024	“The Stockbroker’s Clerk”

The Red-Headed League of New Jersey, Bruce Harris

The Red-Headed League of Jersey was founded by the late Judge Ira Dworkin. It became a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars on November 1, 1976. The group meets twice a year, spring and fall, at a restaurant in Central New Jersey. Attendance is pay-as-you-go; we do not collect dues (and red hair is not required in order to attend). The evening meetings con-

sist of dinner, a presentation and usually a quiz on a pre-announced story from the Canon. There is also a Free Stuff table where attendees can swap Sherlockian books, magazines, recordings, etc.

In our April gathering, Bob Katz (BSI) interviewed prolific author Richard T. Ryan about his writing process and how he crafts his highly acclaimed Sherlockian pastiches. The quiz, on “The Adventure of the Reigate Squire”, was designed by Andrea Giarnieri. Bernadette Hunsicker and Paul Hartnett were co-winners.

Our October meeting featured an exceptional presentation by weapons expert Dennis Keiser. The Red-Headed Leaguers were treated to photos of Victorian-era weapons and information about various types of ammunition. The meeting’s quiz was created by Paul Hartnett on “The Stockbroker’s Clerk” and won by Frank Ferry (BSI).

For more information or to be added to our email list, please contact us at: Redheadedleaguenj@gmail.com. Our scion is also on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/RHLeagueNJ).

April 11, 2024	“Writing Sherlockian Pastiches — My Process” by Richard T. Ryan
October 11, 2024	“The V.R. Bullet-Pocks Mystery, or Sorry About that Mrs. Hudson” by Dennis Keiser

NEW YORK

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, Evelyn Herzog

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, with appreciation of our literary inspirations, our founders, our benefactors, and our ever-growing circle of friends, celebrated the Canon throughout 2024.

The 2024 NYC Birthday Weekend included both the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner hosted by Jen Kneeland on January 10 and the Sunday brunch hosted by Tamar Zeffren and Tiffany Knight on Sunday, January 14.

The monthly ASH Wednesday informal gatherings in Manhattan held on the first Wednesday of every month (except for holiday conflicts) were held throughout the year under the guidance of Shana Carter and Jen Kneeland.

ASH’s 2024 Spring Meeting was held on Saturday, May 11, at Tony’s di Napoli’s East Side location in NYC. We first honored the lives of our late members Marian Farrell-Johnston and William (“Bill”) Vande Water. We shared greetings from members and friends who couldn’t be with us and distributed a gift of colorful Sherlockian coasters from Jack Zatz. Then to

the program, which began with our customary toasts, offered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Alex Katz (Irene Adler), Dennis and Mary Keiser (Sherlock Holmes), Ev Herzog filling in for an ill ASH-friend (John Watson), Jenna Weart (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Curtis Armstrong (Friendship). Becky Robare spoke on Sherlock Holmes and the Steampunk Aesthetic. Enid Langbert and DeeDee Headings performed “The Mysterious Adventure of the Syntax”. We then turned to short pieces on the theme of Canonical boys and what their future might hold, by Marina Stajic on Jacky Ferguson, Ashley Polasek on Billy the Page, Shana Carter on Jack and Jim Smith, and Karen Wilson on the Baker Street Irregulars. The afternoon finished with ASH’s traditional songs.

On Sunday, November 10, ASH met again at Tony’s for our 2024 Autumn Meeting. We commemorated the loss of ASH member Maggie Schpak and of ASH-friend Candace Drimmer. Our customary toasts were delivered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Elizabeth Crowens (Irene Adler), Jack Zatz (Sherlock Holmes), Richard Warshauer (John Watson), Jenna Weart (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Crystal Noll (Friendship). We enjoyed a set of toasts to certain Canonical walks of life, by Will Walsh (barristers), Becky Robare (governesses), and Greg Darak (policemen). We moved on to a set of toasts to some notable Canonical siblings, by Chris Zordan (the Moriartys), Shana Carter (the Cushings), and Dan Friedman (Mycroft), and concluded the program with a special seasonal toast from Greg Darak.

Editors Heather Holloway and Crystal Noll began the revival of The Serpentine Muse by publishing a first catch-up issue, Vol. 38, No. 1, dated Spring 2022, containing an assortment of scholarship, humor, news, verse, reminiscence and more contributed by ASH members and friends.

More information about the Adventuresses and related topics can be found on our website, <https://ash-nyc.com>, under the direction of Liza Potts of Michigan State University.

January 10, 2024	Birthday Weekend ASH Wednesday
January 14, 2024	Birthday Weekend Sunday Brunch
February 7, 2024	ASH Wednesday
March 6, 2024	ASH Wednesday
April 3, 2024	ASH Wednesday
May 1, 2024	ASH Wednesday
May 11, 2024	Spring Luncheon
June 5, 2024	ASH Wednesday

July 10, 2024	ASH Wednesday
August 7, 2024	ASH Wednesday
September 4, 2024	ASH Wednesday
October 9, 2024	ASH Wednesday
November 6, 2024	ASH Wednesday
November 10, 2024	Autumn Luncheon
December 4, 2024	ASH Wednesday

The Five Orange Pips, Ross. E. Davies

In 2024, The Five Orange Pips met for drinks and dinner on October 26 at Morton's Steakhouse on Fifth Avenue in New York City. Present were Pips Ray Betzner, Peter Blau, Ross Davies, John Linsenmeyer, Peggy MacFarlane, Al Rosenblatt, Steve Rothman, and Lisa Sanders, and special guests Barbara Malone, Betsy Rosenblatt, Julia Rosenblatt, and Gray Yauger. Each Pip delivered a paper, and Betsy recited a poem.

The Hudson Valley Sciontists, Candace Lewis

The Hudson Valley Sciontists were founded in 1972 by Al and Julia Rosenblatt and about six friends as a Sherlockian club centered in Poughkeepsie, New York, 70 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River. Today, just over fifty years later, Al and Julia are still active members of our scion — as well as the Baker Street Irregulars — and our group is still here.

We meet two times a year for a dinner with a program. The evening's events are led by Lou Lewis, who has been president since 1986 (we think — as record-keeping is not our strength). Lou and I share the duties of producing what we hope will be an entertaining evening. The venue is the Arts-and-Crafts 1923 Alumnae House at Vassar College with its beautiful interior and excellent acoustics.

In the period before the Covid epidemic, we had expanded our membership and attendance considerably with most meetings having 60 guests. Since then, however, attendance has been slowly recovering. In 2024, both meetings had 40 guests.

At the May 24 meeting, we all read "The Five Orange Pips." Al Rosenblatt, Charlie Blanksteen, and Will Walsh all gave talks. They were followed by our concluding poem "A Long Evening with Holmes" by William B. Schweickert.

At the September 8 meeting, we all read “A Case of Identity.” (I lobbied hard for this selection as we had never read it in all the years, and I think it is very interesting.) I gave a talk on the Duchess of Devonshire. Will Walsh spoke about the typewriter. Richard and Vivian Cahn devised a new ending for the story.

We would be delighted to welcome Sherlockians to visit us at one of our meetings.

The Priory Scholars, Nick Martorelli

The Priory Scholars of New York City was founded in 1954 by Chris Steinbrunner and is now overseen by Nick Martorelli, Headmaster. Based in Manhattan, our luncheon meetings are traditionally held three times a year. Our scholars join us for in-person meetings centered on a single story, and the usual toasts and group discussion of the story (always a highlight of the scion), have continued to be as insightful and spirited.

Our meetings are held at The Churchill Tavern, and we are looking forward to another year of in-person Sherlockian fellowship. There is no requirement to join the group. More information about the group, as well as our 2025 meeting schedule, can be found at [https:// prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com/](https://prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com/) and you can reach us via email at PrioryNYC@gmail.com.

May 4, 2024	Priory Scholars meeting on “The Final Problem”
July 15, 2024	Priory Scholars meeting on “The Gloria Scott”
October 5, 2024	Priory Scholars meeting on “The Retired Colourman”

The Three Garridebs of Westchester County, Troy Reynolds

In 2024, the Three Garridebs of Westchester County (New York) concluded the celebration of the scion’s 50th anniversary. We began the year continuing the examination of some of our favorite stories. For the March meeting, we focused on the always popular “The Red-Headed League.” Tony Czarnecki detailed the six degrees of separation between Arthur Conan Doyle and Mick Jagger, who played a bank employee in *The Bank Job*. The movie was based on the 1971 robbery at the Baker Street branch of Lloyds Bank, in which the thief, inspired by a certain reminiscence of Dr. John H. Watson, tunneled into the bank vault. Greg Darak asked why John Clay would shut down the Red-Headed League a day early, rather than keeping Jabez Wilson occupied until the robbery was completed. Greg concluded it could only be attributed to a mixture of pride, egotism, and hubris. Roman Chomanczuk shared his insights on logic and deduction. As this was our

first meeting of the year, the group belatedly celebrated the Master's birthday. For the meeting's game, teams had to identify photos of famous (and maybe some not so famous) redheads. The gathering wrapped up with a short but lively discussion of the story.

We reconvened in April to discuss another favorite: Holmes's return from the Reichenbach in "The Empty House." The meeting featured another game. This time, teams moved around the Eastern Hemisphere and attempted to correctly answer questions in order to collect flags from several of the locations Holmes visited during the Great Hiatus. Will Walsh led an engaging group discussion.

In August, we gathered for our annual summer luncheon. A highlight of the event was the distribution of a booklet of personal reminiscences and favorite memories of the Three Garridebs from those who have participated in the scion over the years. Members had been encouraged to submit their favorite recollections, which were compiled and published in a celebratory 50th anniversary booklet. The memories ranged from the scion's earliest meetings to recent gatherings, highlighting many of the people, friendships, and events that are the heart of our storied history.

The Three Garridebs was created by the merger of three local Sherlockian societies: the Musgrave Ritualists Beta, the Three Students Plus, and the Priory School. Having featured "The Musgrave Ritual" at a recent meeting, we turned our attention to the other two stories that played a role in the group's founding, beginning with "The Three Students" at the September gathering. In his paper, Tony Czarnecki concluded that the school in the story was Cambridge. Will Walsh warned that hiring Holmes is an "at your own risk" proposition, reviewing several of the cases where things did not work out well for his clients in the end. Sue Vizoskie looked back on the unveiling of the Holmes statue in London 25 years ago with fond memories of the different festivities and Sherlockian camaraderie. Will Walsh led another entertaining story discussion. Sadly, we stood on the Terrace at the meeting in memory of Len Poggiali. Len had been an extremely active member of the group, helping to organize our film festivals and assisting in the editing of the scion's newsletter.

We met once more for the year in December, when we turned our focus to the third of the stories that we owe our origins to, "The Priory School." Paul Astle talked about the location of Holderness. Tony Czarnecki reviewed a history of the Holderness title and discussed priory schools. For her presentation, Sue Vizoskie focused on the description of the "Elizabethan doorway" and took us on a tour of British architecture. To celebrate the holiday season, Troy Reynolds read an excerpt from "A Christmas Carol,

Too,” a humorous piece written by a former and much-missed Garrideb, Joe Fink. The story discussion was once again led by Will Walsh.

The Three Garridebs continue to host engaging, interactive meetings that offer all guests a chance to be involved. Each regular meeting kicks off with toasts prepared by volunteers, followed by a story quiz, paper presentations, and show-and-tell. We typically have games and activities or group discussions of the stories. A favorite segment is Watson Time, which offers attendees a chance to share favorite passages from the story we’re examining. Each meeting ends with the poem “A Long Evening with Holmes.” In recent years, we’ve used a recording of the author, early Garridebs officer William P. Schweickert, reciting the work.

As the scion will continue to thrive only through the involvement of our members, we thank all attendees for their participation throughout the year. We would like to give a special thank-you to Paul Astle for creating the quizzes; Will Walsh for coordinating the toasts and preparing the discussions; Ben Vizoskie and Troy Reynolds for developing the activities; Sue Vizoskie for managing refreshments and preparing the Terrace memorial; and Becca Reynolds for assistance leading the meetings. We also thank the following for providing toasts: Paul Astle, Charlie Blanksteen, Michael Bush, Tony Czarnecki, Mickey Fromkin, Sabina Hollis, Ira Matetsky, Charlie Murphy, Len Poggiali, Fran Schulz, Becca Reynolds, Troy Reynolds, Ben Vizoskie, Will Walsh, Burt Wolder, Bob Zatz, and Anna Walsh (in absentia).

New guests are always welcome, and we’d love to see you in 2025. To learn about the Three Garridebs’ upcoming events, visit our website, <https://threegarridebs.com>, or contact Garridebs@aol.com.

March 9, 2024	Meeting discussing “The Red-Headed League”
April 27, 2024	Meeting celebrating the Master’s return in “The Empty House”
August 11, 2024	Annual Summer Luncheon
September 28, 2024	Meeting investigating “The Three Students”
December 7, 2024	Meeting featuring “The Priory School”

OHIO

The Agra Treasures, Lorraine Reibert

The Agra Treasurers usually meet at a restaurant in Kettering, OH, for lunch. We meet on the 2nd Sunday in January, April, June, August and November. Of course, March is our Holmes, Doyle & Friends Conference.

January 7, 2024	lunch meeting with quiz on “The Noble Bachelor”
March 22-23, 2024	Holmes, Doyle & Friends
April 7, 2024	lunch meeting with quiz on “The Adventure of Black Peter”
June 9, 2024	lunch meeting, no quiz
August 11, 2024	lunch meeting with quiz on “The Three Gables”
November 10, 2024	lunch meeting with quiz on “The Blue Carbuncle”

The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay, Mark McGovern

In January, we enjoyed our annual Master’s Dinner, in celebration of the birthday of Sherlock Holmes. The fete was hosted by Her Majesty, Queen Victoria (Tracy Lustig) and Miss Kitty Winter (Pat Spitulski). Although we were three calendar weeks late of the famed January 6, 1854 event, we still enjoyed our repast at The Byblos Mediterranean Restaurant.

As we meet on alternate months, no February meeting scheduled. In March, our Prime Minister and his wife, the Baron and late Baroness Adelbert Gruner (Mark and Kathy McGovern), hosted the monthly meeting in their home. There we discussed “The Resident Patient”, chosen in part because we had not examined this narrative since 2008. In addition, the fact that our Tantalus, Mike Hagan (whose Canonical Identity was in fact “the resident patient”) had announced his intention to leave our scion for a move to Arizona also inspired our choice for the adventure. The quiz for this meeting was a 24-question crossword puzzle based on RESI, while the late Baroness served up a well-received shepherd’s pie.

An April Gathering of the Nest was skipped but in May we met at the home of Jack Stapleton and Kitty Winter (Ralph and Pat Spitulski) to discuss “The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane”. There we enjoyed the lavish table that Pat always sets, plus an intriguing quiz on the story. With the departure of Mike Hagan, a new Tantalus took office when The King of Bohemia (Bruce Baer) volunteered to take over.

It would be no exaggeration to describe as historic the June Gathering of the Nest. Twenty-nine members and guests, including two members who had retired from The Stormy Petrels some years ago, convened to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of our scion. For this occasion, we met in full Victorian regalia at The Toledo Club, the premier venue in town. In addition to a fabulous dinner, our hostesses, Kathy McGovern and the Stormy Petrels’ archivist, Her Majesty, Queen Victoria (Tracy Lustic) creat-

ed a comprehensive display of our scion's history. It featured dozens of documents and photographs that illustrated the Petrels' doings over the last half century. One of the highlights of the evening was the reading of a proclamation by the Mayor of Toledo, recognizing the good works of The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay. Our celebration was covered by both print and television news outlets.

In July, we enjoyed perfect weather for our annual Dr. Watson's Picnic. As it has been for the last several years, the picnic was hosted by The Countess of Morcar (Deb Wallace) in an outdoor pavilion at Friendship Park in Millbury, Ohio. I am pleased to report that we had a great turnout this year, which included a rousing game of croquet.

During our August recess we learned that our good friend, Mike Hagan passed away.

We next met at the home of Senator J. Neil Gibson, the 'Gold King' (Mike Biscay) in September. Mike chose "The Naval Treaty" for discussion. Along with a spirited debate, Mike served up a sumptuous buffet. At this time, Deb Wallace stepped in to assist Bruce with some of the technical aspects of publishing our small brochure, *From the Petrels' Nest*.

Skippping the month of October, the final Gathering of the Nest in November took place in the home of The Shropshire Slasher (Dr. Alan Moore) and his wife hosted a meeting that included a discussion of "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-nez". As always, the conversation and analysis of the story was highly enjoyable. And, as always, Al and Mary's meeting was topped off with their lavish smorgasbord!

All in all, 2024 was a great year for The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay.

January 27, 2024	Our annual Master's Dinner, which we held at Byblos Mediterranean Restaurant.
February 2024	No meeting.
March 16, 2024	Regular meeting with discussion of "The Resident Patient".
April 2024	No meeting.
May 18, 2024	Regular meeting with discussion of "The Adventure of the Lion's Mane".
June 22, 2024	Special gathering to celebrate our 50th anniversary as a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York.
July 20, 2024	Annual Dr. Watson's Picnic.
August 2024	No meeting.
September 21, 2024	Regular meeting with discussion of "The Naval Treaty".
October 2024	No meeting.

November 23, 2024	Regular meeting with discussion of “The Adventure of the Golden Pince-nez”.
December 2024	No meeting.

The Tankerville Club, Dan Andriacco

The Tankerville Club of Cincinnati was founded in 1976 by Paul D. Herbert, BSI, as Official Secretary. Paul passed in 2018 and was succeeded (but not replaced) by Dan Andriacco, who holds the new title of Most Scandalous Member. Mike McSwiggin is Second Most Dangerous Member; Stephen F. Winter, Chancellor of the Exchequer (“Chequers”), and Ann Brauer Andriacco, Sparking Plug.

The Tankerville is the only club mentioned in the Canon twice: Sherlock Holmes saved Major Prendergast “in the Tankerville Club scandal” (“The Five Orange Pips”) and Col. Sebastian Moran was a member (“The Adventure of the Empty House”).

Col. Moran’s fellow members meet quarterly in the Cincinnati area for dinner and typical scion society activities. These include toasts, a show-and-tell of Sherlockian materials of all kinds, reports by members who have attended Sherlockian events elsewhere, a quiz, a story discussion (proceeding through the Canon in Doubleday order), sometimes a speaker, an auction of books and memorabilia for the benefit of two memorial funds supporting club activities (the Paul D. Herbert Founder’s Fund and the R. Joel Senter Sr. Fund), and a reading of the classic sonnet “221B” to close the festivities.

Tankerville toasts often go to obscure characters, inanimate objects, and even philosophical concepts. In 2024 in that vein, we lifted our glasses to the Reichenbach Falls, the late Sherlock Holmes, the phosphorous that made the Hound so hellish, the Moor, and the waxwork Holmes of “The Empty House.”

Some highlights of show-and-tell included Sherlock Holmes cookie cutters and an iconic Inverness cape and deerstalker hat made for one of our members by his mother as a Halloween costume decades ago.

In October, club members and friends from four states enjoyed a Sherlock Holmes film festival at a classic theater built in 1881, the year Holmes and Watson met. Not coincidentally, the theater is also a pub at which the Tankervillians enjoyed whiskey and sodality before the films, which were: *A Study in Terror* (John Neville), *Silver Blaze* (Christopher Plummer), *The Beryl Coronet* (Douglas Wilmer), and the classic cartoon “Deduce, You Say!” (Daffy Duck).

At the holiday meeting, Steve Doyle talked about the rise of the Sherlockian Midwest and Ann Lewis led the crowd in singing Victorian Christmas carols before ending the meeting with her own amazing musical rendition of “221B.”

March 8, 2024	Winter Meeting: “The Naval Treaty”
June 14, 2024	Spring Meeting: “The Final Problem”
Sept. 20, 2024	Summer Meeting: <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
Oct. 12, 2024	Tankerville Club Film Festival
Dec. 6, 2024	Autumn/Holiday Meeting: “The Empty House”

RHODE ISLAND

The Cornish Horrors, Burt Wolder

The Cornish Horrors marked its fifty-third anniversary by taking a well-deserved break from their traditional November meeting schedule to refresh and regroup. Members then looked forward to an expanded schedule of activities and new venues in 2025, including a special springtime joint meeting with their Connecticut-based brethren of The Men on the Tor.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Hansom Wheels of South Carolina, Phil Dematteis

The Hansom Wheels was founded by the Reverend Wayne Wall, BSI, and G. B. Lane in 1977. We meet on the third Thursdays of February, April, August, and October at The Palmetto Club in Columbia, SC. The attendance generally varies from around fifteen to thirty or more. After dinner, I call the meeting to order by declaring, “The game is afoot!” We toast *the* woman, Irene Adler, and have a responsive reading of The Musgrave Ritual. We then go through the Happy Hour Posers, composed by me, which challenge the group to decipher the titles of four Canonical stories from clues in the form of puns. Example: When the famous Irish dramatist’s possessions were inventoried, all that was found was a grooming tool and some yellowed scripts = Shaw’s comb, old plays = “Shoscombe Old Place.” We then have a presentation on some aspect of Sherlockiana. A story is assigned before each meeting that fits in with the presentation in some — maybe tangential — way. Over the years we have read all sixty stories multiple times. We conclude with a group recitation reading Vincent Starrett’s

sonnet “221B.” Each meeting is preceded by the delivery to our members, via email attachment, of our newsletter, The Pink ‘Un, composed by me, which recaps the previous meeting and previews the upcoming one.

On the first or second Thursday in December, so as not to conflict with other holiday activities, we have our Christmas Party. We do the call to order, the Ritual, and the sonnet, but there are no Happy Hour Posers, assigned story, or presentation. Instead, we eat and drink, have a drawing for door prizes, and sing along to Christmas music. The main event is a play, performed by some of the members, based on one of the stories and written by our late program chairman, Bob Robinson, BSI. In 2024 it was The Lauriston Gardens Mystery, adapted from STUD.

Our website is <http://www.hansomwheels.com>. Our Facebook page is administered by Tom Elmore. You can join our email list and thereby become an instant member of The Hansom Wheels (we are up to over 100, and there are no dues) by sending an email to me at hansomwheels@aol.com.

February 15, 2024	Jennie Paton, “ <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> On-Screen.” Assigned story: HOUN.
April 18, 2024	Phil Dematteis, “The Adventure of the Obvious Deductions.” Assigned story: STOC.
August 15, 2024	Tom Elmore, “Basil Rathbone.” Assigned story: ILLU.
October 17, 2024	Jerred Metz, “Why and How I Made Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes Characters in My World War I Angel of Mons Novels.” Assigned story: LAST.
December 5, 2024	Hansom Wheels Christmas Party; play: The Lauriston Gardens Mystery, by Bob Robinson, based on STUD.

The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, Tracy Revels

The scion for the upstate of South Carolina, The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, meets bi-monthly, on a Saturday chosen to best fit with the members’ work and travel schedules. Meetings are scheduled on Zoom. Using Zoom has allowed us to connect with Survivors who have moved out of the Upstate, whether on a permanent basis or simply to spend time at a summer home. It has also enabled us to welcome new members from New Jersey, Texas, and Michigan. Currently, we have twelve active members. We also mourned the loss of one of our founding members, Richard Macintosh (a.k.a. Big Mac) this year. We are continuing our orderly trek through the Sacred Writings and are always looking for new members join us. Our meetings are very simple in format, as we go around our circle and ask attendees

to give their critique of the monthly story and then rate it on our ‘Survivor-Meter.’ If you’re interested in joining our crew, please send an email to Tracy Revels, BSI, at Revelstj@wofford.edu

February 10, 2024	Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of HOUN
April 13, 2024	Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of EMPT
June 15 2024	Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of NORW
August 24, 2024	Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of DANC
October 20, 2024	Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of SOLI
December 1, 2024	Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of PRIO

TENNESSEE

The Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem, Dean Richardson

The Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem was established in 1979 by John Shanks. The group usually meets ten or eleven times a year (skipping December and sometimes a summer month) at a local restaurant. We read through the Canon, discussing the given story at each meeting (although in October, we consider one of Conan Doyle’s ghost, horror, or suspense tales), led by a different member each time. The current order of stories, spanning seven years, was devised by Bill Mason, BSI, grouping two or more stories related by a given theme or element. We will complete that run-through in 2025.

The major event for us this past year was a sad one. We lost one of our mainstays. Gael Stahl, if not a founding member, joined early in the scion’s existence, and he revived and maintained it through the lean years. His enthusiasm and generosity were unmatched. We met at his house in March to give him a send-off as his health required a move out of state. Because he needed to downsize, he simply encouraged us to pick anything from his impressive Conan Doyle collection. In the fall we learned that he had passed over Reichenbach. A special tribute to him is planned for our January 2025 gathering.

January	“The Second Stain” Jeff Steward
February	“The Naval Treaty” Drew Thomas
March	No story in March; a gathering at Gael Stahl’s home
April	“The Three Students” John Besser

May	"The Five Orange Pips" Billy Fields
June	<i>The Valley of Fear</i> Bill Mason, BSI
July	"The Bruce Partington Plans" Jeff Steward
August	"The Norwood Builder" Tom Vickstrom
September	"The Retired Colourman" Kathy Peck
October	"A Pastoral Horror" Dean Richardson
November	"The Resident Patient" Shannon Carlisle, BSI

TEXAS

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, Steve Mason

2024 marked the 54th Anniversary of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star. The Crew conducted 12 monthly virtual meetings by Zoom, which follow a standardized format:

Opening toast

Quiz on the story of the month

Discussion of the story, wonderfully led by Bob Katz, BSI

Announcements

Sherlockian Law 101, presented by Rich Krisciunas

Guest presentation

Limerick by Sandy Kozinn

Canonical Top 10 List by Brad Keefauver, BSI

BSJ Reading by Shana Carter

Closing toast written by Rich Krisciunas on the Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society

The Crew maintains a wonderful website, created by one of the members, Rusty Mason, and is considered one of the finest Sherlockian websites in the country.

In November, 2024, the Crew published its ninth annual book, *Mr. Holmes' Neighborhood*, a compilation of 33 wonderful pastiches by Society members which looked at 221b Baker Street, the people who lived nearby, and those who had to deal with the craziness around that address on a routine basis. A free copy (.pdf) can be found on our website. All of our Society books, can be purchased at www.barnesandnoble.com.

By the end of December, "Baker Street Elementary" celebrated its 10-year anniversary, with over 540 strips and 10 full-length comic books issued.



Logo by Steve Mason.

At the end of 2024, the Society has 332 members.

You can learn more about our society at www.dfw-sherlock.org

January 7, 2024	67 attendees; Guest speaker — Steven Doyle, BSI: “Scion Societies — The Lifeblood of Our Hobby”
February 4, 2024	68 attendees; Guest speaker — Brad Keefauver, BSI: “Watson’s American Origins”
March 3, 2024	55 attendees; Guest speaker — Meghna & Pallavi Shanmugan: “Our Journey into Sherlockiana”
April 7, 2024	59 attendees; Guest speaker — Tim Kline: “The Games Are Afoot — The Joy of Collecting”
May 5, 2024	55 attendees; Guest speaker — Rob Nunn, BSI: “Might I Ask You a Question or Two?”

June 2, 2024	69 attendees; Guest speaker — Donny Zaldin, BSI: “The Agony Columns and Victorian Culture”
July 7, 2024	63 attendees; Guest speaker — Phil Angelo: “Who’s Getting Killed in the Canon?”
August 4, 2024	66 attendees; Guest speaker — Mark Alberstat, BSI: Conan Doyle and the Olympics”
September 1, 2024	69 attendees; Guest speaker — Max Magee: “Becoming a Sherlockian”
October 6, 2024	60 attendees; Guest speaker — Kirk Walden: “His Journey to Becoming a Sherlockian”
November 3, 2024	57 attendees; Guest speaker — Barbara Rusch, BSI: “Sherlock Holmes and Star Trek”
December 1, 2024	54 attendees; Guest speaker — JoAnne Alberstat: “Conan Doyle, Marconi, and Mars”

The Diogenes Club of Dallas, and The Retired Colourman of Dallas, Jim Webb

The Diogenes Club of Dallas was formed in 1994 and recognized by the Baker Street Irregulars as a scion in May 1997. Jim Webb and Don Hobbs formed it to provide a more scholarly approach to Sherlock Holmes than the existing Crew of the Barque Lone Star.

Under the moniker The Retired Colourman, the group meets for lunch once per month. The discussions are unstructured and varied but focus on the activities of the world of Sherlock Holmes. In 2024, the group met on January 10, February 7, March 6, April 10, May 8, June 5, July 10, August 7, September 4, October 9, November 6, and December 4.

Sherlockian presentations by the Diogenes Club of Dallas were given in March to The Greenhill School and the Sherman Irish Festival, in May to the Scottish Society of Dallas, and in September to Southern Methodist University.

VERMONT

The Baker Street Breakfast Club, Jeff Bradway

The Baker Street Breakfast Club was founded in 1990 and became a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars that same year. Sally Sugarman was its founding Gasogene; Jeff Bradway succeeded her in December 2020. All that has been required for membership is one or more of the following qualities: devotion to “the best and wisest man whom I have ever known;” skills as a cook; a sense of humor; a knowledge of the Canon and/or aspirations to

become a Sherlockian scholar; and some “art in the blood”. Meetings occur on an irregular basis, either at a member’s home, at the Bennington Unitarian-Universalist Meeting House, or at a local restaurant.

We held two in-person meetings this year. The first was a birthday celebration dinner at which we presented impromptu toasts, had a show-and-tell, discussed our favorite quotes from the Canon, and recited “The Musgrave Ritual”. The meeting concluded with a reading of “221B” by Vincent Starrett. Our second meeting featured discussion of *The Sign of the Four*, which some members said was their favorite of the longer stories. Also discussed was how we might organize meetings in the future. The group may organize a single larger-scale occasion during the warmer months in future, as the group is aging and more averse to traveling in the snow.

We continue to publish our quarterly newsletter, Groans, Cries, and Bleatings, which goes out to about 160 Sherlockians. Our faithful contributors supplied excellent content again this year, including commentary on the Canon, a look at mysteries in general, book and film reviews, and learned articles on various aspects of the Victorian age. Having begun in the last issue of 2023, the serial publication of our round-robin novel, *The Singular Affair at Quechee Gorge*, is now about halfway complete. After some years of desuetude (!), our website has been brought up to date; our newsletter can be accessed from the website.

If you would like to learn about or contribute to our activities, please contact Jeff Bradway at jeffry.bradway@gmail.com. He will add you to the mailing list for our newsletter and accept any offerings for our newsletter.

January 6, 2024	Birthday Celebration, Village Distillery, Bennington
July 13, 2024	<i>The Sign of the Four</i> , Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, Bennington.

WASHINGTON, DC

The Red Circle, Carla Kaessinger Coupe

Founded in 1950 by Karen Kruse, Patricia Parkman, Dorothy Bissonette, and Svend Petersen, The Red Circle of Washington, DC flourished for a few years before losing its leadership and going dormant. Peter E. Blau revived The Red Circle in 1970 and established a schedule of quarterly gatherings, which generally meet at a restaurant in the DC area.

Our first speaker of 2024 was well-known actor and author Curtis Armstrong (BSI, “An Actor and a Rare One”). Curtis’s talk on “The B List” of Sherlockian villains hilariously explored the “bumbling, cut-rate, we-try-harder” criminal wannabes, such as James Windibank, James Ryder, Count

Negretto Sylvius, and the Spencer John gang. These “uninspired, unimaginative, and stupid” baddies were the dregs of the “criminal industrial complex.” They may have made up the majority of Sherlock’s cases, but they definitely were “The B List.”

Summer kicked off with Burt Wolder (BSI’s “Third Pillar from the Left”), who is the co-host, along with Scott Monty, of the popular podcasts “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” and “Trifles.” Burt’s talk was titled “Arthur Conan Doyle: Adventurous Life, Enduring Memories.” Not long before he died in July 1930, Conan Doyle drew a cartoon of “The Old Horse” hauling a cart laden with crates full of memories down a long road, under the care of three veterinarians. Burt outlined three of Conan Doyle’s lessons in how to live one’s life in a way that provides many rich memories: a knack for elevating sensory appeal; the ability to celebrate moments of pride; and a talent for building moments of connection with others.

Our first autumn meeting was held at Washington’s Folger Shakespeare Library to celebrate the arrival of the manuscript of *The Valley of Fear*. Peter Blau and the Folger’s interim director Greg Prickman discussed the manuscript of *The Valley of Fear* and attendees viewed many superb exhibits.

The second autumn meeting saw members of The Red Circle return to the Folger Shakespeare Library to welcome author Nicholas Meyer (BSI’s “A Fine Morocco Case”). On tour to promote his new novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell*, Nick read passages from his book and then was interviewed by Dan Stashower.

For our final meeting of 2024, almost 60 members and friends of The Red Circle gathered to see the world premiere of Ken Ludwig’s adaptation of Agatha Christie’s *Death on the Nile*. Audience members were treated to Ken’s fast-moving and thrilling script, punctuated by his trademark humor. After the play, The Red Circle held a talk-back, and Ken patiently answered many questions about his process, the background for this play, and his other productions.

For more information on the Red Circle and on our upcoming events, please visit our webpage at www.redcircledc.org. If you would like to be on our mailing list, just send a message to peter@redcircledc.org.

March 16, 2024	Spring meeting. Speaker: Curtis Armstrong
June 22, 2024	Summer meeting. Speaker: Burt Wolder
September 8, 2024	Autumn field trip. The Folger Shakespeare Library
September 12, 2024	Autumn meeting. Speaker: Nicholas Meyer
December 14, 2024	Winter meeting. “Death on the Nile” at Arena Stage

The Commissionaires Club, Thomas Cynkin

The Commissionaires Club is a Scion Society based on time-honored principles, as enshrined in the venerable “Constitution and Buy-Laws” of the Baker Street Irregulars, which state in part that:

“Special meetings may be called at any time or any place by any one of three members, two of whom shall constitute a quorum.”

In like spirit, this is a Scion for intimate conversation, not a Scion that is looking to score big attendance numbers. In fact, there is a statutory limit of eight attendees per meeting (first come, first served via written response to the meeting notices).

Accordingly, as our petition to Wiggins for Scion status had it:

Thomas Cynkin, Michael Quigley and Ross Davies seek recognition by the Baker Street Irregulars of a Scion Society to be known as “The Commissionaires Club” — because every member is a Commissionaire. Membership is limited to invested members of the BSI (NB: or those having been selected as The Woman) who attend a meeting of the Club called by any one or more of the three designated Commissionaires — The Retired Sergeant of Marines (currently Quigley), Tangey (currently Davies), and Peterson (currently Cynkin). The mission of the Club is to informally, irregularly, and without ceremony gather in small groups, primarily in Washington DC and environs, for a *feste pro corpore* and a *feste pro mente*, purely for the pleasure of each other’s company.

In years past, an invaluable role was played here in Washington by the Whitehall Half-Pay Club, an informal luncheon group devised and originally led by that irrepressible titan of Sherlockian society, Jon Lellenberg. The Whitehall Half-Pay Club, which had already been suspended for years during the COVID pandemic, went on indefinite hiatus with his passing.

We were honored when Wiggins approved our petition on June 1, 2023, and hope that The Commissionaires Club will do justice to its antecedents and suitably serve to fill that gap on the shelf in Washington’s Sherlockian scene.

WISCONSIN

The Notorious Canary-Trainers, Johanna Draper Carlson

The Sherlock Holmes society known as the Notorious Canary-Trainers was founded in April 1969 by Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts in the Madison, Wisconsin, area. We meet in person on the third Sunday of each month to discuss a story and any announcements of note (and frequently, to trade



Logo and QR Code by Johanna Draper Carlson.

books and related memorabilia — what one person no longer wants may be someone else's new treasure). The exception is the month of January, when we gather at a local restaurant for a celebration of the great detective's birthday.

Our group corresponds at NCT1969@googlegroups.com, and our website, CanaryTrainers.com, has a list of our discussion topics, meeting dates, and locations. We are open to anyone interested, and we had several new members join this year, as well as welcoming visitors from Chicago in August. That also provided an excuse for a meeting of our SPODE oyster-destroying-by-eating offshoot, Cap'n Basil's Mignonettes.

Our story discussion schedule is listed below. The discussion on *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was accompanied by a display of the many graphic novel and comic book adaptations Johanna has acquired. Diane Balmer provided some information and pictures from a Dartmoor visit, while John Hudson showed related publications, as the Hound is a long-time favorite of many.

Max Magee and Johanna both attended 221B Con in April, participating in several panels each. Johanna also volunteered to act as Sponsor and Guest Coordinator for the convention for 2025. Max additionally presented at the Norwegian Explorers Minneapolis Conference in July.

The group has a sibling society, the Diogenes Club, which meets virtually to discuss historical/Golden Age mysteries. Titles read in 2024 included works by G.K. Chesterton, Wilkie Collins, Earl Derr Biggers, Ellery Queen, Dashiell Hammett, and Ngaio Marsh.

Use this QR code to visit our website for upcoming meetings and info or visit <https://www.canarytrainers.com>.

January 7, 2024	Holmes Birthday Celebration at Erin's Snug Irish Pub, Sun Prairie, WI
February 18, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Naval Treaty"
March 17, 2024	Discussion of "The Final Problem"

April 21, 2024	Discussion of <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> (part 1)
May 19, 2024	Discussion of <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> (part 2)
June 16, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Empty House"
July 21, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder"
August 18, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Dancing Men"
September 15, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist"
October 20, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Priory School"
November 17, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of Black Peter"
December 15, 2024	Discussion of "The Adventure of the Charles Augustus Milverton"

The Original Tree Worshippers of Rock County, Resa Haile

The Original Tree Worshippers of Rock County was co-founded by Resa Haile and Gayle Lange Puhl. Our scion's name is a reference to "The Empty House," as one of the books carried by the "poor bibliophile" in that story is *The Origin of Tree Worship*. Our first meeting was on May 22, Conan Doyle's birthday, in 2010. We have a special meeting, usually in May, devoted to Doyle's non-Sherlockian work.

Between our first and second readings of the Canon, we went through Jack Tracy's *Apocrypha*. We are grouping two or more stories that have common ground and sometimes include adaptations. In 2024, Linda Robinson began providing us with letter-replacement cyphers using humorous quotations of her own creation. We meet monthly, usually at the public library in Janesville, Wisconsin, but occasionally elsewhere. You can contact us via email through huntingviolets@gmail.com. We are also at <https://rocksherlockotw.blogspot.com/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/OTW.RockSherlock/>.

January 27, 2024	Members share stories that mean something to them. Stories discussed: <i>The Valley of Fear</i> , "The Red-Headed League," "The Speckled Band," "The Musgrave Ritual."
February 10, 2024	Sherlockian Show & Tell: Members share Sherlockian items of interest. Stories: "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder"/"The Adventure of the Retired Colourman"
March 9, 2024	Stories: "The Adventure of the Resident Patient"/"The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk"

THE SOCIETY PAGES 2024

April 13, 2024	Pastiche/audiobook: "Colonel Warburton's Madness" by Gayle Lange Puhl
May 4, 2024	Special Conan Doyle meeting. Presentation: Gayle Lange Puhl on Doyle and fairies Stories: <i>A Duet, with an Occasional Chorus</i> .
June 8, 2024	Continuation of Conan Doyle: <i>A Duet, with an Occasional Chorus</i> . Stories: "A Case of Identity" / "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet"
July 6, 2024	Stories: "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" / "The Adventure of the Dying Detective"
August 10, 2024	Reports: Resa Haile & Gayle Lange Puhl report on Norwegian Explorers conference, which they and Linda Robinson attended in July. Stories: "The Final Problem" / "The Empty House"
September 7, 2024	First Irregular Annual Original Tree Worshippers Picnic — Riverside Park. Some discussion of "The Final Problem" and "The Empty House"
October 12, 2024	Linda Robinson & Resa Haile: Report on Nicholas Meyer talk in Minneapolis. Gayle Lange Puhl: Presentation: "Hogs and Holmes" Stories: <i>The Valley of Fear</i> / "His Last Bow"
November 9, 2024	View: Doctor Who: "The Snowmen" — a Sherlockian Christmas episode.
December 7, 2024	Holiday party at Linda's house. A jolly time was had by all. And Bryan was early.

INTERNET-BASED AND OTHER IN 2024

The Clients of Adrian Mulliner, Elaine Coppola

Founded in 1993, the Clients are a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars and a chapter of The Wodehouse Society. Anyone who is interested in both Sherlock Holmes and the writings of P.G. Wodehouse is welcome to join us. We take our name from Mr. Mulliner's nephew Adrian, who was a detective and a member of the detectives' club called the Senior Bloodstain. He is featured in two Mr. Mulliner stories: "The Smile that Wins" and "From a Detective's Notebook" by P. G. Wodehouse.

There is no membership application or fee, and we meet only on the following occasions:

- during (or virtually around the time of) the annual Baker Street Irregulars festivities in New York City each January (Junior Bloodstain)
- during the biennial Wodehouse Society convention (Senior Bloodstain).

On Thursday, January 11, 2024, during the BSI Weekend, an informal meeting took place to discuss the future of the Clients.

On Thursday, September 26, 2024, Clients attending the Wodehouse Society convention in Nashville gathered for an informal dinner.

January 11, 2024	Informal meeting
September 26, 2024	Informal dinner

Five Miles from Anywhere, Derrick Belanger

Five Miles from Anywhere is an international scion society that formed in May of 2020. The group was created specifically as a monthly virtual discussion group to help Sherlockians around the world feel more connected during the Covid-19 pandemic. The group was started by Derrick Belanger and includes board members from around the world such as Jay Ganguly, BSI (India), Steve Emecz (United Kingdom), Stephen Herczeg (Australia), and Brian Belanger (United States). Two additional board members joined in 2024, Margie Deck (United States) and Anna Behrens (United States). In August 2020, the group officially became a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars. The group meets the first Saturday of every month at noon Eastern time and features a Sherlock Holmes discussion by a featured speaker. Sometimes the discussion is around a story from the canon, sometimes it is around a pastiche, and sometimes it is on a broader Sherlockian or Doylean topic. Due to our summer hiatus and an illness postponing one talk, we only met nine times during 2024. The talks were as follows:

January 2024. London tour guide and Sherlockian extraordinaire Robin Rowles took us on a tour of murder in the Canon.

February 2024. Doylean and Sherlockian author Margie Deck spoke on her two books, *The Genius of the Place*, which is a collection of pastiches inspired by Doyle's gothic tales, plus *With Remarkable Cunning*, a collection of new Sherlock Holmes stories.

March 2024. Noted Sherlockian author Jeff Falkingham discussed his book *Murder in Minnesota!*, which features two of Jeff's Sherlock Holmes novellas.

April 2024. Dramatist Hal Glatzer presented a recording of his play, *Flatfinders 1881*, which was performed in New York in January as part of the BSI weekend festivities.

May 2024. Rudy Altergott, BSI, explained how the workings of Vermissa Valley Lodge No. 341 of the Eminent Order of Freeman were based on those of a Masonic lodge. He also discussed how, in LAST, Sherlock Holmes as "Mr Altamont of Chicago" was influenced in his infiltration of Irish secret societies by Birdy Edwards, the Pinkerton who infiltrated the Scowrrers in the backstory of VALL.

June 2024. Fabienne Courouge, BSI ("Henri Fournage") discussed Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana in France.

September 2024. Author Tom Burns discussed his story, "The Picture of Oscar Wilde" which is in his pastiche collection, *Sherlock Holmes & Dr. Watson: A Peek into Watson's Dispatch Box*.

November 2024. Sherlockian author, editor, and head of the Monadnock Sherlockians, Anna Behrens, gave a talk titled "Jean Leckie from Mistress to Medium" which focused on Doyle's second wife and her involvement with spiritualism.

December 2024. Derrick Belanger spoke about his Sherlock Holmes story collection, *Sherlock Holmes: Crimes for Christmas*.

All the meeting talks can be viewed on Derrick Belanger's YouTube channel: @derrickbelanger3389.

The John H Watson Society, Madeline Quiñones

At the start of the year, the John H Watson Society officially dropped its membership subscription model in favor of opening up free membership. There were many kinks that had to be worked out, and the society leadership is eternally grateful to webmistress Beth Gallego (JHWS "Selena") for all her hard work.

You can now fill out a form on our website, johnhwatsonociety.com, and you will receive a welcome email, an online account, and a bullpup moniker!

Also, we have not discontinued our journal, The Watsonian — instead, we have moved to Amazon as a publisher. Anyone, regardless of membership, can purchase our new issues at a reasonable price.

As always, the JHWS met on Zoom, with the intention of mostly meeting on the fourth Sunday of the month. In practice, that turned out to be correct nine times out of twelve, due to some scheduling conflicts and mishaps. Recordings of most meetings can be heard on the society's podcast, the Watsonian Weekly, and there were quite a few from 2024 to listen to. Most notably among these would be the reader theater play, "The Adventure of the Second Die Hard," combining alleged Christmas movie *Die Hard* with "The Adventure of the Second Stain." Missing from the audio recording,

unfortunately, were Max Magee's (JHWS "Hooch") pantomimed falls as his villains fell out of high windows.

Meetings were hosted primarily by Brad Keefauver (JHWS "Calder"), with Boy-in-Buttons Madeline Quiñones (JHWS "Maddie Buttons") filling in on occasion.

April saw a limited rollout of JHWS T-shirts, featuring mascots Archie and Bozzie. We hope to be able to offer the shirts again in the future!

In August, Rich Krisciunas (JHWS "Hector") presided once again over the annual Treasure Hunt with devious questions and an even more devious cipher. Mark Doyle (JHWS "Agent") won the highest score both as an individual champion and internationally, with 190 points; Joanna Freeman took the highest U.S. score at 188 points.

The Sound of the Baskervilles maintained their reign as the highest-scoring team overall, with a perfect score of 192 points; French team La Fayette scored 190 points as the champion international team. A fuller account can be found at johnhwatsonociety.com/final-results-of-the-annual-treasure-hunt/.

If you want more information about the society or if you would like to join, you can visit our website, johnhwatsonociety.com, or email Madeline at boswell@johnhwatsonociety.com. If you would like to contribute to the Watsonian Weekly, you can email Brad at podcast@johnhwatsonociety.com. And if you would like to contribute to The Watsonian, you can email Sandra Little ("Evidently Harmless") at publisher@johnhwatsonociety.com.

January 28, 2024	Zoom discussion: Pitch a TV show with Watson
February 18, 2024	Zoom discussion: Zoom interview: Consultation with Johanna Draper Carlson (JHWS "Freda")
March 16, 2024	Zoom discussion: Zoom discussion: The Great Watson "Watness" Experiment
April 28, 2024	Zoom discussion: Zoom discussion: News and updates
May 26, 2024	Zoom discussion: Zoom discussion: The Great Watson Debate
June 23, 2024	Zoom discussion: Freeform
July 21, 2024	Zoom discussion: Zoom game: Watson Family Feud
August 25, 2024	Zoom game: John H Watson Storytelling Challenge
September 29, 2024	Zoom discussion: History of the JHWS
October 27, 2024	Zoom game: John H Watson Horror Trivia Guess Fest
November 24, 2024	Zoom discussion: Getting to Know You
December 22, 2024	Zoom reader theater: "The Adventure of the Second Die Hard"

The Legion of Zoom, Edith Pounden

The Legion of Zoom (est. 2021) is a virtual society of the Baker Street Irregulars, headed by Steve Mason of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, with Greg Ruby, Rich Krisciunas, and Edith Pounden as officers. The Legion currently has over 90 members worldwide. Anyone who has attended online meetings with at least 17 different Sherlockian societies may apply for membership in the Legion of Zoom, and any virtual Sherlockian meeting attended by two or more members of the Legion of Zoom is automatically designated a meeting of the Legion of Zoom.

The third annual “221B Sitting Zoom” virtual conference was held February 25, with six speakers on a range of Sherlockian topics.

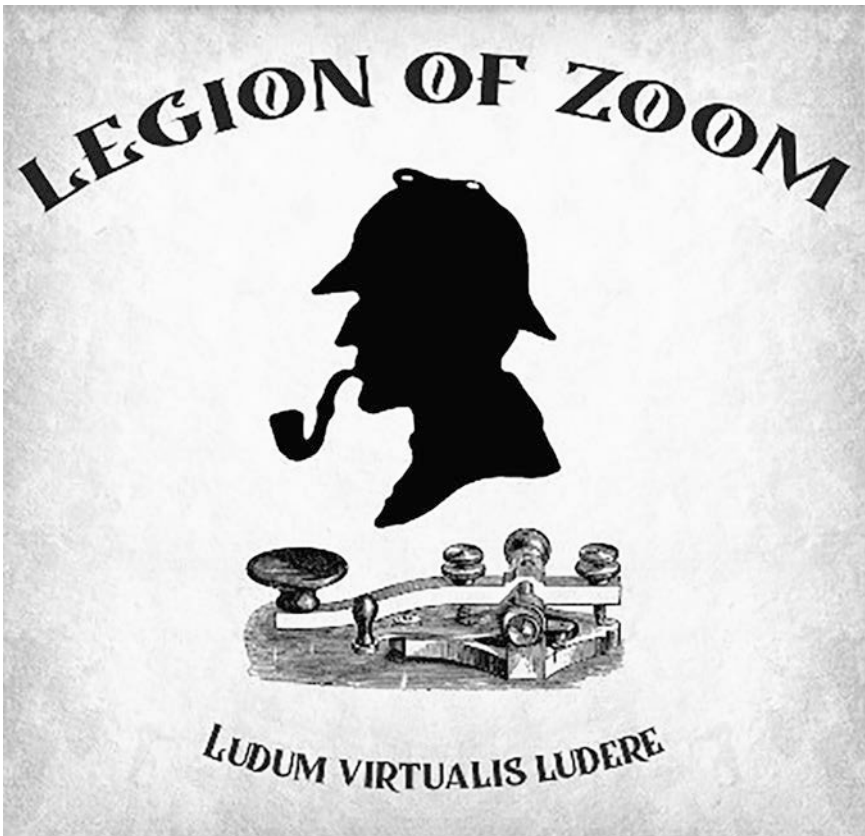
2024 Conference Speakers	
Speaker	Title
Bob Coghill	Serendipity and Sherlockians
Sonia Yazmadjian	How a French Hero Saved Sherlock Holmes’s Life
Matt Hall	Australian Inspirations in the Canon
Steven Doyle	Adelbert Gruner: The Most Misunderstood Villain in the Canon
S.E. Dahlinger	Marry Him or Murder Him: William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes
Shana Carter	“The Adventure of the Cardboard Box” as a Depiction of Intimate Partner Violence

Many of the presentations given at previous “221B Sitting Zoom” conferences are available for viewing via the Legion of Zoom website (www.sherlocklegionofzoom.org).

Throughout 2024, the Legion continued its distribution of virtual tobacco cards based on artwork in the sixty Sherlock Holmes stories, ending with *The Valley of Fear* in November.

In March, in conjunction with “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere,” the Legion conducted Holmes Hysteria III, a virtual March Madness-style battle royale based on voting by members of the Facebook “Stranger’s Room.” Over 200 Sherlockians participated, resulting in the selection of Baron Adelbert Gruner as the most villainous villain in the canon.

The Legion also continued the tradition started by Theater-Goers, Homeward Bound, hosting virtual broadcasts of various Sherlock Holmes film adaptations via Zoom throughout the year.



Logo by Edith Pounden.

*The Sub-Librarians Scion of the BSI in the American Library Association,
Christy Allen*

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association was founded by John Bennett Shaw and Howard Haycraft in 1967. It is the oldest profession-oriented scion related to Sherlock Holmes. Traditionally, the Sub-Librarians meet annually at the American Library Association (ALA) conference, which changes its venue every year. Local Sherlockian scions are invited to mix and mingle, sharing their common interest with those in the library field.

The Society's name was inspired by a passage from "The Adventure of the Illustrious Client" in which Dr. Watson said: "Finally I drove to the London

Library in St. James's Square, put the matter to my friend Lomax, the sub-librarian, and departed to my rooms with a goodly volume under my arm."

The Sub-Librarians held their 46th (irregular) annual meeting at the Hilton San Diego Bayfront Hotel in San Diego, California, as part of the American Library Association Conference. Christy Allen and Beth Gallego organized the event which featured Laurie R. King, Nicholas Meyer, and Leslie S. Klinger.

Prior to the presentation, toasts were given as follows:

Lomax, the Sub-Librarian of the London Library by George H. Scheetz, The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), The Double-Barreled Tiger Cubs, and Director Emeritus, Batavia (Ill.) Public Library

Sherlock Holmes, Bookman and Special Librarian by Leslie S. Klinger, a two-time winner of the Edgar Award and the New York Times best-selling editor of *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*

Dr. Hill Barton, Library Patron by Beth L. Gallego, The Curious Collectors of Baker Street, the John H. Watson Society, and Children's Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library

Baron Gruner, Collector by Marsha L. Pollak, BSI, ASH, and Supervising Librarian, Technical Services (retired), Sunnyvale (Calif.) Public Library

Kitty Winter, a Wronged Woman by Christy Allen, Associate Director for Digital and Resource Management, Furman University

New York Times best-selling authors Nicholas Meyer and Laurie R. King, in conversation with their friend and editor of *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, Leslie S. Klinger, presented Writing Sherlock Holmes into the Twenty-First Century. The presentation commemorated the 50th anniversary of *Seven-Per-Cent Solution* and the 30th anniversary of *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*.

Nicholas Meyers' *Seven-Per-Cent Solution* — the hugely bestselling novel and the Oscar-nominated film — reinvented Sherlock Holmes, bringing him into the modern world, trading the staid Basil Rathbone image for the eccentric, bohemian, and occasionally funny Holmes seen on page and screen today. Twenty years later, *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* by Laurie R. King introduced Sherlock Holmes to a very twentieth-century young woman, demonstrating that the Victorian detective might grow beyond his misogyny, entering into a partnership with a brilliant young woman.

In addition to discussing their milestone Sherlockian novels, the panelists considered the following questions: Why is Sherlock Holmes still so popular after more than a century? How did the original stories change the course of crime fiction? How has the character of Sherlock Holmes shifted to become more nuanced and inclusive? How do writers keep reinventing the arche-

types of the "great detective" and the "good doctor"? How do you write a Holmes that is both true to the original, yet reflects a modern, multicultural society in a way that Arthur Conan Doyle never could have envisioned?

The talk was followed by book sales and book signings by all three panelists.

The presentation was sponsored by CORE: Leadership Infrastructure Futures, a division of the American Library Association. The Sub-Librarians will meet in June 2025 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as part of the American Library Association Conference.

Please visit our website at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians/>.

June 30, 2024	Annual meeting
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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

A DIRECTORY

*Mike McSwiggin**

What follows is a list of Sherlockian groups and societies, broken down as geographic, professional, or other. Geographic-based groups are arranged by state for groups in the United States and country for outside of the United States. Professional groups are listed alphabetically (each listing describes the profession represented). Finally, the category “Other” contains groups that are either internet-based, American national groups (not confined to a particular state), or simply unclassifiable. Eternal thanks to Peter Blau, BSI, who is the keeper of lists and general fount of knowledge for all things Sherlockian. We have used mailing address contact information supplied to him by the following groups, augmented wherever possible with updated email addresses, websites, and Facebook groups. And Peter has really helped keep me in the loop regarding many recent updates. Thanks, Peter!

As with all topics in this Almanac, we look to you, the reader, to supplement our understanding and knowledge. If your group needs updated contact information or is missing entirely, please let us know. Ideally, we would like email, website, and/or Facebook group information, along with the group’s name and any other pertinent information. Instagram and Twitter (sorry, I’m not calling it X) accounts are also welcome, when available. I will admit my distaste for the shenanigans at that last social media site, but will turn a blind eye for the moment, as it may help to publicize Sherlockian groups.

Not many groups from last year needed to be removed due to inactivity or shuttering (great news!). But I added a whole bunch of groups (even better news!). Many are relatively new, at least one is back from the dead, and several just made themselves known after a while. I added SPODE (which itself is not a new group – and I am joyfully a member), and also added a lot of SPODE scions (or sub-scions, if you like that word). What is SPODE? Well, if you like Sherlock Holmes and seafood, then SPODE is a magical thing. While getting a seat at the original SPODE group during BSI Weekend is very difficult, you might start your own SPODE scion in your town. See the contact information for the main group to ask what needs to be done to accomplish such a noble task.

* Mike McSwiggin is “A Seven-Per-Cent Solution” in the Baker Street Irregulars.

As mentioned in previous Almanacs, I still am using the old-school snail-mail route to resolve the status of a few groups. If you are the lucky (or unlucky) recipient of one of my letters, please respond either by post or by email (email is cheaper, so I certainly encourage that). But I appreciate (and perhaps even love) a good old-fashioned letter. Any sent to me will not be speared by a jackknife. Speaking of letters, one of the new groups I added to the list is the Noble Correspondents, a group of Sherlockian letter (and postcard) writers. I joined this one myself, as I love writing with fountain pens (the group has several typewriter enthusiasts, as well). And my mailbox has never been so busy. I highlight this to show how Sherlockian groups can be found related to so many different interests. And if you do not see a group with an interest that you find relevant, then start a group of your own. And tell me about it so we can help you find like-minded individuals.

Also starting this year is the BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies. This series of regional meetings is intended to promote and serve local Sherlockian groups. This is a great reminder to mention that if you live in a part of the world with no local Sherlockian group, you can do something about it! There are resources to help with starting a group online and in print. Just remember to let me know if you do start a group.

As a reminder, I feed this information to Steve and Rusty Mason, the mad scientists behind the Beacon Society World Map. Please visit <https://www.beaconsociety.com/locating-a-sherlockian-society-map.html> to see Sherlockian groups arranged across the globe.

As always, I appreciate the help I have received from so many around the world. This chapter is a culmination of your hard work, not mine. Please email me (at mikemcswiggin@gmail.com) with any updates, additions, or deletions. Thanks to everyone for helping us out!

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SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES BY COUNTRY

Australia

The Severed Ears of Croydon
Phil Cornell
Croydon, N.S.W.
AUSTRALIA
philipcornell@yahoo.com.au

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne

Michael Duke

PO Box 248

Hampton

Victoria 3188

AUSTRALIA

mmgduke@bigpond.net.au

The Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia

Mark Chellew

P.O. Box 85

Daw Park, SA 5041

AUSTRALIA

<https://adelaiderascals.com/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia

Fred Rutter

49 Cedar Way

Forrestfield, WA 6058

AUSTRALIA

camden.house@telstra.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/105055146203626>

The Sydney Passengers

Bill Barnes

19 Malvern Avenue

Manly, N.S.W. 2095

AUSTRALIA

<http://www.sherlock.on.net/>

Belgium

Le peloton des cyclistes solitaires

Cedric C. Goffinet

Rue de Levallois-Perret 46

B-1080 Bruxelles

BELGIUM

cedric.goffinet@skynet.be

Brazil

The Isadora Klein Amateur Mendicant Society

Carlos Orsi Martinho

r. Zacarias de Goes, 404, ap. 92

Jundiai-SP 13201-800

BRAZIL

carlos.orsi71@gmail.com

Canada

The Bimetallic Question
Wilfrid de Freitas
Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2
CANADA
<http://www.bimetallicquestion.org/>

The Bootmakers of Toronto
Thelma Beam
360 Bloor Street East #910
Toronto, ON M4W 3M3
CANADA
ccr@pathcom.com
<https://www.torontobootmakers.com/>

The Spence Munros
Mark J. Alberstat
CANADA
HalifaxSherlock@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Spence-Munros-212957769636/>

The Cesspudlians of London
Mark Hanson
70 Augusta Crescent
London, ON N6E 2E1
CANADA
<https://cesspudlians.weebly.com>

The Main Street Irregulars
Trevor S. Raymond
4 Lyons Court
Georgetown, ON L7G 5P4
CANADA
bootprint@cogeco.ca

The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia
Fran Martin
#904 – 901 Colborne Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 5E9
CANADA
franziskah@shaw.ca
<https://thestormypetrels.com/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Stratford on Avon Sherlock Holmes Society

Jack Winn

32 Ontario Street #3

Stratford, ON N5A 3GB

CANADA

<https://www.facebook.com/Stratford-On-Avon-Sherlock-Holmes-Society-890766164306152/>

The Wisteria Lodgers of Edmonton

Constantine Kaoukakis

9705 163rd Street NW

Edmonton, AB T5P 3N1

CANADA

<https://sherlockholmesedmonton.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SHSEWL>

Czech Republic

Ceska spolecnost Sherlocka Holmese (The Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes)

Aleš Kolodrubec

CZECH REPUBLIC

kontakt@sherlockholmes.cz

<http://www.sherlockholmes.cz/>

Institute for the Study and the Life and Work of Sherlock Holmes

CZECH REPUBLIC

<http://www.sherlockian.cz/>

Denmark

Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark (The Danish Baker Street Irregulars)

Mia Stampe Lagergaard

Nivaagade 3, 2

DK-2200 Copenhagen N

DENMARK

info@sherlockholmesklubben.dk

<http://sherlockholmesklubben.dk>

<https://www.facebook.com/SHKlubben/>

<https://twitter.com/SherlockDK>

The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street

The South Denmark Philharmonic

Att. Jens Byskov Jensen

Alsion 2

DK-6400 Sønderborg

Denmark

jens@bykovjensen.com

France

Cabinet du patient résidant / Pau — Sherlock Holmes
François Pardeilhan
3, Chemin du Bedat
64160 Saint Castin
FRANCE
lepatientresidant@orange.fr

Club des hydropathes holmésiens
“Montrachet”
Rue des Boulangers
75005 Paris
FRANCE
saint-joanis@sshf.com

Evadés de Dartmoor
François Hoff
19, rue du Maréchal-Joffre
67000 Strasbourg
FRANCE
<http://lesevadesdedartmoor1.free.fr>

Grand dépôt de Paris de la Franco-Midland
(SSHF Paris branch)
Jean-Pierre Cagnat
13, rue de l’Ancienne-Comédie
75006 Paris
FRANCE
sshf@sshf.com

Hôtel Dulong
(SSHF Lyon branch)
Jean-Pierre Crauser
36 bis, rue Saint-Antoine
69003 Lyon
FRANCE
jpcrauser@gmail.com

Le Cercle Holmésien de Paris
Jean-Christophe Remont
Paris
FRANCE
<https://cercleholmesparis.fr/qui-sommes-nous/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CercleHolmesienDeParis>
<https://twitter.com/LeCercleHolmes>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

Société Sherlock Holmes de France
Thierry Saint-Joanis
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FRANCE
saint-joanis@sshf.com
<https://www.sherlockians.com/sshf>
<https://www.facebook.com/SocieteSherlockHolmesdeFrance/>
https://twitter.com/s_s_h_f

Germany

Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft
Olaf H. Maurer
Wanderstrasse 31
D-67071 Ludwigshafen am Rhein
GERMANY
<https://dshc.de/>

Hungary

The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club
HUNGARY
sherlockclub@gmail.com
<https://sherlock.blog.hu>
<http://sherlockian-sherlock.com/>

India

The Sherlock Holmes Society of India
Cmdt (JG) Sumal Surendranath
Principal Directorate of Law (Rm 27)
Coast Guard HQ, Natl Stadium Complex
Purana Quila Road, New Delhi 110001,
<https://www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com/>

Israel

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Jerusalem
Moshe Nalick
Kiryat Telshe-Stone 114/3
D.N. Harei Yehuda
ISRAEL
moshenalick@hotmail.com

Italy

Uno Studio in Holmes
Via San Gallo 77
50139 Firenze, ITALY
monterivecchi@gmail.com
<http://www.unostudioinholmes.org/>

Japan

The Circle of the Trained Cormorant
Nob Yamamoto
2-17-101 Iwaei-cho
Gifu-shi, Gifu 500-8134
JAPAN
jshc-u@bbweb-arena.com

The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club
Akane Higashiyama
Ohizumi-machi 2-55-8
Nerima-ku, Tokyo 178-0062
JAPAN
<http://www.holmesjapan.jp/english/index.htm>

The Men with the Twisted Konjo
Yuichi Hirayama
2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi
Tokyo 181-0012
JAPAN
shosoinbulletin@me.com

Kyrgyzstan

The Seventeen Steppes
Loudmila Konkova
Kurmanjan-Datka Str 271
Osh Oblast Library, Soros Res. Ctr.
KYRGYZSTAN 714000

The Netherlands

The Baarn Baskerville
Jan-Just Middel
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3743 BR Baarn
THE NETHERLANDS
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New Zealand

The Antipodean Holmesian Society
Ted Nye
51 Irvine Road, The Cove
Dunedin
NEW ZEALAND
ted.nye@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Portugal

Os Naufragos de Nora Creina [The Norah Creina Castaways]
Joel Lima
Largo do Mastro 29-3, Porta D
1100 Lisboa
PORTUGAL

Spain

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid
Miguel Gonzalez Pedel
Mozart 15 (6-F)
28008 Madrid
SPAIN
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Círculo Holmes
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SPAIN
circuloholmes@gmail.com
<http://www.circuloholmes.org.es/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/262504147646/>

Sweden

The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden
SWEDEN
bhc@telia.com
<https://www.thebaskervillehallclub.com/>
<https://sherlockholmes.se/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/6561846676>
<https://www.instagram.com/thebaskervillehallclubofsweden/>

The Fierce Badgers in Ystad
Lars Jannedal
Hagermansgatan 16
SE-26132 Ystad
SWEDEN

The Swedish Pathological Society
Joakim Eklund
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SE-44163 Alingsås
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Switzerland

The Reichenbach Irregulars
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Societe d'etudes holmesiennes de la Suisse romande
Vincent Delay
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1018 Lausanne
SWITZERLAND

United Kingdom

The Crew of the S.S. May Day
David Houston
Belfast, Northern Ireland
UNITED KINGDOM
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<http://thessmayday.org.uk/>

The Deerstalkers of Welshpool
Roy Upton-Holder
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GREAT BRITAIN
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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors

Geraldine Beare

ENGLAND

info@poorfolk.co.uk

<https://www.poorfolk.co.uk/>

The Sherlock Appreciation Society

Sharon Jones

UK EN Bolton Bolton Sixth Form College

Dean Road, Bolton BL3 5BU

ENGLAND

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/325607570921551/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Cheltenham

Reginald Lee

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Cheltenham GL52 6EW

ENGLAND

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The Sherlock Holmes Society of London

David Jones

ENGLAND

carstoncastleshsl@gmail.com

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland

Barry Young

19 Windsor Court, Dirleton Drive

Glasgow G41 3BG

GREAT BRITAIN

holmesscottish@gmail.com

<http://sherlockscotland.blogspot.com/>

United States

— Alabama

The Disreputable Little Scarecrows of the Shoals

Terry Pace

808 Alabama Avenue

Sheffield, AL 35660-2824

pillaroffire@bellsouth.net

The Eastern Shore Irregulars
Philip Ellis
Box 2661
Daphne, AL 36526-2661
golftodaynews@yahoo.com

The Greek Interpreters of Athens...Alabama
Alan Barksdale
262 West Lake Circle
Madison, AL 35758
afbarksd@hiwaay.net
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1454146627974269>

— Alaska

The Singular Society of the Lion's Mane
Erin Bentley
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<https://www.facebook.com/The-Singular-Society-of-The-Lions-Mane-434045767374268/>

— Arizona

The Desert Beekeepers
Doris and Richard Dale
Box 18635
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-8635
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The Transfixed Correspondence of Phoenix
Lauren Cercone
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Bear DE 19701-2361
Transfixedcorrespondence@gmail.com
<https://www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Sherlockians/>
<https://www.facebook.com/transfixedcorrespondence/>

— Arkansas

The Arkansas Valley Investors, Ltd.
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— California

The Blind German Mechanics
Wally Conger
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wconger@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43218057055/>

The Blustering Gales from the South-West
Carol Sperling
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Hawthorne, CA 90250-2725
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<http://www.coliserv.net/bgsw/>

The Christopher Morley Whiskey & Sodality Club
Steven E. Whiting
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drwhiting@aol.com

The Curious Collectors of Baker Street
Jerry and Chrys Kegley
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Reseda, CA 91335-4639
jkegley@socal.rr.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Curious-Collectors-of-Baker-Street-CCOBS-163335686396/>

The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay
Maxine Reneker
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The Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea
John Postovit
jspostovit@comcast.net

The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn
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jpsohl@earthlink.net

The Grimpen Admirers of Sherlock Holmes

Steven E. Whiting

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San Diego, CA 92104-2009

<https://www.facebook.com/Grimpen-Admirers-of-Sherlock-Holmes-757195544388633/>

Holmes' Hounds at Baker Street West

Linda Hein

Hein & Co. Books & Vintage Goods

204 Main Street

Jackson, CA 95642-2332

info@bakerstreetwest.com

<https://bakerstreetwest.com/holmes-hounds/>

<https://www.facebook.com/holmeshound/>

The Loungers and Idlers of the Empire

Edna Jukofsky

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Arcadia, CA 91006-5953

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLoungersAndIdlersOfTheEmpire/>

The Noble West Enders

Jim Ferreira

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bakerstreet@comcast.net

The Scowrrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco

Marc Kaufman

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mcmurdo@scowrrers.org

The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, California

Jim Coffin

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jcmusbus@aol.com

— Colorado

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients

Larry Feldman

DrWatson@dwnp.com

<http://dwnp.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DrWatsonsNP/>

<https://twitter.com/DrWatsonNP>

— Connecticut

The Men on the Tor

Greg Darak

darak@att.net

The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society

Andrew Tranquilli

tranquilli@hotmail.com

The Yale Sherlock Holmes Society

Linda C. Mayes

linda.mayes@yale.edu

— District of Columbia

The Commissionaires Club

Thomas M. Cynkin

cynkintm@hotmail.com

The Red Circle of Washington, D.C.

Peter E. Blau

blau7103@comcast.net

<http://www.redcircledc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/The-Red-Circle-of-Washington-DC-159029477489137/>

— Florida

The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Club

Howard S. Schoen

7833 Whispering Palms Drive #202

Boynton Beach, FL 33437-3842

howmil@adelphia.net

The Tropical Deerstalkers

Robert S. Ennis

3455 Stallion Lane

Weston, FL 33331-3035

lsterndale@aol.com

<http://tropicaldeerstalkers.blogspot.com/>

— Georgia

Wisteria Lodge

Diana Williams

atlantawisterialodge@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AtlantaSherlockHolmesSociety/>

— Hawaii

The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii
Joseph T. Page Jr
shakasherlockian@gmail.com
<https://www.shakasherlockian.com/>

— Illinois

Altamont's Agents of Chicago
John N. Wilson
11837 West 118th Street
Palos Park, IL 60464-1401

The Baker Street Pages
Tim O'Connor
6015 West Route 115
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— Missouri

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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

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The Sherlockian Whisky and Tobacco Sodality
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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

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SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

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The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon
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MYSTERIOUS NEWS FROM

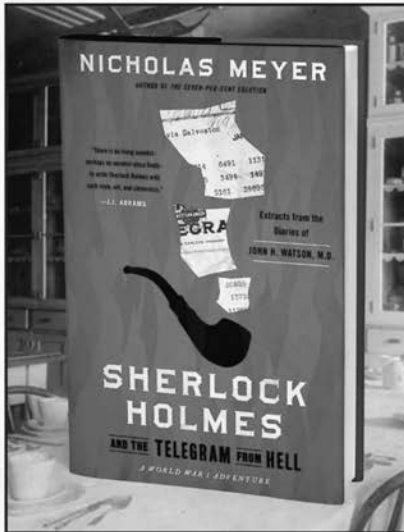
Sherlock Holmes

Vol. B No. 221

"I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere"

August 27, 2024

Seven-Per-Cent Solution Author Returns



Nicholas Meyer's new novel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell*, will be in stores this August from Mysterious Press

June, 1916. With a world war raging on the continent, exhausted John H. Watson, M.D. is operating on the wounded full-time when his labors are interrupted by a knock on his door, revealing Sherlock Holmes with a black eye, a missing tooth and a cracked rib. The story he has to tell will set in motion a series of world-changing events in the most consequential case of the detective's career.

Germany has a secret plan to win the war and the British Secret Service dispatches the two aging friends to learn what the scheme is before it can be put into effect. In pursuit of a mysterious coded telegram sent from Berlin to an unknown recipient in Mexico, Holmes and Watson must cross the Atlantic, dodge German U-boats and assassination attempts, and evade the intrigues of young J. Edgar Hoover, all while enlisting the help of a beautiful, eccentric Washington socialite as they seek to foil the schemes of Holmes's nemesis, the escaped German spy master Von Bork.

"Nicholas Meyer has managed the impossible, which is to sound exactly like Arthur Conan Doyle. . . Irresistible."—Julian Fellowes, creator of *Downton Abbey* and *The Gilded Age*

Sherlockian Finds Fame Among Star Trek Aficionados

Nicholas Meyer is the "editor" of several Watson manuscripts, including *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*. His screenplay of the film received an Oscar nomination. His film credits include writing and directing *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, and *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. A native of New York City, he lives in Santa Monica, California.



Meyer

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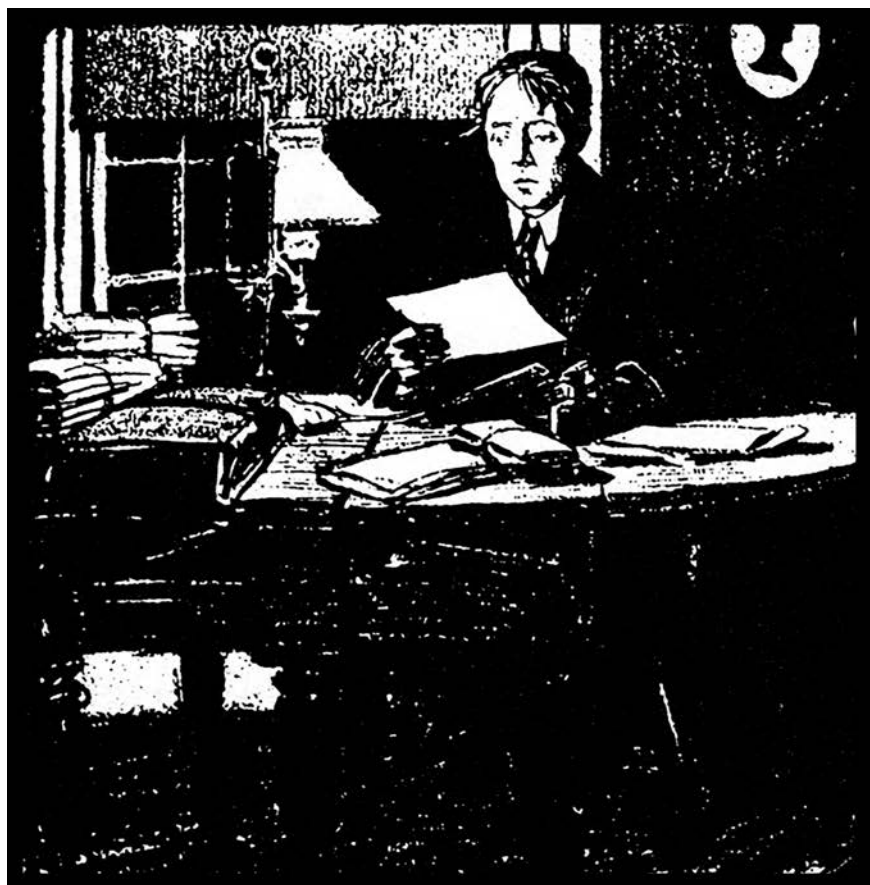
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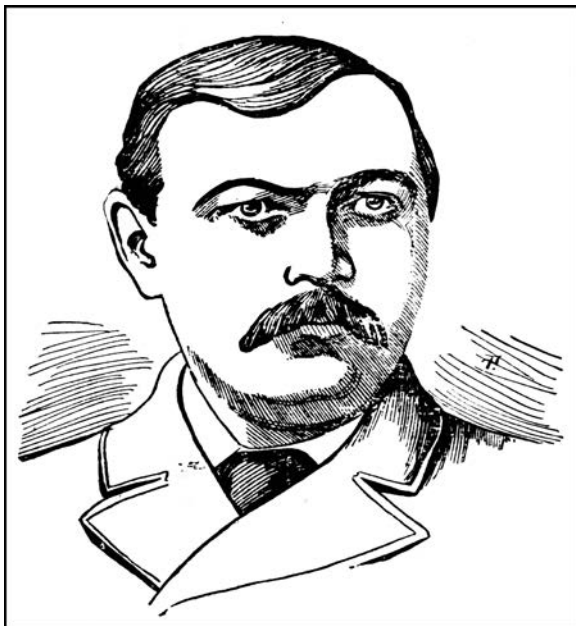


In the summer of 2025, The Mysterious Press released what is, we believe, the first issue of the Press's only periodical: *Mysterious News from Sherlock Holmes*. Collectors take note! Courtesy of Otto Penzler.

And in related news, as the *Baker Street Almanac* goes to press, The Mysterious Press is releasing Nicholas Meyer's new book, *Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing*.



CHRONOLOGIES
&
HISTORIES



When I burgle my son's money box as my own was bur-
gled 30 years ago it will be to set him up with a complete
Macaulay.

Of course they say that he is inaccurate. They say so of
Froude, also; and of everyone else who tries to turn histo-
ry into something more human than an almanac.

A. Conan Doyle,
Before My Bookcase,
Philadelphia Inquirer, June 3, 1894

Editors' note: Ouch again.



SCUTTLEBUTT
from the
SPERMACETI PRESS

by Peter E. Blau



Peter E. Blau is “Simpson” (aka Secretary) of the Baker Street Irregulars. If you want to know more, try Leslie S. Klinger, ed., *Peter E. Blau: A Festschrift* (BSI Press 2018). *Scuttlebutt* old and new (updated and in color) is at redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39. Copyright 2025 Peter E. Blau.

Editors' note: We first republished *Scuttlebutt* in the 2019 *Baker Street Almanac*, and we are pleased to continue. For a description of *Scuttlebutt* and the Spermaceti Press, see pages 73-74 of the 2019 *BSA*, pages 3-4 of the 2020 *BSA*, and the introduction to this volume.

Another editors' note: You will find a few empty spaces in the *Scuttlebutts* republished here. Those are places where the original has an illustration the unauthorized reproduction of which *here* we fear might be a copyright violation and for which we lack a license to reprint.

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) gathered in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 170th birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 10 to 14, and reports on many of the goings-on will be posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over, and you can also listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the festivities at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/yv5a6w2m>. Scott's report on the weekend is at <www.tinyurl.com/y3wtfcv7>. Michael Dirda also reported on the birthday festivities in the Washington Post on Jan. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/y3r9m8nh>.

Locals and early arrivals enjoyed the ASH Wednesday dinner, and on Thursday morning the ACD Society's Doylean Awards Ceremony and a running of the Wessex Cup were held at the Mysterious Bookshop; the society's web-site is at <www.acdsociety.com>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was author Tess Gerritsen, who explained in detail why the worst thing a Victorian could do when ill was to go to a hospital; her entertaining paper will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.

On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured performances of two skits: Ray Betzner's "Mrs. Hudson and the Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Curtis Armstrong as Holmes, Ashley Polasek as Mrs. Hudson, and Ken Ludwig as the narrator and Sherlock's bust); and Andrew Joffe's "Quantum of Sherlock" (with Paul Singleton as Holmes, Sarah Montague as Mrs. Mon-eypenny, Andrew Joffe as Q, and Lee Shackelford as Blofeld. And the Susan Rice Mentorship Award (recognizing "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") was presented to Francine Kitts.

Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Mark Gagen offered the traditional first toast to Pamela Wampler as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Curtis Armstrong (about grade-B villains in the Canon), and Ray Betzner, Steve Doyle, and Steve Rothman (on Alexander Woollcott's qualifications as a member of the BSI). And Eric Scace was announced as the winner of annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the Baker Street Journal in 2023) was presented to Eric Scace, for his article "Five Quarter-Centuries of Confusion over 'The Missing Three-Quarter'" in the spring 2023 issue. You can subscribe to the BSJ (four issues and a Christmas Annual) at <www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd>.

The BSI's new Birthday Honours were awarded to Rudy Altergott ("Old Patrick"), Derrick Belanger ("The Board Schools"), Thomas Brydges ("Waterloo Bridge"), Fabienne Courouge ("Henri Fournaye"), Daniel Friedman ("Sir Leslie Oakshott"), Chuck Kovacic ("Baker Street"), Stephen Chahn Lee ("Alec MacDonald"), Danna Mancini ("McMurdo"), Maxine Reneker ("The Whole Art of Detection"), Olivia Rutigliano ("Lady Alicia Whittington"), Jessica Schilling ("The Queen's Shilling"), George Schwartz ("The Alpha Inn"), Robert Sharfman ("Killer Evans"), and Liese Sherwood-Fabre ("Mrs. Farintosh"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Otto Penzler.

Jan 24 #2 Friday evening also saw the revival ("Out of the Abyss") of the Gaslight Gala, at Slattery's Midtown Pub, with cocktails, dinner, toasts, songs, a skit, a quiz, a raffle, and (of course) conversation. Planning for 2025 is under way.

On Saturday morning Covent Garden West offered the usual opportunity for dealers to help those who wanted to add to their collections, and the Saturday luncheon and reception included the Dr. John H. Watson Fund's auction, which attracted enthusiastic bidders; the raffle prizes were a set of brass and leather coasters and etched glasses, and an attractive "Muggrave Ritual" shadow box, all hand-crafted by Danna Mancini. Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

You can plan ahead: the next annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars is scheduled for Jan. 17, 2025. You can also plan much farther ahead: the BSI's next special conference (similar to "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at Bear Mountain in 2022) is scheduled for the summer of 2027. If you'd like to have information about future events (and much more) you are welcome to sign up for "News from the BSI" at <www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27>.

One of the added features of the birthday festivities was a performance of Hal Glatzer's new one-act play "FlatFinders 1881" (a humorous exploration of Holmes and Watson's search for a flat they could share), at the Coffee House Club, and it's grand that it was recorded and available on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_51MLXZHPU>.

The Yale Club kindly displayed some of the history of the Baker Street Irregulars in glass cases in the Club's library: the BSI's official gavel, made from wood from 221B, presented to Edgar W. Smith by the Six Napoleons; remnants from the cloth used to make the BSI's first official necktie, made for and worn by Christopher Morley; inscribed books; photographs and minutes from early annual dinners, and much more.

Another nice feature of the festivities was the opportunity to visit the N.Y. Public Library to view their exhibition "Max Beerbohm: The Price of Celebrity" and Beerbohm's caricature of Conan Doyle. The exhibition has closed, but the caricature's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/5xwyy5jk>.

Coming to auction at Potter & Potter on Feb. 15: the second half of Robert Hess' collection (including the only known copy of the first British edition of *The Lost World* in dust jacket, and Sidney Paget's personal robe), and Roy Pilot's library (including the manuscript of *Uncle Bernac*). Their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/2rnd6ds7>.

There are two interesting Paget items on offer at Chorley's in Gloucestershire on Feb. 6: an artist's sketchbook that was owned by Henry Marriott Paget (1856-1936) <www.tinyurl.com/vtxhx2uz>, and another owned by Walter Stanley Paget (1862-1935) <www.tinyurl.com/mpmr8br8>, each with an estimate of £200-£300. Both men were brothers of Sidney Paget, and all three were artists (and illustrated stories by Conan Doyle).

Jan 24 #3 Mark Gatiss' dramatization of "Lot No. 249" aired on BBC Two on Dec. 24 and was streamed on the BBC's iPlayer, for viewers in Britain. As with so many other things on the Internet, there are work-arounds, many of them involving copyright infringement, and (sure enough) that has happened with "Lot No. 249", which is still available at the Dailymotion web-site <www.dailymotion.com>, which is owned by the French media company Vivendi. No spoilers here, for those who haven't seen the show, but Gatiss had fun with the story, adding a new character (with some nice Canonical echoes), and providing a different ending. Conan Doyle's story is of course readily available on-line, in case you'd like to read what inspired Mark Gatiss.

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

Hal Glatzer's *The Sign of Five* (2023; 283 pp., \$25.00) is a collection of five pastiches (reprinted from earlier anthologies) tied to his interests in Hawaii, Gilbert & Sullivan, and much more. His web-site, which is on-line at <www.halglatzer.com>, offers more information about his book, and about his play "Sherlock Holmes and the Volcano Horror" (along with a link to video of the play).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is planning their next excursion, to India, Feb. 22-Mar. 9, 2025; details, as well as a link to a downloadable and colorful brochure, are at <www.tinyurl.com/mhzzsn7u9>, with a request for expressions of interest.

Four pages (all that are known to have survived) of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" were sold at auction at Sotheby's in New York last year for \$95,250 (including the buyer's premium) (Jul 23 #3), and the new owner has sent one of the four pages to auction at RR Auction in Amherst, N.H., on Feb. 22, with an estimate of \$40,000+ <www.tinyurl.com/3mefsu8s>. Randall Stock discusses the manuscript on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/382c5925>.

RR Auction also is offering, on Feb. 14, a 34-page notebook in which Conan Doyle wrote about Spiritualism <www.tinyurl.com/mtsijkja2>, with an estimate of \$8,000+. The web-site has a detailed description of the contents, and images of the pages.

The Brattleboro Reformer reported (Jan. 23) <www.tinyurl.com/yyvscd24> on the Landmark Trust USA's "Snow Golf" skills competition to be held on Feb. 25. The Trust manages Naulakha, Rudyard Kipling's home in Dummerston, Vt., where he is credited with inventing snow golf after being introduced to the game by Conan Doyle in 1894. You can stay at Naulakha for a night (or a week) <www.landmarktrustusa.org/rudyard-kiplings-naulakha>.

"Lion's Mane Mushrooms Make This Crab-Inspired Fried Rice Roar with Flavor" was the headline on Joe Yonan's article in the Washington Post food section on Jan. 10; there was no mention of Sherlock Holmes, but you can read the article (and get the recipe) at <www.tinyurl.com/2jatxpt9>.

Jan 24 #4 "Find your fit as we explore the streets of London and the infamous 221B Baker Street" is the suggestion from Yes.Fit, a company that offers to make running (and walking and bicycling) interesting <yes.fit/races/Sherlock>. Alas, Sherlock no longer is available, but you might still be able to buy the reward merchandise.

Greg Darak has noted a nicely Sherlockian book available from Blackwell's Rare Books in Oxford <www.tinyurl.com/yc5prmkj>: a copy of the first edition of Christina Rossetti's *The Prince's Progress, and Other Poems* (1866) illustrated by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who inscribed the book to Charles A. Howell, "from his affectionate friend." (£7,500). According to the cataloguer, Charles Augustus Howell "was one of the most notorious figures of his day, thinly fictionalized and roundly vilified by Arthur Conan Doyle in his story 'The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton', where he was damned 'the worst man in London.'" And so he was, and there's much more said about Howell and Rossetti and others in the catalog.

The new film "The Color Purple" got a lot of publicity for having the second-highest Christmas Day opening of all time (with \$18.15 million in box-office receipts. Robert Downey Jr.'s "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) holds the all-time record (\$24.6 million) <www.tinyurl.com/mwbkeh2d>.

Sherlockians aren't the only people who celebrate on Jan. 6, according to Country Life <www.tinyurl.com/pz5rbkmc> and <www.tinyurl.com/mrx47htw>.

The manuscript of "The Bully of Brocas Court" is available from Antiquariat Inlibris in Vienna for €75,000 <www.inlibris.com/item/bn60378>. There is a detailed history of the ms. at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/bully-brocas-court-2023.htm>.

Tom Smothers died on Dec. 26. He played the naïve half of the two Smothers Brothers and became a star when their off-beat television series was launched on CBS-TV in 1967. He appeared dressed as Sherlock Holmes in the "Mistaken Identity" episode of television series "Hotel" on Feb. 1, 1984, but (alas) the episode seems not to be available on the Internet.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 120 people have completed all three exams and have received a Doctorate in Sherlockiana. The 2024 Recertification Exam is available on request from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>, and there's more information about the program at <www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym>.

Robert Stek's *An Ancestor of Mine ...* (2022) is a pleasant pastiche revealing that Star Trek's Mr. Spock was the biological father of Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes; you can read it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3w7vyh8j>.

Maryann B. Murray's *Coda* (Ocean Park: CSan Communications, 2023; 302 pp., \$16.95) is set in Montpellier in 1894; Elizabeth Devereaux is in dire peril in a thriller that involves murder, missing documents, and a mysterious Norwegian named Sigerson, who will be familiar to those who remember what Sherlock Holmes was doing in 1894.

Jan 24 #5 Robert Downey Jr. has won this year's Golden Globe award for best supporting actor in a film for his role as Lewis Strauss in "Oppenheimer". Downey has won other Golden Globe awards in the past, including best actor in a musical or comedy, for "Sherlock Holmes" (2009). Indeed, the film was considered to be a musical or comedy. Jeff Bridges won the award that year for best actor in a drama for "Crazy Heart".

A collection of treasures from Queen Mary's Dolls' House will be on display at Windsor Castle this year to celebrate the centenary of its creation <www.tinyurl.com/4j8btf9m>, and there will be an on-line lecture on Apr. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/3ufnsx7e> that may (or may not) mention or show Conan Doyle's manuscript for "How Watson Learned the Trick". Fine Books & Collections (Jan. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/474pr8cf> has a nicely illustrated article about the Doll's House's library.

Jean Upton, the editor of the always-interesting District Messenger (the long-running monthly newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London), has an attractive business card that proclaims that she is a librocubicularist. If you're not familiar with the word, Merriam-Webster has a nice definition <www.tinyurl.com/25uynr33> that credits Christopher Morley (in *The Haunted Bookshop*) for inventing the word.

The China Global Television Network reported on Jan. 4 on a new Sherlock Holmes-themed exhibition at the Hebei Museum in Shijiazhuang (in north-ern China <www.tinyurl.com/29hvfsru> though Mar. 31. This isn't the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition that has been seen in many museums and science centers since it opened in Columbus, Ohio, in 2014.

According to Variety (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/44w2a63r> CBS-TV has given a straight-to-series order for "Watson" (expected to air during the 2024-2025 season). The series is set one year after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, with Morris Chestnut as Watson, who had resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, but "Watson's old life isn't done with him." Craig Sweeny created the series and will be the showrunner and executive producer; he was an executive producer and writer on the "Elementary" series that ran for seven seasons on CBS, and it's obvious that the network is hoping for another success.

According to a story at Crunchyroll (Jan. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/yf7emtmd>, Sherlock Hound will celebrate his 40th anniversary this year. Two digitally remastered compilation films of the 1984 anime series that was directed by Hayao Miyazaki and Kyosuke Mikuriya will be screened throughout Japan beginning on Mar. 22. "His name is Sherlock Hound. It's his business to know what other woofs don't know."

Sherlocktron (Oct 87 #5) was launched by Willis G. Frick in the long-ago era of dial-up phone-line access to the Internet as an electronic bulletin board, and Willis has announced that "time and technology pass all of us by, and Sherlocktron has reached the end of its effective life and has retired to a small fark on the Sussex Downs to keep bees." Sherlocktron was older than the World Wide Web (which was invented in 1989 by Tim Berner-Lee, and opened to the public in 1991). Ave atque vale to Sherlocktron.

Jan 24 #6 The Norwegian Explorers' Christmas Annual for 2023 celebrates the 75th anniversary of the society, with a nice mix of articles essays, pastiches, poetry, artwork, and a puzzle; only a few copies of the 112-page booklet, edited by Ray Riethmeier and Phillip Bergem, are available (\$12.00 postpaid); ask Phillip <pgbergem@gmail.com> if you're in time to order, and he'll tell you how to pay. Back issues for some earlier years, and conference books, also are available.

Theatrical news: Rick Robinson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Final Problem" is running at the Theatre on the Ridge in Paradise, Calif., through Feb. 4 <www.totr.org>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Uptown Theatre in Mount Vernon, Iowa, Feb. 2-10 <www.mvlct.com>.

Kyle Gallagher's "The Man in the Shadows: An Original Telling of Sherlock Holmes" will have its world premiere at the Halifax Playhouse in Halifax, W. Yorks., Feb. 5-9 <www.halifaxplayhouse.org.uk>.

Zoe Drew-King's new play "We Can But Try" is scheduled at the Youth Initiative High School in Viroqua, Wis., Feb. 9-17 <www.yihs.net>.

Nick Lane's "The Valley of Fear" will tour in Great Britain, Mar. 9-Apr. 20 <www.blackeyedtheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Ocala Civic Theatre in Ocala, Fla., Mar. 21-Apr. 7 <www.ocalacivictheatre.com>. It's also due at the Huronia Players Community Theatre in Midland, Ont., on Apr. 26-May 11 <www.huronplayers.ca>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Parsons Stage at Northglenn Arts in Northglenn, Colo., Mar. 21-Apr. 7 <www.phamaly.org>. Also at the Fells Point Studio Theatre in Baltimore, Md., from Apr. 25 to May 19 <www.fpct.org>.

David MacGregor's "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes and the Fallen Soufflé" will be performed at the Sullivan Theater in Baton Rouge, La., Apr. 5-14 <www.sullivantheater.com>.

Max Bush's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Abbey Grange" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Capper Beeches" will be produced at the Patsy Miller Studio Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 25-May 4; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/mps28he7>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes & the First Baker Street Irregular" will be performed at the Warrenton Cultural Center in Warrenton, Ga., May 10-12 <www.areachildrenstheatre.org>.

Margaret Raether's "Sherlock Holmes & the Precarious Position" is due at coming up at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., May 15-June 15; web-site at <www.taproottheatre.org>.

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

Feb 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The Baker Street Irregulars Press has published two new titles: *Clutches of a Fiend* is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (179 pp., \$49.95); edited by Steven T. Doyle, it offers a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Illustrious Client", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary on the manuscript and on various aspects of the story (the Manuscript Series continues to offer readers an opportunity to come close to the moment when the stories were written, and the commentary is delightful).

Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire, edited by Ross E. Davies (211 pp., \$29.95), offers the proceedings and papers of the BSI's conference at the Bear Mountain Inn in 2022, with colorful images of the performers, and all of their scholarship. Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Further to the item about Queen Mary's Doll's House (Jan 14 #5): The Royal Family announced on Jan. 30 that Queen Camilla hosted a reception at Windsor Castle for authors, illustrators, and binders involved in creating a new Modern-Day Miniature Library collection that will be displayed alongside the Dolls' House <www.tinyurl.com/yvsxxuz2>. The 20 authors of the new miniature books include Anthony Horowitz (who has contributed "A Tiny Ghost Story"). The Queen has said that the Dolls' House's library (which has Conan Doyle's manuscript for "How Watson Learned the Trick") is "the most breath-taking space in the house." <www.bbc.com/news/uk-68139937>.

The 34-page notebook in which Conan Doyle wrote about spiritualism, up for bids this month at RR Auction <www.tinyurl.com/ysa6znrj> (Jan 24 #3), estimated at \$8,000, sold for \$12,378 (including the buyer's premium).

CBS' "Watson" (Jan 24 #5) isn't the only Sherlockian television series in the works: according to Variety (Feb. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/kavtm8px>, David Thewlis is due as Holmes in "Sherlock & Daughter" (Nov 23 #1) on the CW channel with Blu Hunt as his daughter Amelia and Dougray Scott as Moriarty.

Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 9,200 entries (with more than 20,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the list's available on-line at <www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html>.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast has announced Brettcon 2024: The 40th Anniversary Celebration <www.tinyurl.com/mpw9zz3e>, scheduled for May 25 in Guildford (Surrey). The podcast <www.sherlockpodcast.com> was created by Gus and Luke Holwerda in 2019, and they've now hosted more than 40 episodes that will be of interest to fans of the Granada series. Episode 41 is a delightful interview with now-94-year-old June Wyndham Davies, who produced the series and tells great stories about it; episode 40 provides a discussion of and a link to video of "The Adventure of the Abbey Treasure" (filmed by Jeremy Brett and Edward Hardwicke in 1988 for the Abbey National Bank). The podcast is well worth exploring, and there's a handsome video trailer for the convention.

Feb 24 #2 An interesting look at the use of artificial intelligence to do research: <www.tinyurl.com/2rweutv2>. From Google Bard or some other AI program, and it's a grand example of how hilarious (and awful) the results can be. Alexander Orlov suggests that you try researching yourself to determine how good an AI program is.

Ray Betzner's "Mrs. Hudson and the Return of Sherlock Holmes" (with Curtis Armstrong as Holmes, Ashley Polasek as Mrs. Hudson, and Ken Ludwig as the narrator and the bust), performed at the William Gillette Luncheon in New York on Jan. 12, is now on-line in the Inner Circle at the Red Circle of Washington's web-site <www.redcircledc.org>.

The Beacon Society has announced its 2024 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Apr. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London reports that there has been enough interest in their next excursion, to India, Feb. 22-Mar. 9, 2025 (Jan 24 #3) for them to proceed with planning; details, and a link to a downloadable and colorful brochure, are at <www.tinyurl.com/44s9fks7>, and there's still time to register interest at their web-site. A more detailed brochure will be available in March.

Wanda Dow has found James Moriarty amongst the staff at Utica University <www.utica.edu/people/james-moriarty>. She also offers a chemistry quiz: what do you get when you combine tungsten, astatine, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen?

The Southern Daily Echo has reported (Feb 19) <tinyurl.com/y4629unh> that most of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel has been demolished, and showed an image of the planned new development. Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912; the Daily Telegraph said on Mar. 20, 2021, that a local historian had found a sketch that showed that his design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

If you don't remember Groucho Marx's "You Bet Your Life" series on NBC-TV, here's a nice excuse to watch it: the final question on Jan. 23, 1958, was Sherlockian <www.youtube.com/watch?v=beTpo2KCSFw> (kindly reported by Ann Marlowe).

Rodger Garrick-Steele died on Dec. 10, 2020, receiving far less publicity when he died than when he was alive and accusing Conan Doyle of murdering Bertram Fletcher Robinson (and having an affair with Fletcher Robinson's wife); he worked hard, and unsuccessfully, to arrange for an exhumation of Fletcher Robinson, hoping to prove the murder, and he wrote *The House of the Baskervilles*, a book which was translated and published in Japan before it was published in Britain in 2005. If you would like to know more about him, you can run a word-search for his name in Steve Mason's compilation of the text of this newsletter from March 1985 onward; it's on-line at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>.

Feb 24 #3 The Salmagundi Club, in addition to hosting the Coffee House Club's presentation of Hal Glatzer's "FlatFinders 1881" during the birthday festivities in New York, also hosted the "6th International Figure Painting Competition", which included Sierk van Meeuwen's attractive "The Coffee Trader's Dilemma" which can be seen at the artist's web-site <www.sierk.art>. The inspiration for the painting was Derrick Belanger's pastiche, published in David Marcum's anthology *The MX Book of New Sherlock Holmes Stories, Part VI* (2017), and reprinted, together with van Meeuwen's artwork, in Phil Growick's anthology *The Art of Sherlock Holmes Global Edition 1* (2020).

Further to the report (Dec 23 #7) on plans for an "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park to open in Tokyo on Mar. 4, there's much more about the theme park, and its Sherlockian features, at <www.tinyurl.com/bdzk3bb8>.

"And here's my tao about happiness. If you want to be happy for an hour, smoke some grass. If you want to be happy for a month, fall in love. If you want to be happy forever, take up book collecting." Mark Hime, in the latest on-line catalog from Bibliotopos <www.bibliotopos.com>.

Sorry about that: the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition (Jan 24 #5) actually opened in Portland, Ore., on Oct. 10, 2013.

The envelope in which the Sept. 1964 issue of the Baker Street Journal arrived also contained a copy of a 100-question Sherlockian quiz prepared by Elliot Kimball, recommended by Bob Schutz, as one of the most remarkable quizzes ever penned. Now the quiz is being reoffered as part of the Beacon Society's Fortescue Scholarship exam program, and if you would like to see (or take) this remarkable quiz, it is available by e-mail from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

Art and Chip Sansom's "The Born Loser" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Jan. 20 <www.gocomics.com/the-born-loser/2024/01/20>; kindly reported by Les Klinger.

A warning for people who buy things from Acorn <www.acrononline.com>: they have a 30-day policy for returns (not stated in their catalog or at their website); I ordered a present from Acorn for someone months ago, and last month learned it was damaged, and they refused to replace it. So if you do order anything from Acorn, don't delay checking for damage.

Wanda Dow asked: what do you get when you combine tungsten, astatine, sulphur, oxygen, and nitrogen? The answer's elementary: W-At-S-O-N. You're welcome to subscribe to her monthly two-page on-line newsletter Papers on the Sundial; it's free, and she's at <hal0tot@verizon.net>.

Fiona Maher, author of *The Secret of the Cottingley Fairies* (Feb 18 #6), has followed up the book with a play: "Sherlock Holmes & the Man Who Believed in Fairies" (which features Holmes, Watson, and Conan Doyle). The play is scheduled for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe later this year, and her Crowdfunder web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2d8465r5> offers video of this month's script-in-hand performance this month.

Feb 24 #4 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the winter issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight* is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

The single page of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" (Jan 24 #3) offered at RR Auction on Feb. 22 (with an estimate of \$40,000+), went unsold when bidding (\$32,120 including the buyer's premium) didn't reach the reserve. Randall Stock discusses the manuscript at <www.tinyurl.com/382c5925>.

The Clients of Adrian Mulliner are planning a meeting on Sept. 26 during the upcoming annual meeting of the Wodehouse Society in Nashville, Tenn. More information is available from Elaine Coppola <emcoppola@syrr.edu> or Curtis Armstrong <isle14cj@gmail.com>. The annual meetings of the Wodehouse Society can be (they claim) "binges on a scale calculated to stagger humanity" <www.wodehouse.org/conventionsinfo.html>. Adrian Mulliner will be found in Wodehouse's pastiche "From a Detective's Notebook", first published in *Punch* in 1959 and now on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3sfbhp96>.

Canonical Cornerstones: Foundational Books of a Sherlockian Library, edited by Peter Eckrich and Rob Nunn (Indianapolis: Gasogene, 2023; 125 pp., \$24.95), is a collection of essays by Sherlockians who explain in detail why the 17 books they recommend are both useful and enjoyable.

And The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2023 Sherlockian Annual (Gasogene, 2024; 76 pp., \$26.95) celebrates 40 years of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series with articles and interviews, plus Ray Betzner's warm tribute to Old Irregular Charles E. Honce, and much more.

Also: *Sherlock Holmes: Immortal Detective: Selected Writings of Donald A. Redmond, Volume 1* (Gasogene, 2024; 216 pp., \$28.95), edited by Christopher Redmond, is a welcome collection of his father's articles, notes, and essays, from 1964 to 1998, both published and unpublished, offering a welcome opportunity to see just how much fun can be had in the world of Sherlock Holmes. Gasogene's web-site's at <www.wessexpress.com>.

Country Life continues to publish interesting articles about stately homes in Britain, including one (on Jan. 28) on Madresfield Court (in Worcestershire) <www.tinyurl.com/yxzv8kyv>; a house that has been owned by the same family for more than 900 years.

Historical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes, by Neil McCaw (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019; 425 pp., \$116.99 cloth/\$50.00 paper), offers more than 1,000 entries on the life and times of Holmes and Conan Doyle, as well as a chronology and bibliography; McCaw, who died in 2020, was a professor of Victorian literature and culture at Winchester University, and the academic director of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth, and wrote that his "idea in writing a historical dictionary on a collection of what are ostensibly fictional stories" has been to help readers "begin thinking about the stories from other perspectives," and he has done just that.

Feb 24 #5 The Public Domain Review web-site has published a splendid article about J. M. Barrie's *My Lady Nicotine*, in which he told his readers how wonderful it was to smoke the Arcadia mixture in his pipe. Barrie was a friend of Conan Doyle, and it's surely no accident that Sherlock Holmes mentions the Arcadia mixture (in "The Crooked Man") (Barrie's Arcadia mixture actually was Carrera's Craven mixture, and Carrera happily advertised that). The article (and the book) are conveniently available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/2h8ssnhf>.

It should be noted that Surbrug, in the U.S., marketed an Arcadia mixture, quoting Barrie on its tins and cans, quite likely without permission from Barrie. You can find their tins easily at eBay and elsewhere.

It's unique, and advertised at £224,850, Country Life reported on Feb. 1: a Land Rover Range Rover that was owned (and used) by Queen Elizabeth II <www.tinyurl.com/2jx3x6kk>. The Duke of Edinburgh drove the car, accompanied by the Queen, in 2016 to greet President Obama and the First Lady when their helicopter Marine One landed on the grounds of Windsor Castle, and then drove them all back to the castle.

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Mark of the Mongoose* (Nov 23 #1) has been nominated for an Agatha (best children's young adult mystery novel); the winners will be announced at Malice Domestic 26 in Bethesda in April. The Internet's always full of rumor about plans for something near or far in the future, but there was a report at the Collider web-site on Nov. 7 <www.collider.com/enola-holmes-3-netflix> that Scott Stuber, chairman of Netflix Films, said that "we're working once again on a screenplay" for a third "Enola Holmes" film.

"Visit Toronto" offers a video tour of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfV5_66sAEk>.

The February issue of The District Messenger, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is the first issue edited by Holly Turner, who has succeeded Jean Upton. The District Messenger does for the Brits (and others) what this newsletter does for the Yanks (and others), and all its more-than-180 issues are archived on-line at the Society's web-site at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter>.

The ACD Society had its annual meeting during the birthday festivities in New York, on Jan. 11 at the Mysterious Bookshop. Video of the presentation its honors by Ross Davies, and a running of this year's Wessex Cup, is on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4OPBtt6eZE>.

This month's auction at Potter & Potter of material from the collections of Bob Hess and Roy Pilot made many new owners happy indeed. The star lot in the auction was the manuscript of "Uncle Bernac" that sold for \$37,000 (plus buyer's premium); Randall Stock's detailed discussion of the manuscript in on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4wbj5pbu>. Sidney Paget's dressing gown sold for \$3,400. The complete auction catalog (with prices realized) is at <www.tinyurl.com/hj3szkzp>.

Feb 24 #6 David Kahn died on Jan. 23. His deep interest in cryptology led him to write *The Codebreakers: The Story of Secret Writing* (1967); it was and is widely regarded as the best book ever written about codes and ciphers, and those who deal with them (one of them was Sherlock Holmes and the dancing men cipher). He was appointed scholar-in-residence at the National Security Agency in 1995, and he donated his collection of books and artifacts to the National Cryptological Museum of the NSA.

Laurie R. King's new *The Lantern's Dance* (Nov 23 #5) has its own page at her web-site <<https://laurierking.com/books/the-lanterns-dance>>, where she offers a downloadable reading-group guide to the novel. Laurie is an expert at using the Internet to keep her fans interested in her books, and her web-site's well worth exploring.

Laurie also contributed an interesting post about "Sherlock Holmes, That Enigma We Know So Well" to the CrimeReads blog on Feb. 14. She explains that "I write Holmes as a character, and it's startling how much I've had to make up."

Neil Nyren offered an impressive look at Laurie R. King's "Mary Russell" series at Crime Reads on Feb. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/3ntvvtmtp>. And there's still time to sign up for her "Russell & Holmes" days in April in Seattle, Bethesda, and Nashville <www.laurierking.com/russell-holmes-days>.

The winter issue of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* (published twice a year by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) offers the late Russell Merritt's vocative and well-illustrated article "Seeing Paget in Colour", and much more. Information about subscription, and membership in the Society, will be found on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/ysd85wax>.

Illeana Douglas' *Connecticut in the Movies: From Dream Houses to Dark Suburbia* (Essex: Lyons Press, 2023; 340 pp., \$39.95) is a pleasant and well-illustrated tribute to films made in, or related to, the state, including William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1916), because his magnificent home Gillette Castle is in the state, and (although not Sherlockian) "Mr. Blaudings Builds His Dream House" (1948), which was directed by H. C. Potter, a member of the Baker Street Irregulars.

Holmes, Marple & Poe, co-authored by James Patterson and Brian Sitts (New York: Little, Brown, 2024; 341 pp., \$30.00), has three private detectives (Brendan Holmes, Margaret Marple, and Auguste Poe) solving crimes in modern-day New York; they're well aware of their namesakes, and their actual identities are an additional mystery.

Terry Hunt's presentation about Christopher Morley at the Bryant Library in Roslyn, N.Y., on Mar.13 will be available on-line; you can register at the Library's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/57frrswa> (scroll down to "Christopher Morley Zoom Lecture"). Morley founded the Baker Street Irregulars, and his one-room writing studio, the Knothole, is preserved in the county park named in his honor near the Library. Terry, former senior curator of history and supervisor of historic sites for Nassau County, was responsible for the Knothole for many years.

Feb 24 #7 The Beacon Society continues to offer resources to help Sherlockian societies, and to help people find Sherlockian societies <www.tinyurl.com/2j486ym2>. Mike McSwiggin's interactive map of the active geographical societies is useful indeed, and their web-page now has my alphabetical list of all of the Sherlockian societies (well, all that I know of) that formerly was available at Sherlocktron, so that you can see the imaginative names that people have chosen for their societies. If you like numbers, there's a total of 987 societies on the list, including 477 active societies.

Social media seems to be an interesting way to reach people who share your interests. Howard Ostrom reports close to 5,000 members (in at least 60 countries) at Facebook for his "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (which covers stage, screen, radio, television, and the Internet); you can see (or follow) his posts at <www.tinyurl.com/47v7cufx>.

Will Thomas' *Death and Glory* (New York: Minotaur, 2024; 292 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in the fine series that stars private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and Thomas Llewelyn (his faithful and long-suffering partner); the series now runs to 15 titles, and this time involves a plot by survivors of the Confederacy who hope to revive their lost cause and want possession of a warship that was bought from Britain in 1865 but never delivered. Thomas again offers nice plotting and interesting characters.

"It's nice I've been chosen," Louis Hector said to Edith Meiser, after his successful audition for her "Sherlock Holmes" radio series (according to Bernes Robert in the Oakland Tribune, Apr. 7, 1935), "I used to play the role in England." Does anyone know when and where and in what play? According to Wikipedia, Hector emigrated to the U.S. in 1920.

"The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" (directed by Guy Ritchie) will be released on Apr. 19; the trailer's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/42fx89uy>. The film, based on Damien Lewis' book *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: How Churchill's Secret Warriors Set Europe Ablaze and Gave Birth to Modern Black Ops* (Nov 16 #6) may (or may not) mention that members of the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street, called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars.

"Gilded Newport Mysteries: Murder at the Breakers" is a new movie available on the Hallmark channel <www.tinyurl.com/ekbr9K96>. According to a review at the Film Fugitives web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2yewh4un> there are references to Conan Doyle in the film (and there are plot spoilers in the review).

"Mountain creature -- with 'massive' head and blue eyes -- discovered as new species," read the headline on a report in the Miami Herald on Feb. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/ybabj7kn>. The "mountain creature" is a frog, about 1.3 inches long, and its species is *Caligophryne doylei* (Doyle's mist frog). Its Wikipedia entry <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caligophryne> reports that it is found on a tepui on the border between Brazil and Venezuela and was named in 2023 in honor of Conan Doyle, author of *The Lost World*.

Feb 24 #8 Elizabeth Crowens' *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Olney: Level Best, 2024; 254 pp., \$16.95) features young and inexperienced private detective Babs Norman and her partner Guy Brandt, who have been hired by Basil Rathbone in 1940 to find his kidnapped dog (since the police just ask, "Sherlock Holmes has lost his dog?") There are other movie stars (and other kidnapped dogs), and of course villainy afoot, and the story's told with (sometimes slapstick) humor. The author will be at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York for a launch party on Apr. 4, and her web-site's at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Bates Masonic Lodge in Attleboro, Mass., Mar. 1-17 <www.tinyurl.com/sdk5zs2a>.

Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the O'Reilly Theatre in Dublin, Ireland, Mar. 7-8; their web-site is at <www.oreilleytheatre.com>.

Kent R. Brown's children's play "Dracula: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" will be performed at the Traveling Players Studio in Tysons, Va., Mar. 9-17 <www.tinyurl.com/h3a273h9>.

"The Great Murder Mystery" is a dinner-theater presentation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" scheduled at the Lost Estate in London, Mar. 12-May 24 <www.tinyurl.com/4hywm73a>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" will be performed as an "old-fashioned radio-style play" in New Brunswick, Canada, Mar. 16-23 <www.tinyurl.com/3yx9dwe4>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of Four" is scheduled at the Robin Hood Theatre in Newark-on-Trent, Notts., Mar. 23-26 <www.rhtc.co.uk>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is coming up at the Alvin Kraus Theatre in Bloomsburg, Pa., Mar. 28-Apr. 14 <www.bte.org>.

Richard Levin's "Sherlock Holmes & the Star of Arabia" will be performed at Tudor House in Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Apr. 26-May 4; their web-site is at <www.heislertheater.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." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (which is when I entered the computer age), you can now do that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and kindly posts at the Beacon Society's web-site at <www.beaconsociety.com/scuttlebutt-from-the-spermacetti-press.html>. If you occasionally forget that the PDF of a new issue of this newsletter is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail.

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Mar 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

The winter issue of Canadian Holmes (the journal of the Bootmakers of Toronto) offers Donny Zaldin's article about the Agony Column (in Victorian culture and in the Canon), Mark Jones' discussion of Conan Doyle's short story "The Black Doctor", and much more. Subscriptions are included with membership, \$50.00 a year (print) or \$35.00 (PDF), and \$12.00 postpaid for a single issue <www.torontobootmakers.com/membership>.

"Money back if not satisfied" was an offer made by Harper Brothers to its customers in 1929, and the Japanese publisher Hayakawa makes the same offer for its new translation of Tom Mead's *Death and the Conjuror*. You can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/2s426afz>.

"The Case of Sherlock Holmes' Motorcycle" offers Brendan McAleer's amusing discussion of (and answer to) the question: "what kind of motorcycle did Sherlock Holmes ride?" You can read his article (and answer) at the Hagerty Media web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5epuncsd>.

Jennie Paton has reported the discovery of some interesting footage from the long-lost Universal film "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (now available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ov0WnRzLrhQ>).

Sasha Archibald's article in the Public Domain Review about P. H. Ditchfield's *Books Fatal to Their Authors* (1895) isn't Sherlockian, but it's a fascinating look at how dangerous being an author can be; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/5n77vupc>.

The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes, edited by Jonathan Cranfield (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2023; 359 pp., £125.00), is the second volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, and includes the text of the book, detailed introductions; comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, the text of "The Cardboard Box" and a discussion of the story's history, and explanatory notes. Some may question the publisher's boast that it's "the first scholarly edition" of the book (if they are aware of *The Oxford Sherlock Holmes* and Leslie S. Klinger's *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library and New Annotated Sherlock Holmes*), but Edinburgh's project will include much of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian work).

The artist's sketchbooks owned by Henry Marriott Paget and Walter Stanley Paget (Sidney Paget's brothers), offered at Chorley's in Gloucestershire on Feb. 6 (Jan 24 #2) each estimated at £200-£300, were sold for £150 each <www.tinyurl.com/mz9mhvyf>.

The Daily Beast says that "Benny Hill, classic '80s video games, Voltron, and Sherlock Holmes are components of this zany gem," its review (Feb. 27) of the film "Hundreds of Beavers" <www.tinyurl.com/3zruvp55>. There is a trailer at the official web-site <www.hundredsofbeavers.com>, and you can see images of the Holmes and Watson beavers at the film's page at Facebook <www.tinyurl.com/52vzt53u>.

Mar 24 #2 Sad news for those who have procrastinated about visiting Lew Trenchard, the home of Sabine Baring-Gould (Dec 88 #2 and May 18 #2). He wrote about the folk-tales of Dartmoor, including the spectral hounds, and his grandson William S. Baring-Gould's biography of Sherlock Holmes used details from his grandfather's life in describing Holmes' early years. Sabine Baring-Gould also was visited by Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes in Laurie R. King's novel *The Moor* (1998). Lew Trenchard, run as a luxury hotel and restaurant for the last twelve years, has now been closed due to "difficult trading conditions," and is expected to return to Baring-Gould family ownership. Oliver Mundy kindly forwarded one of the on-line reports <www.tinyurl.com/3v5dn57a>. One of the very best items on the restaurant menu (in 2004) was the Devonshire clotted cream ice cream.

The Japanese eight-episode series "Miss Sherlock" (Oct 18 #5) is available on HBO Max, and it is well worth watching; it stars Yûko Takeuchi as Sherlock and Shihori Kanjiya as her friend Wato-san, and is full of Canonical echoes <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss_Sherlock>.

Bill Seil has reported that Harry Bliss' comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Feb. 26 <www.gocomics.com/bliss/2024/02/26>.

Country Life continues to publish interesting articles about stately homes in Britain, including one (on Jan. 28) on Madresfield Court (in Worcestershire) <www.tinyurl.com/yxzv8kyv>; a house that has been owned by the same family for more than 900 years.

The first of the "obligatory Canonical toasts" listed in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Baker Street Irregulars is to The Woman, and episode #282 of the interviews by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/bzce3t8b> is their discussion of "A History of The Woman" with Beverly Wolov, who was honored with that toast in 1997.

"The Holmes You Never Knew: Black American Adaptations Then and Now" is a virtual lecture by Ann McClellan at the Public Library in Groton, Mass., on Apr. 23 (7:00-8:00 pm); she will discuss the Broadway musical "In Dahomey" (1902), the silent film "A Black Sherlock Holmes" (1918), jazz references, graphic novels, and modern fan fiction, and the registration link for the Zoom event is at <www.tinyurl.com/5n7uekbn>.

There was a colorful report about The Langham in Upscale Living Magazine on Feb. 15 <www.upscalelivingmag.com/features/the-langham-hotel>; it's a lot fancier now than it was in 1889, when Conan Doyle dined there (and was commissioned to write "The Sign of the Four").

Marvin Lachman died on Oct. 21. Marv was an outstanding scholar of crime and mystery fiction, and won an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America for his work on *The Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* (1976). He also received their Raven Award (for significant contributions to the genre) in 1997, and his later books included *The Heirs of Anthony Boucher* (2005) and *The Villainous Stage* (2014). He was the fan guest of honor at Bouchercon in 1984, and was knowledgeable and helpful to a host of friends.

Mar 24 #3 The Internet continues to offer a flood of rumors about, and comment on, the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, and occasionally older news turns up. "Sherlock creators reveal their choices for female Sherlock Holmes," was the announcement at the Digital Spy web-site on July 27, 2020 <www.tinyurl.com/2sfbtadra>. Steven Moffat and Mark Gatiss had suggested Michelle Gomez, Phoebe Waller-Bridge, and Olivia Colman, and producer Sue Vertue proposed Jodie Comer (you can easily find their images and resumes on-line). But there were no suggestions for a female Watson; "You know what I get stuck on?" Moffat said, "Who is John Watson as a woman?" And yes, all seven seasons of "Elementary" had aired by then.

Yes, that interesting footage from the long-lost Universal film "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dracula" (Mar 24 #2) might well have been posted on Apr. 1.

The Kyodo News reported on Mar. 1 <www.tinyurl.com/3kntkn2v> that the "Immersive Fort Tokyo" theme park is now open; its web-site shows some of its Sherlockian atmosphere <www.immersivefort.com/en>. There's much more in a full-scale (and colorful) review posted to the Japan Wireless web-magazine on Mar. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/mww6tuzn>.

Mark Johann <mkr9905@gmail.com> wonders if anyone knows anything about a plastic token, 1.25" in diameter, with interesting Sherlockian artwork. The M.A.T.C.A. was the Maryland Amusement Token Collectors Association, founded in 1979 (but apparently no longer active).

Possibly something truly new for Sherlockians: Jennie Paton reports a video review <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z07f7XgHBpw> of Jorge Félix's *The Baker Street Canon* (2024), which can be found easily at Amazon (for Kindle only); the video was created by someone who used invideo AI, and it's quite possible that the book also is an AI product. There's another video from invideo AI at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=z6J0k2_1368>, but Jorge may be the first AI author of a Sherlockian book. There is a lot more about Amazon and AI at <www.tinyurl.com/2md975sk>. Note that invideo AI should not be confused with Nvidia, which is a dominant supplier of artificial intelligence hardware and software.

"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar" is a new film, nominated for an Oscar (best live action short film), based on a short story by Roald Dahl, now available on Netflix, with some fine actors, and well done indeed. Samantha Wolov has noted that in an early scene in a hospital a doctor is seen sitting at a table holding a book that has a Sherlock Holmes silhouette on its cover (a nod, perhaps, to Benedict Cumberbatch, who's one of the stars in the film. We'll be seeing more Roald Dahl stories on Netflix: in Sept. 2021 Netflix bought the Roald Dahl Story Company for \$686 million.

Sonia Fetherston has reported a tea available from the Republic of Tea in Larkspur, Calif. <www.republicoftea.com/calm-focus/p/v20851>, that may be of interest to Sherlockians: it's a green tea, with uplifting peppermint and lion's mane mushroom extract, and a touch of bright lemon. She found it in her CostPlus World Market, so it might be in other local stores.

Mar 24 #4 The winter issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Gareth A. Reeves' article on "Examining Trace Fossils in 'The Terror of Blue John Gap'", David Sanders' report on Dana Richards' lecture on "Conan Doyle and The Fires of Fate", and much more. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G6, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Elizabeth Crowens, author of *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8) will be happy to speak to Sherlockian societies via Zoom or in person. She lives in New York City, e-mail at <greatyear111@gmail.com>, and website at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

You can watch Sherlock's Jewel come from behind to finish second on Mar. 9 at Tampa Bay Downs <www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7MQZxigEMc>; video kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Philip Cunningham is compiling a census of Michael Murphy's *Conferment by Needle*, a pamphlet issued in 1980 reprinting Vincent Starrett's correspondence with T. S. Eliot about Eliot's honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic); there were 230 copies, 1-221 numbered and nine unnumbered, some signed or inscribed by Murphy in black or green ink. Phil would like to hear from anyone who has a copy <pjcl21@comcast.net>.

In case you weren't watching the Oscars ceremony this month, Robert Downey Jr., who has played Sherlock Holmes in two films, won as best actor in a supporting role as (Lewis S. Strauss in "Oppenheimer"), and "The Wonderful World of Henry Sugar" (Mar 24 #3) won as best live-action short film.

Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki won his second Oscar (for best animated feature film) for "The Boy and the Heron". His first Oscar was for "Spirited Away" (2001), and he was the director of six early episodes of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" (1983).

The manuscripts of four unpublished short stories by A. A. Milne, one of them an amusing Sherlock Holmes pastiche, have been published in the new *The Complete Short Stories of A. A. Milne* (Richmond: Farrago, 2024); 304 pp., £12.99/\$22.27). The stories were found by the agent of the Milne estate in his papers at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas, and the new book has an introduction written by Gyles Brandreth, who imagines Milne in the next world, sitting on a heavenly cloud with two of his good friends and personal heroes, Conan Doyle and Barrie. If you'd like to see the manuscript of the Sherlock Holmes story, it sold at auction in 2018 <www.tinyurl.com/4krrckc6> for \$900 (including the buyer's premium).

The new story ("Elementary, My Dear Vincent") appears to have been written and sent in 1933 to Vincent Seligman, and it's a nice addition to Milne's Sherlockian credentials, which started with "The Rape of the Sherlock" in *Vanity Fair* (Oct. 15, 1903). The burlesque was his first published fiction; it's not in the new book, but was reprinted in *Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine* (Feb. 1974).

Mar 24 #5 *A West Wind*, edited by Thomas A. Horrocks and Ray Betzner (New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2024; 204 pp., \$39.95), is subtitled "How America and Americans Influenced the Sherlockian Canon," and offers interesting essays that include Curtis Armstrong's expert analysis of just how good an actor Sherlock Holmes was when he pretended to be an American, Burt Wolder's well-illustrated examination of how Americans saw Holmes when the stories were first published, and many more. You can order the book from the BSI at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books>.

Michael Culver died on Feb. 27. He began acting on stage in Britain, and went on to a career that lasted more than 50 years. Best known, perhaps, for his death scene (as Captain Needa) in "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back" (1980), he also played Sir Reginald Musgrave in the Granada version of "The Musgrave Ritual" (1986).

For everyone who fondly remembers Sherlock Hemlock: Jennie Paton has found a nice compilation of his many appearances on "Sesame Street" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxVUNwZo_UyO02nZVQyDlPQDBrALPFI_C>.

"Remembering Gene Wilder" (a new 92-minute documentary now in limited release in U.S. theaters) <www.tinyurl.com/2m8kjymp> has had nice reviews; one hopes that it includes footage from "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), a film which he wrote, directed, and starred in, and that it will soon be available on one of the cable channels.

Petri Wine was heavily advertised in the good old days, and an unusual porcelain enamel garage sign was recently offered at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/5ddj7wu7> by a dealer in Australia, for AU\$180.00 (plus shipping, of course). It would seem that Petri's advertising was different down under than here (there is no date for the sign).

UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) has recognized Exeter as a City of Literature, and Exeter is celebrating the event with colorful murals at the city's Great Western Railways station. The murals include scenes from books by famous authors, and the announcement by the Exeter City Council allows you to see one of the murals <www.tinyurl.com/yc5e537k>. There's no mention of the Great Western in the Canon, but Holmes and Watson must have used it when they traveled to Exeter in two of their cases.

Joel Cohen has reported a colorful slide-show on "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Poisonous Plants" at the web-site of the Science History Institute in Philadelphia <www.tinyurl.com/yckb3ust>.

The first volume of Tripwire's graphic novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie* <www.tinyurl.com/4zk7an7p> is now in print (96 pp., \$35.00), and the first few pages are available (free) on the Global Comix digital platform <www.tinyurl.com/5n83r7sa>. It's an alternate-universe science fiction story, with striking artwork, and Oswald Mosely (leader of the British Union of Fascists) as the villain. Tripwire's web-site's at <www.trpwire1001.bigcartel.com>.

Mar 24 #6 "Conan Doyle's books are always so good," the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII) wrote in 1911, thanking someone for sending him three charming books. The letter was offered at International Autograph Auctions Europe on Mar. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/x58f5axv>, with an estimate of €200-€300, and it was bought for €320 (plus buyer's premium). One hopes, of course, that the fortunate buyer will eventually someday be able to identify those three charming books.

It's always interesting when films and television are reviewed by real experts: Jennie Paton spotted the Thoroughbred Racing Commentary web-site's review of various versions of "Silver Blaze" on Feb. 25 (Granada came in first) <www.tinyurl.com/2b5h2v9z>.

The 2023 Baker Street Almanac is now on-line and available without charge <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2023.html>; more than 364 pages, so it takes a while to download the PDF file, but it's well worth it. That means that the print version of the 2024 Almanac is almost ready; the URL also offers information on how to subscribe.

Laurie R. King has begun work on her next novel, about Mary Russell's Uncle Jake (who gave her, and then taught her how to use, her first throwing knife. You can read the (possible) opening of the Prologue at her blog at <www.tinyurl.com/ymx4n6bh>.

The Swann Galleries auction of material from the Steve Forbes Collection included a lot with nine manuscript pages from, and other material related to, the last chapter ("Singular Records of a Circle") of Conan Doyle's *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930), estimated at \$3,000-\$4,000; it sold for \$2,400 (plus the buyer's premium). Randall Stock's discussion of the manuscript is at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/edge-unknown-2024.htm>.

There's continuing discussion of what can happen when characters enter the public domain, and what has happened with and to Winnie the Pooh. "Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey" (2023) was so successful that there's now a sequel <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnie-the-Pooh:_Blood_and_Honey>.

There are some people who still have 16mm projectors: a print of Christopher Plummer's television film "Silver Blaze" (1977) was sold this month at eBay for \$115 <www.tinyurl.com/yved86hw>.

The two "Moriarty" series now available at Audible (Sep 23 #5) continue to be well-reviewed and there was an interesting interview with Phil LaMarr (who plays Sherlock Holmes) posted at the Bleeding Cool web-site (Nov. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/23zjvj94>.

Ross Davies has discovered an interesting (and expensive) letter from F. Scott Fitzgerald offered by a New York dealer <www.tinyurl.com/mvhwf8s> in which Fitzgerald mentions having written an "utterly imitative" Sherlock Holmes story. This may (or may not) have become his first appearance in print: "The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage" (non-Sherlockian), which was published in a school magazine in 1909 (Mar 17 #6). Fred Dannay found the story and reprinted it in Ellery Queen's *Mystery Magazine* (Mar. 1960) and in *Ellery Queen's 15th Mystery Annual* (1960).

Mar 24 #7 John Allen's *Stylometric Analysis of the Sherlock Holmes Canon* (Allen & Allen Semiotics, 2021; 57 pp., \$5.95) offers the basis behind his earlier *Shadow Woman: The Creator of Sherlock Holmes and Brimstone* (Mar 18 #4); Allen has used the function-word frequencies of Conan Doyle's stories and concluded this his first wife Louise wrote 27 of the Sherlock Holmes short stories and that his second wife Jean wrote 28 (with "The Empty House" being the only one written by Conan Doyle). Some of his non-Sherlockian stories also were written by Louise and Jean. Allen also has a Louise Conan Doyle Cyclopedia web-site, where he has been blogging since June 2017 <www.louiseconandoyle.com>.

It may not be the better-known Guinness World Records, but on Feb. 16 the World Record Academy listed the world's largest Sherlock Holmes collection at the University of Minnesota <www.tinyurl.com/2pyn2x7c> (with some nice images of the collection).

Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Dorian Gray* (New York, Titan, 2024; 353 pp., \$25.99) is the third in his "classified dossier" series. There are vampires galore, including Dracula and Mina and (now) Watson, who with Holmes are confronted with vicious enemies that include H. G. Wells' Doctor Moreau. Dorian Gray is decidedly different from the character in Oscar Wilde's story, and the focus of Klaver's book is on Watson rather than Holmes. The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.

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

Further to the item (Jan 24 #5) about the celebration of the 40th anniversary of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound", Jennie Paton discovered a nice post to the SoraNews24 web-site (Mar. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/4t7yttj7>; with an image of the poster for the new theatrical release (and a trailer for the older Blu-ray collection).

Holly Turner has reported in the March issue of the District Messenger on an antique dealer's offer of a silver salver presented to Dr. Joseph Bell by the Glasgow Infirmary in April 1862 <www.tinyurl.com/727wja85>.

The District Messenger, launched in 1982 as the "grapevine service of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is an excellent monthly round-up of goings on in the Sherlockian and Doylean world in Britain and elsewhere; current and back issues are available at <www.tinyurl.com/34u876mj>.

Les Klinger has now edited 17 volumes in the Library of Congress' Crime Classics series; the latest is Richard Harding Davis' atmospheric *In the Fog* (1901). You can sample Les' introduction to the reprint at the Crime-Reads web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4bppwczu>. It's not really true that everything has a connection to Sherlock Holmes, but: the book's first edition had grand illustrations by Frederic Dorr Steele, and Davis mentored young Vincent Starrett at the beginning of his brief career as a war correspondent.

Mar 24 #8 There's all sorts of theatrical news: Joe and Brad Dickenson's "Sherlock Holmes: The Melodrama" is on at the Pocket Sandwich Theatre in Carrollton, Tex., through May 11 <www.pocketsandwich.com>.

James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" continues on tour in Britain through July 6 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com/what-s-on>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be running at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, B.C., Apr. 11-20 <www.gatewaytheatre.com>; presented in English with traditional and simplified Chinese subtitles (certainly understandable in a city that's said to have a population that's 74% ethnically Chinese). It also is scheduled at the Bell Tower Theater in Dubuque, Iowa, on Apr. 12-28 <www.belltowertheater.net>; and will be touring in England, on Apr. 20-27 <www.facebook.com/minttheatresociety>. It's next at the Greenbrier Valley Theatre in Lewisburg, W.Va., on May 10-18 <www.gvtheatre.org/baskerville>; and at the Ruth Humphreys Brown Theatre in Creede, Colo., May 25-Sept. 14 <www.creederep.org>.

"Sherlock & Cinders" (by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crosby) is scheduled at the Muse Theater in Jefferson City, Mo., Apr. 18-20; their web-site's at <www.itsybitsyboradway.com>.

Teresa Pesce's "Sherlock" will have its world premiere at the Panida Theater in Sandpoint, Idaho, Apr. 19-27 <www.panida.org>.

Max Bush's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of Abbey Grange" and "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Capper Beeches" will be produced at the Patsy Miller Studio Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Apr. 25-May 4; their web-site's at <www.tinyurl.com/mps28he7>.

Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" has been scheduled at the Placer Repertory Theater in Rocklin, Calif., May 3-4 <www.placerrep.org>.

Ron Kelly Spurles' humorous "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Heiress" will be performed radio-style (BBC in 1928) at the Sackville Legion in Sackville, NB, May 4 <www.tinyurl.com/ymamsrd2>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is to be performed at Wollondilly Anglican College in Tahmoor, N.S.W., May 7-9 <www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1178632?>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" is scheduled at the 59E59 Theaters in New York, May 22-June 9 <www.tinyurl.com/mrx9dzkc>; it's a one-man show starring Tim Marriott.

"Sherlock and Watson: A Murder in the Garden" is a new comedy from Calf 2 Cow, launching a tour in Britain at the Maumbury Rings in Dorchester, Dorset, on June 7 <www.calf2cow.co.uk/sherlockandwatson>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in Cape May, N.J., July 17-Aug. 25; web-site at <www.capemaystage.org>.

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Apr 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

According to Variety (Jan. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/44w2a63r> CBS-TV has given a straight-to-series order for "Watson" (expected to air during the 2024-2025 season). The series is set one year after Holmes' death at the Reichenbach, with Morris Chestnut as Watson, who had resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, but "Watson's old life isn't done with him." Craig Sweeny created the series and will be the showrunner and executive producer; he was an executive producer and writer on the "Elementary" series that ran for seven seasons on CBS, and it's obvious that the network is hoping for another success.

The latest (unconfirmed) film rumor is about plans for a new "Young Sherlock" movie based on Andrew Lane's Young Sherlock series of novels, in development at Motive Pictures, noted at the Covered Geekly web-site on Apr. 9 <www.tinyurl.com/fh4pmjzj>, and headed directly to the "don't hold your breath" file.

Admirers of Professor Ratigan surely will enjoy the post by Eileen Gonzalez at the Popverse web-site on Mar. 28; she explains "why the Great Mouse Detective's Professor Ratigan is one of the great Disney villains of all time" <www.tinyurl.com/mrdht5p2>.

When in Japan: you can visit the Sherlock Holmes Pub in Osaka. There's a brief video tour <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NfaXYbjEwys>, reported by Yuichi Hirayama.

I've mentioned Neve Rendell's blog "The Great Baz" before (Jul 13 #2), and am happy to recommend it again, for the three-part post about who actually wrote Basil Rathbone's autobiography *In and Out of Character* (1962), kindly reported by Ann Marlowe <www.tinyurl.com/3j2xch8e>.

Cliff Goldfarb, who likely isn't the only Sherlockian interested in genealogy, has reported Sherlock Cohn, who's really Ava Cohn, a photo genealogist whose web-site's at <www.sherlockcohn.com>.

I don't generally report on Sherlockian statues and sculptures and miniatures, because there are so many of them now, but Jenny Paton has noted an unusual "Holmes and Watson" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=lhV86mLROK8>. Available in May for £69.00 <www.tinyurl.com/83hb5ezk>.

Bill Seil has kindly reported an amusing interview with William Shatner in 2004 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuz0bivB3wc> in which he recalls acting with Basil Rathbone. "Billy Budd" was broadcast in 1955 in the (Canadian) CBC television series "Encounter", and the episode is conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GQasQrSjW0>.

William Samples died on Jan. 2. He began his acting career in a Canadian film in 1980, and went on to voice a long list of characters in television animations, including Chief Inspector Greyson in 26 episodes of "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" (1999-2001).

Apr 24 #2 Brenda Rossini, in her *Oscar Slater: A Killer Exposed* (MX Publishing, 2023; 405 pp., \$36.95), offers a carefully researched discussion of the murder of Marion Gilchrist, the trial and conviction of Oscar Slater for her murder, and Conan Doyle's long (and successful) campaign to free Slater from prison. Rossini concludes that Slater actually was guilty of the crime, and explains in detail why she believes that others, including Conan Doyle, who wrote about the case and believed Slater innocent, were wrong.

It isn't Sherlockian, but: Nicholas Meyer, the director of "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" (and the author of a grand series of Sherlockian pastiches) was featured in a symposium about the film arranged by the American Society of Music Arrangers and Composers on Feb. 27. It's interesting, and nicely available on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/4me36kry>. Kindly reported by Samantha Wolov.

Richard L. Kellogg reports that *Barry Baskerville and the Stolen Car* (Airship 27), the ninth in his series of children's books, is now available at Amazon and elsewhere.

Walter W. Jaffee ("The Retired Colourman") died on Mar. 8. He had a long career as an officer in the U.S. Merchant Marine, authored 18 books about ships and the sea, and edited *Mobile Holmes: Transportation in the Sherlockian Canon* in 2017 for the Baker Street Irregulars Press. He also was a long-time member of the Scowlers and Molly Maguires, and he received his Investiture from the BSI in 2009.

Judge Dee and Lao Sheh met with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in London in 1924 in John Shen Yen Nee and SJ Rozan's "The Killing of Henry Davenport" in Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine (Jan./Feb. 2023), and while their new *The Murder of Mr. Ma* (New York: Soho Crime, 2024; 300 pp., \$25.95) is not Sherlockian, it's inspired by the Canon and has Judge Dee and Lao Sheh again in London in 1924, investigating murders in the city's Chinese community. The novel's entertaining, and the Afterword "It Takes a (Chinese) Village" is available on-line at the EQMM blog "Something Is Going to Happen" at <www.tinyurl.com/dytjwvtw>.

Philip Cunningham's census of Michael Murphy's Conferment by Needle (Mar 24 #4) is well underway, and a preliminary version now is available from him by e-mail <pjcl21@comcast.net>. If your copy is not yet listed in the census, you're welcome to come aboard; the pamphlet reprints Vincent Starrett's correspondence with T. S. Eliot about Eliot's honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic).

The Strange Case of the Pharaoh's Heart, by Timothy Miller (Jersey City: Seventh Street, 2024; 288 pp., \$18.95), is set in 1923 and has Sir Sherlock (a firm believer in Spiritualism), Watson, and Mrs. Estelle Roberts (and her spirit guide Red Cloud), traveling from London to Egypt to investigate the deaths of Lord Carnarvon and others, and the disappearance of a valuable artifact from Tutankhamun's tomb. They encounter T. E. Lawrence and Howard Carter, and of course solve the mysteries. Miller has a webpage at <www.tinyurl.com/56a2wkcx>.

Apr 24 #3 The Daily Mail reported (Mar.28) <www.tinyurl.com/5sv7vkje> that Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice have teamed up to write songs for a play which Rice's son Donald is producing. "Sherlock Holmes and the Twelve Days of Christmas" will feature Holmes investigating a serial killer who is dispatching his victims using methods suggested by the carol ("think partridges and milkmaids").

The Cinemaholic web-site reported (Mar. 30) <www.tinyurl.com/3srd96fr> on CBS-TV's plans to begin shooting in Vancouver in June for their new series "Watson" (Jan 24 #5); Morris Chestnut will star as Watson, who has resumed his medical career as head of a clinic devoted to treating rare disorders, after Holmes' fatal battle at the Reichenbach.

William H. Vande Water ("An Enlarged Photograph") died on Mar. 17. Bill enjoyed a wide range of interests, including the history of magic and (of course) Sherlock Holmes, contributing to our literature, and founding imaginative Sherlockian societies such as the Billy Club and A Case of Identifiers. He had a long career with CBS Television, and as the archivist of their film and tape library was well placed, when they decided to throw out a storage room of old videotapes, to rescue and preserve for posterity the 1957 "Odyssey" program devoted to the Baker Street Irregulars. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1994.

Christian Klaver's *Sherlock Holmes & Mr. Hyde* (New York, Titan, 2022; 344 pp., \$19.99) is the second in his "classified dossier" series. Watson has become a vampire, and he and Dracula and Mina join Holmes in pursuit of a villainous cult, encountering both Jekyll and Hyde and others who are not quite the same as in books written by Stoker and Stevenson and Wells. The author's web-site is at <www.christianklaver.com>.

Linda Hein has reported that the Hein & Company bookstore has moved, and now is in Sutter Creek, Calif. Their first author event will be held on May 7 and will feature Elizabeth Crowens and her *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8). Photographs of the new store are available at her Facebook page <www.facebook.com/UsedandRare>.

The Torists International and the Watsonians will celebrate the 65th annual running of the Chicago Silver Blaze horse race on June 28, at the Hawthorne Race Course in Stickney, Ill. There's no charge for parking or for admission; if you register you'll receive a racing program, a commemorative pin, and a \$2 bill for your first bet (they don't know of any other Sherlockian event where you're paid to attend). For additional information, contact Jonathan Shimberg <www.toristintss@gmail.com>.

The National Rifle Association's "Shooting Sports USA" web-site carried a report (Apr. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/243aftma> on the "Sherlock Holmes 1991" (described as "a one-of-a-kind pistol tribute to the legendary fictional detective") advertised by Cabot Guns. There's much more about the pistol at the company's web-site <www.cabotguns.com/sherlock>, and (sorry) it already has been sold, for \$229,000 (which includes a luxurious "immersive two-day Sherlock Holmes scavenger hunt in Paris). Rob Bianchin, founder of Cabot Guns and a fan of Sherlock Holmes, has created an attractive concept for a Cabot Custom.

Apr 24 #4 *Round the Red Lamp: Being Facts and Fancies of Medical Life*, edited by Roger Luckhurst (Edinburgh University Press, 2023; 348 pp., £100), the third volume in The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, includes the text of the book, two stories that were added to the Crowborough Edition, detailed introductions, comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, the text of two plays, essays and letters in the medical press, and explanatory notes. The next volume in the series will be *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Andrew Glazzard.

The Edinburgh Edition will offer real scholarship on Conan Doyle's work, both Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian, and the books will be conveniently available for years to come, which will be truly important for anyone who wants access to what the editors have achieved.

The April issue of the newsletter published by the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota has Phil Bergem's report on "The Klinger Archive", anniversary celebrations of "How Watson Learned the Trick" and *Naked Is the Best Disguise*, and new from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man*, published last year in Britain, now has an American edition (New York: Harper, 2024; 820 pp., \$45.00); it's a fascinating biography of an author who quickly became secondary to the character he created (something not unfamiliar to admirers of Conan Doyle), and Doyleans will enjoy the mentions of Fleming's close friend Richard Hughes, who founded the Baskerville Chapter of the BSI in Japan after World War II, was a character in books by Fleming and John le Carré, and was simultaneously a spy for the British and the Soviets (using the code name Altamont for the Soviets).

Vanessa Thorpe has reported in the Observer (Apr. 20) that Gareth Rubin is the latest author of a pastiche authorized by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. <www.tinyurl.com/msr6zxaz>. His *Holmes and Moriarty* is scheduled by Simon & Schuster UK in September, and Rubin also wrote about his book, in which Holmes and Moriarty will be forced to work together on a case, and they'll "compete, collaborate, stab each other in the back, and save one another from fatal peril" <www.tinyurl.com/kttmc7er>.

The collection of the late Rodney P. Swantko (who died in 2022) will be at auction at Sotheby's in New York on June 26, and it will include some truly spectacular material, such as the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (estimated at \$800,000-\$1,200,000), the original Sidney Paget artwork for his illustration of the death of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach, and a copy of the rare Starrett variant of his classic pastiche "The Unique Hamlet" <www.tinyurl.com/4tmm25x5>. Randall Stock has a detailed discussion of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" (the most valuable Conan Doyle item ever to be sold at auction, in 1996, for \$519,500 including the buyer's premium) at his always-informative "Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/sign-of-four-2024.htm>.

Apr 24 #5 Hartswood Films, founded by the late Beryl Vertue in 1979, is the production company responsible for the "Sherlock" television series that starred Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman; The Times reported last year (Sep 23 #5) that the company was seeking a buyer or an investor to support its fast-growing operations. The latest news, at the Deadline web-site (Apr. 17) is that ITV Studios is in the lead to invest in Hartswood <www.tinyurl.com/zy7a95p3>.

Who knew? Dr. Watson once was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. That was in 2014, when Madeleine George's "The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence" was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for drama. The play features one actor as computer repair technician Josh Watson, a humanized version of an artificial intelligence device named after IBM's earlier creation, Alexander Graham Bell's assistant Thomas Watson, and Sherlock Holmes' companion. The winner of the prize was Annie Baker's "The Flick", which the prize committee described as a "thoughtful drama with well-crafted characters that focuses on three employees of a Massachusetts art-house movie theatre, rendering lives rarely seen on screen."

If you've wondered about buyer's premiums at auctions, Sotheby's has announced that on May 22 they will reduce their premium, to 20% on the first \$6 million (their current premium is 26%). It will be interesting to see whether Christie's and other auction house also reduce their buyer's premiums. If you're planning to bid higher on something, Sotheby's premium above \$6 million will be 10%.

"This Here Is Your Life, Sherlock Holmes" (1 34-minute parody of the radio series "This Is Your Life"), commissioned by Sean Wright for performance at the June 1976 meeting of the Non-Canonical Calabashes, was written by Daws Butler and others, and Sean believes it was broadcast by Mike Hodel on his "Hour 25" program on KPFK-FM in 1976. You can hear the recording at Audible <www.tinyurl.com/2586epc6>, with Ben Wright as Sherlock Holmes.

Reported: all 177 episodes of the television series "House" are now available on Hulu and Amazon Prime; the series ran for 8 seasons (2004-2012) on Fox and starred Hugh Laurie as Dr. Gregory House. Wikipedia offers a long entry on the series <www.tinyurl.com/ms4jt8er>, which has as its premise "if Sherlock Holmes were a medical doctor, he would be Gregory House," and discusses many (but not all) of the Sherlockian allusions in the series.

William S. Dorn ("The Newgate Calendar") died on Apr. 18. He taught courses on Sherlock Holmes at the Univ. of Denver for more than 25 years, was a prolific publisher of Sherlockian calendars and other Sherlockiana from his Pencil Productions, created and sold the first Sherlock Holmes bobblehead, and was an enthusiastic member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients. Bill received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1999.

The late Chris Steinbrunner, who happily believed he was a Watsonian rather than a Sherlockian, would be delighted to read Olivia Rutigliano's post to the Crime Reads blog (Apr. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/2ub7zb56> ranking "the 81 best, worst, and strangest Dr. Watson portrayals of all time." One may well wonder how many other people actually have seen them all.

Apr 24 #6 "Uniquely New York with Rachel Holt" (which airs on the CBS channel in New York) featured an interview with Otto Penzler at the Mysterious Book Shop <www.youtube.com/watch?v=KWh1VgFnlag>. The shop's back wall still is totally Sherlockian.

Another (older) rumor: the Collider web-site reported (Nov. 7, 2023) on an interview with Scott Stuber, head of Netflix Film, who said that Netflix is "working once again" on a screenplay for a third "Enola Holmes" film.

Theatrical news: Craig Sodaro's "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Community Gathering Place in Humboldt, Sask., May 2-6 <www.facebook.com/humboldttheaterclub>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Great Royal Goose Chase" (by Peter Sham and Brad Carroll) is due at the Delta Presbyterian Church in Lansing, Mich., on May 10-18 <www.starlightdinnertheatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee, Fla., May 30-June 15 <www.osceolaarts.org>.

Ken Ludwig's new "Moriarty" is on the schedule at Theatre SilCo in Silverthorne, Colo., June 14-July 7 <www.thesilco.org>.

Kyle Gallagher's "The Man in the Shadows" is due at the Salford Arts Theatre in Salford, Greater Manchester, July 22-23 <www.tinyurl.com/nzn44prf>.

Oliver Gray's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be on tour in Britain again, July 27-Sept. 8 <www.illyria.co.uk>.

More than 1300 shows have been announced for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe <www.edfringe.com>, three of them Sherlockian: the Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Aug. 1-25; Nigel Miles-Thomas' one-man "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act", Aug. 1-25; and Blue Orange Arts' one-man retelling of "The Hound of the Baskervilles", Aug. 2-24.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the TPS Center Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Aug. 2-25 <www.theatrepugetsound.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" will be performed at the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, Maine, Aug. 30-Sept. 8; their web-site is at <www.watervillecreates.org>.

Lliam Paterson's opera "Sherlock Holmes and The Sign of Four" will be performed at the Leeds School of Arts in Leeds, Yorks., Aug.-Sept.; web-site at <www.northernoperagroup.co.uk/leeds-opera-festival-2024>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Lyceum Theatre in Arrow Rock, Mo., Sept. 6-15 <www.lyceumtheatre.org>; and at the freeFall Theater in St. Petersburg, Fla., Nov. 8-Dec. 15 <www.freefalltheatre.com>.

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May 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Reported: *The Last Island: Discovery, Defiance, and the Most Elusive Tribe on Earth*, by Adam Goodheart (Godine, 2023)), describes North Sentinel Island, "a small patch of land in the Andaman archipelago," and other Andaman tribes' encounters with the outside world; it may (or may not) include mention of "The Sign of the Four".

The musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Poison Wood" (with book and lyrics by Poppy Burton-Morgan and Ben Glasstone) was produced at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., last year; the original-cast recording's available for your listening pleasure at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/v5mc8pjt> and Spotify <www.tinyurl.com/3kbz24wc>.

CBS-TV has announced that "Watson" will debut mid-season, on Sundays at 10:00 pm after football season ends (they'll be showing "drama encores" in that slot during football season).

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial's seminar on "Murder, Mayhem, and Masterpieces: The Art of Illustrating Mysteries" at the Salmagundi Club (in New York) on June 7 will feature CrimeReads editor Olivia Rutigliano (on the evolution of British detective fiction and the role of illustration) and illustrator and graphic designer Jeff Wong (on how his career collides with his passion as a book collector); more information is available from Burt Wolder <burt@fdsteele.org>.

For those who fondly remember the Sherlockian episodes of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" ("Elementary, My Dear Data" in 1988 and "Ship in a Bottle" in 1993): it seems there were different scripts with different explanations of how the holodeck worked. Chris Snellgrove posted about it at the Giant Freakin Robot web-site on May 5 <www.tinyurl.com/4ewp87bw>.

Anne Perry died on Apr. 10, 2023. Perry was a prolific author, credited with more than 100 books, and was best known for a series featuring Thomas and Charlotte Pitt, and another featuring William Monk. She also contributed the Introduction to *The Sherlock Holmes Mysteries*, published by the New American Library in 1985 with 22 stories from the Canon; her web-site is at <www.anneperry.us>.

A brief time-out for a visit to South Dakota, a state which seems to have no resident Sherlockians. There used to be a Sherlock & Co. escape room in Sioux Falls, but it closed some time ago, and we missed the production of "The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes" at the Mitchell Christian School in Mitchell in April. But there still was (of course) a Sherlockian connection there, found in Deadwood, where Sen. George Hearst, who had made a fortune mining gold in California (and silver in Nevada), arrived in 1877 and opened the Homestake Mine, the largest gold mine ever in the Western Hemisphere (readers of "Thor Bridge" will recall Sen. J. Neil Gibson, the Gold King from a western state). Hearst also owned the San Francisco Examiner, the newspaper that launched his son's publishing empire. One wonders what William Randolph Hearst thought when he read "Thor Bridge" in Hearst's International Magazine in 1922.

May 24 #2 Sam Siciliano's *The Gentleman Burglar* (New York: Titan, 2024; 317 pp., \$16.95), the latest in Titan's long-running series of "The Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes", is an imaginative double pastiche, bringing together Holmes, his cousin Henry Vernier, Arsène Lupin, and Maurice Leblanc in a mystery inspired by *The Hollow Needle* but, with some added twists and turns, in a story that's nicely told as much in the style of Leblanc as of Conan Doyle (and that's not easily done). The author's web-site is at <www.samsiciliano.net>.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) will be held in Atlanta, Ga., on Apr. 11-13, 2025 <www.221bcon.com>; there's no schedule yet, but you can consult their 2024 schedule to find out what sort of things go on during the five-track program of panels, roundtables, performances, and workshops at the conference.

I've seen the film, so you don't need to. "The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare" was released on Apr. 19 (Feb 24 #7) and the trailer's on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/42fx89uy>. The film was based on Damien Lewis' *The Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare: How Churchill's Secret Warriors Set Europe Ablaze and Gave Birth to Modern Black Ops* (Nov 16 #6), but there was nothing about members of the Special Operations Executive, which had its headquarters in Baker Street, calling themselves the Baker Street Irregulars.

However: the movie was co-written and directed by Guy Ritchie ("Sherlock Holmes" and "Sherlock Holmes Game of Shadows") and it stars Henry Cavill (Sherlock Holmes in two "Enola Holmes" films). It's an exciting film with plenty of action and shooting and explosions, and thoroughly heroic Brits and evil Nazis, and is far less graphic than a lot of other modern films.

It's a minor item from the good old days (reported by Ann Marlowe): the 6-minute animation from Walter Lantz Productions "The Dog That Cried Wolf" (1953) shows Dizzy the sheepdog in Sherlockian costume at the end of the film <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpH_U09I6fw>.

Apologies to whoever it was who sent the letter from M. A. Lesser that appeared in the N.Y. Times Saturday Review on Feb. 10, 1900, about "Dupin and Sherlock Holmes" (and I wish I could remember whom to thank). Lesser mentioned earlier comments by Henry Austin on imitators who appropriate Edgar Allan Poe's plots, ideas, and methods to feather their own nests. Austin said (in part) that "perhaps the most gaudy example of this kind of freebooter is furnished by Dr. A. Conan Doyle. His alleged detective, Sherlock Holmes, out of whom he had made so undeserved a reputation, will be found, by any one who takes the trouble to compare Holmes's exploits and methods with those of Dupin, about the crudest and most contemptible imitation of a strong original in all literary annals."

Austin's comments appeared in his Preface to Poe's *The Murders in the Rue Morgue* and *A Tale of the Ragged Mountains* (R. F. Fenno, 1899), a book that is not advertised by any book dealer on the Internet, and not held by any library. We are indebted to Ross Davies, who has found Austin's "Preface" on-line at the web-site of the Edgar Allan Poe Society of Baltimore, and has kindly provided a useful URL <www.tinyurl.com/bdszuu9n>.

May 24 #3 Douglas Stuart's new *Fair Game: A Holmes and Watson Adventure* (Cambridge: Vanguard, 2023; 239 pp., \$12.99) brings Holmes and Watson to the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904, as guests of President Theodore Roosevelt. There's a dire (and unsuccessful, needless to say) plot to assassinate the President, a detailed description of the attractions of the Fair, and an encounter with Irene Adler Norton.

Caleb Carr died on May 23. His first real success as an author came with *The Alienist* (1994) and *Angels of Darkness* (1997), and he went on to write *The Italian Secretary: A Further Adventure of Sherlock Holmes* (2005), in which Holmes and Watson travel to Edinburgh to assist Mycroft in defending Her Majesty against a plot that involves Holyrood and David Rizzio (he was Queen Mary's secretary and met his death at Holyrood).

Aziz Adam has reported a Kickstarter campaign for a new game "The Beekeeper's Picnic" <www.tinyurl.com/5ybfvmxe>. The company is called Jabbage <www.jabbage.itch.io>, and you'll find a demo for the game at the Jabbage web-site <www.tinyurl.com/5ybfvmxe>.

Nicholas Meyer's new *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2024; 285 pp., \$26.95) brings Holmes and Watson to the United States in 1916, hard at work for the British government, pursuing what's now known as the Zimmerman telegram and meeting J. Edgar Hoover and Alice Roosevelt Longworth in Washington, and succeeding in foiling a dastardly German plan. Meyer, who has been writing Sherlock Holmes stories for a decade longer than Conan Doyle did, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* with a fine addition to his long list of Sherlockian novels.

Apples of Gold, a small theater company broadcasting a weekly devotional podcast in Charleston, W.Va., often presents radio drama; their dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" aired in 2023 with Marshall Valentine and Ken Guthrie as Holmes and Watson, and is conveniently available at their web-site <www.applesofgoldstudio.com>. Their "The Hound of the Baskervilles" aired on May 22 this year, with Matthew Emch and Kennie Bass as Holmes and Watson <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMZ0ovt57Aw>.

"The Cabinet of the Unsolved" (the CBS Radio Mystery Theater's title for "The Man with the Watches") (which many consider an apocryphal addition to the Canon) was broadcast in 1978, and Jennie Paton has reported it available on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9SnI_5USCI>. "The Mysterious Rochdale Special" (the apocryphal "The Lost Special") also can be heard at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EnNiqBu-2Q>. The long-running CBS series also offered many Canonical stories, as well as some of Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian tales.

Pantasy, a Chinese company that offers a wide range of building-brick collectibles, has three that are Sherlockian (versions the house at 221B Baker Street) <www.pantasy.com/collections/sherlock-holmes>. There's a growing alternative-brick market, for people who want more than Lego offers), and someone using the nom "SheClicksBricks" has an in-depth review of the most expensive version of 221B <www.youtube.com/watch?v=sURAX2-v-zE>.

May 24 #4 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the spring issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Variety has reported (May 14) <www.tinyurl.com/3vmcz8ua> on some additional cast (and characters) for the "Watson" series due on CBS-TV after the end of the football season.

The University of Minnesota Libraries will celebrate the golden anniversary of the Sherlock Holmes Collections with a "Sherlock Holmes at 50" exhibition at the Elmer L. Anderson Library in Minneapolis, June 3-Sept. 30 <<https://libnews.umn.edu/2024/05/sherlock-holmes-at-50>>. The conference (same name) <www.norwegianexplorers.org/2024%20conf%20reg.html> (July 26-28) is now at capacity, but you can ask to be on the waiting list.

Tom Schantz died on June 4, 2023. Tom and his wife Enid launched the Aspen Bookhouse in 1970 and went on to publish a series of reprints of early pastiches from their Aspen Press, many of which were imaginatively illustrated by Enid. They continued to sell and publish books from The Rue Morgue in Boulder, Colo., and were delighted to meet old and new friends and customers at Bouchercon, Malice Domestic, and Left Coast Crime.

There's an amusing 5-minute video of "Sheerluck Holmes on the Fatal Flaws of Chinese EVs" <www.tinyurl.com/4hc95p4x>; produced by Xinhua Global Services, the video was made before an even more important flaw was created, when the U.S. imposed a 100% tariff on Chinese EVs.

The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia has completed its "Sherlock Mondays" weekly series of 90-minute virtual programs (Jun 23 #2) covering 27 of the stories (from "A Study in Scarlet" to "The Empty House"), hosted by senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit and featuring a rotating group of Sherlockian co-hosts. You can watch all of the programs at the Rosenbach's YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/3u4xy7cw>.

The Postal Service has issued a sheet of stamps showing five horses (six, if you count the one in the selvage at the top), and you can see the sheet on the next page. Horses are mentioned in many of the Canonical stories, but since these are American horses, one is tempted to say that they honor the horses in "A Study in Scarlet". On the other hand (or hoof), one of the horses (second from the left in the second row) is, according to the Postal Service, a chestnut horse with a white blaze; one could say that it looks remarkably like Silver Blaze.

Of course Silver Blaze is said in the Canon to have been a bay rather than a chestnut. Bays and chestnuts can have the same body color, but bays always have black manes and tails, and it is indeed convenient that we can't see the color of the mane on the horse on the stamp; the horse in the selvage has a black mane, and therefore is a bay, marked with a star rather than a blaze.

May 24 #5 And here are the horses, black and white ink-on-paper, and in
 full color in the electronic version; the stamps were designed
by Derry Noyes from photographs by Stephanie Moon and Karen Wegehenkel.

May 24 #6 Theater news: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Can-ny and John Nicholson) is running at Shadowland Stages in El-lenville, N.Y., through June 16 <www.shadowlandstages.org>. It's also due at the South London Theatre in London, July 25-Aug. 3; their web-site's at <www.southlondontheatre.co.uk>.

"Sherlock Holmes vs Hercule Poirot" (Tal Aviezer's "The Reigate Squires" and Amy Frey's "The Tragedy at Marsdon Manor") has been scheduled at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., June 8-16; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/mryj857u>.

Mike Hurst's "Sherlock and the Case of the Horrible Thing" is scheduled at the Players Theatre in Thame, Oxon., June 15-16 <www.catkids.biz>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Adele Grage Community Center in Atlantic Beach, Fla., July 12-14 <www.apextheatrejax.com>; at the Marion Art Center in Marion, Mass., Aug. 9-25 <www.marionartcenter.org>; and at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield, Ill., on Oct. 11-13; web-site at <www.hcfta.org>. Also at the Alley Theatre in Houston, Tex., Apr. 4-27, 2025 <www.alleytheatre.org>.

The Strange Fascination Theatre will tour their new "The Lost World" in England, July 24-Aug. 31 <www.facebook.com/strangefascinationtheatre>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, Va., Sept. 4-Nov. 8; web-site at <www.bartertheatre.com>.

An "immersive experience" with Arthur Conan Doyle, Mina "Margery" Crandon, Harry and Bess Houdini, and Howard Thurston has been scheduled a the Spir-its' Speakeasy in New York, Sept. 19-Nov. 3 <www.spiritsspeakeasy.com>.

People and Stories will be touring their gothic thriller "A Summons in the Night" in England, Sept. 21-Nov. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/bdfxzycd>; Irene Hun-ter, Bram Stoker, and Arthur Conan Doyle battle a deadly force unleashed from an Egyptian sarcophagus in Portsmouth in 1889.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Strange Case of Miss Faulkner" is scheduled at the Studio at New Wimbledon Theatre in London on Oct. 1-5 <www.tinyurl.com/2s3yw8nd>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is scheduled at the Miners Alley Performing Arts Center in Golden, Colo., Oct. 4-Nov. 10 <www.minersalley.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot, or Holmes for the Holidays" will be per-formed at the Chatham Drama Guild in Chatham, Mass., from Nov. 15 to Dec. 8 <www.chathamdramaguild.org>.

Patrick Withey's "Sherlock Holmes and a Christmas Mystery" is coming up at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, Glocs., Dec. 5-Jan. 5; their web-site is at <www.everymantheatre.org.uk>.

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Jun 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

Sotheby's offered "The library of Dr. Rodney P. Swantko" at auction in New York on June 26 <www.tinyurl.com/bdexvft5>, and the catalog is well worth browsing, to see the sort of interesting rarities he pursued and added to his collection. He also was a generous donor to libraries such as the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Newberry Library in Chicago, and the Chicago History Museum, but he appears to have kept all of his Sherlockiana in his own collection.

Lots 9 through 13 in the auction were of particular interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans, beginning with the manuscript of *The Sign of the Four*, and their detailed description of the manuscript certainly is well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/5dhz4d2h>. Estimated at \$800,000-\$1,200,000, the manuscript sold for \$960,000 (including the buyer's premium), making it the most valuable Sherlockian item ever sold at auction. There's more information about the manuscript to be found at Randall Stock's "The Best of Sherlock Holmes" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/466ccmhw>.

The auction continued with Sidney Paget's spectacular original artwork for "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/2dc4e4ep>, with an estimate of \$250,000-\$350,000, it sold for \$384,000. Randall Stock has more information about the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/yc4keu93>.

The next item was a copy of the first British edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* <www.tinyurl.com/22pjuuxr>. Estimated at \$6,000-\$8,000, it sold for \$7,200.

Then came an inscribed copy of Vincent Starrett's *The Unique Hamlet*, one of the only ten copies of his iconic pastiche that were stated as printed for the friends of Vincent Starrett <www.tinyurl.com/537763j9>; the estimate was \$30,000-\$40,000, and bidding didn't reach the reserve. Randall Stock's page about the pastiche is at <www.tinyurl.com/y2c2b6ve>.

And last, but certainly not least, was a copy of the large-paper edition of Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, inscribed to his friend Lloyd Springer <www.tinyurl.com/57ed8n53>. There were only three copies of the large-paper edition; they were specially bound for the author, and this is the only copy known to have survived. Estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000, it sold for \$1,320. Randall Stock has more information about the book at <www.tinyurl.com/5b7c7rub>.

One can get a sense that Swantko's interests included more than books: the 47 items in the auction included 8 volumes about golf.

You can also see a Canonical manuscript in Washington (a fine excuse for a visit to the nation's capital): the Folger Shakespeare Library reopened on June 21, and there's a temporary exhibition of literary treasures from the Stuart and Mimi Rose Collection on display, one of them the manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" <www.tinyurl.com/5a5mdhv9>. The exhibition will end on Jan. 5. The game's also afoot in their 82 copies of First Folios (with the quote in "Henry IV Part 1" and "Henry V").

Jun 24 #2 The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Cliff Goldfarb's warm tribute to the "Bigelow Index" card file (which now has about 53,000 cards, and was thoroughly useful when a cyber-attack last October shut down the on-line catalog for all 100 branches of the Library for three months); Jessie Amaolo's report on the collection's acquisition of the one important edition of the Canon that Cameron Hollyer noted in 1986 that they did not have: the first book edition of *A Study in Scarlet*, illustrated by Conan Doyle's father; and much more. You can ask for a copy of the newsletter from Cliff at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Roger Corman died on May 9. He had a long Hollywood career as a director and producer, and became famous (or infamous) for making low-budget films. He also helped launch the careers of Jack Nicholson, Francis Ford Coppola, Robert De Niro, and others, and in 2009 was awarded an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement. *Sherlock Holmes: The Detective Magazine* (edited by David Stuart Davies) reported in 1999 on a rumor that Corman was planning to film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (he never did, but one can be sure it would have been interesting).

Howard Ostrom has reported that 6,000 people follow his "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" group at Facebook (which covers stage, screen, radio, television, and the Internet) <www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesonscreens>; it's a lively group indeed.

Greg Darak reports that Howlin' Wolf Records offers a CD with the score of "Murder by Decree" (the grand 1979 film that starred Christopher Plummer and James Mason <www.howlinwolfrecords.com/storemurderbydecree.html> for \$18.95; the CD also has some music not used in the film, and the web-site has a link to a 12-minute audio documentary about the score.

Howlin' Wolf also still offers an "In the Name of Sherlock Holmes" CD with Róbert Gulya's score from the 2011 Hungarian film "Sherlock Holmes Néveben" for \$13.95 <www.howlinwolfrecords.com/storeitnosh.html>.

Karen Ellery, who presides over the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane (a society for Sherlockian lover of tea and tisanes), reports the society's official T-shirt <www.zazzle.com/tea_at_once_t_shirt-256003383475187607>, available for \$22.95 with imaginative artwork by Sidney Paget. The reason why the artwork's imaginative is that Paget never showed Sherlock Holmes drinking tea: the original of his illustration of Holmes with cigar and cigar case (from "The Resident Patient") has been carefully altered to show him with a tea cup and saucer.

Christie & Co. have announced that the Brambletye Hotel in Forest Row (in Sussex) is for sale <www.tinyurl.com/5yn4rfer>. Holmes and Watson stayed at the Brambletye, presumably in one of its 19 rooms, and there's an aptly-named Two Two One Restaurant (alas: Black Peter's Bar & Restaurant now seems to be closed). The hotel also has a Moriarty Boardroom, a Sherlock Holmes Suite, and a Dr. Watson Lounge, all available for £1.5 million.

Jun 24 #3 Conan Doyle's *The Refugees* made news world-wide, thanks to an Agence France-Presse report published in the Guardian on May 29 <www.tinyurl.com/jv6sbxwr> that a copy of a Finnish translation of the book checked out 84 years ago had been returned to the Central Library in Helsinki; the due date of the loan was just a month after the Soviet Union invaded Finland in 1939, and "the return of the book might not have been the first thing on the borrower's mind," librarian Heini Strand suggested.

Editor Carla Kaessinger Coupe has assembled a nice assortment of Sherlockian homages in the latest issue (#33) of the Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine, which also has Kim Newman's detailed discussion of the BBC's 1960s Sherlock Holmes television series; the cost is \$13.00 (or \$39.99 for four issues) from the Wildside Press <www.wildsidepress.com>, and the magazine also is available as eBooks (single issues or subscriptions).

Jennie Paton has reported an interesting interview with Sherlockian playwright Jeffrey Hatcher at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYd6p59ibs0>.

Maggie Schpak ("The Soup Plate Medal") died on June 23. She was an artistic genius, designing and crafting jewelry and props for movies and television series, as well as medals and other awards for members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and truly spectacular raffle prizes for the Dr. John H. Watson Fund. Her interview for the UCLA oral history library is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/s4snm2u6>. Maggie received her Investiture from the BSI in 2007.

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages a month of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." There was an amusing discussion of gossip (and gossips) by Jonathan Self in a post to the Country Life web-site on June 11 <www.tinyurl.com/48ae69vs>.

This year's "Summer of Sherlock" celebration in Portsmouth, honoring the city's Conan Doyle Collection (which includes the collection of the late Richard Lancelyn Green) <www.tinyurl.com/2s3jret5>, offers (free) on-line presentations by Prof. Christine Ferguson, Paul Chapman, Ross Davies, Mark Jones, Mattias Boström, and Douglas Kerr (July 2-15); you can register for the Zoom lectures at the web-site soon.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast is now 17 years old, and well deserves their boast that it's the oldest Sherlock Holmes podcast. You can listen to them celebrate the anniversary at <www.tinyurl.com/3ptez74z>. One of the nicest things about the podcast is their archive of all the previous episodes.

The June issue of the Beacon Society's Not-So-Quarterly Newsletter now is available at the society's web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>, with the latest news from the society and its efforts to offer "teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life." This issue offers the winning entries in this year's Joel R. Senter essay contest, and it's impressive indeed to see how well youngsters can do.

Jun 24 #4 Karen Murdock notes something for completists who have Charles Wysocki's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" artwork as a print, plate, calendar, or jigsaw puzzle (Sep 10 #7 and Dec 14 #4): a different version of the artwork in his *Americana Adult Coloring Book* (Dayton: Mead, 2016); the artwork's Sherlockian only for the title, and the coloring book is safe for all ages.

"Murder by the Book" (promoted as "a criminally good exhibition!") is now on display at the Cambridge University Library, through Aug. 24, with an interesting web-site <www.cam.ac.uk/stories/murder-by-the-book> that shows many of books and other items on display. The exhibition includes a copy of the first edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and much much more, in their "celebration of 20th-century British crime fiction."

The Independent reported on June 18 <www.tinyurl.com/mte6mche> that Enola Holmes will be on display at Madame Tussauds in London when a new film and TV-themed zone opens to the public on July 19, and there's video of Millie Bobby Brown at the unofficial unveiling of the wax figure.

Peter McIntyre and Kate Karlson were at Monmouth Park (in New Jersey) on June 15 to watch Sherlock's Jewel run and (unfortunately) finish dead last <www.tinyurl.com/mtpjwpez>. But the horse has a good record overall, having finished in the money in half the races in which he's run; here's his lifetime record <www.tinyurl.com/7up5xh3w>.

If you enjoyed vol. 1 of Tripwire's graphic novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie* (Mar 24 #5), the company is offering two different signed covers for the issue <www.tinyurl.com/5956svef> (and lots of other artwork as well).

The latest news from Laurie R. King <www.tinyurl.com/49btsr3r> is that the title of her upcoming book about Mary Russell and her Uncle Jake will be *Diamond Deceiver*. There's also a tribute to her first agent, Linda Allen who died last month, and a free download of "The Marriage of Billie Birdsong" (an extract from the Russell/Martinelli cross-over *The Art of Detection*) available until July 15.

"Baker Street Irregulars Is Still Going Strong 36 Years After Tom Cruise Learned to Sling Bottles for 'Cocktail' at Famous New York Bar" (according to a story at the Morning Honey web-site) <www.tinyurl.com/3cpunty6> (June 10). That's the bar and grill on the Upper West Side, which also charms guests with poker and bingo nights, and occasional magicians.

Michael W. Homer will lecture on "The Adventures of Arthur Conan Doyle and His Spirit Guide Pheneas" on-line on Oct. 6, using previously unpublished material to explore the seances in which Pheneas appeared to Conan Doyle's home circle. Mike has written about Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes for the Baker Street Irregulars Press and many scholarly journals, and there's more information about the event at <www.tinyurl.com/3wkanf9d>. The lecture is sponsored by the Last Tuesday Society, which is headquartered at the Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities, Fine Art, & Natural History in London <www.thelasttuesdaysociety.org/museum>.

Jun 24 #5 There's a fine Wikipedia entry for Sir Henry Thompson, but it doesn't mention The Octaves. "Sir Henry Thompson was holding that evening one of those charming 'octave' dinners at which it was my occasional privilege to attend," Conan Doyle wrote, in 1906, in his article "An Incursion into Diplomacy". Eight people at 8:00 for eight courses was the rule for the dinners, and you can read more about Sir Henry in a post at the Inside Croydon" web-site (on June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/55edphuf>. Conan Doyle's article is available (thanks to Alexis Barquin) at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2zd5en6y>.

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial's seminar on "Murder, Mayhem, and Masterpieces: The Art of Illustrating Mysteries", at the Salmagundi Club in New York (May 24 #1), has been rescheduled to Sept. 13 (4:00 to 6:30 pm). It will feature CrimeReads editor Olivia Rutigliano (on the evolution of British detective fiction, and the role of illustration) and illustrator and graphic designer Jeff Wong (on how his career collides with his passion as a book collector); more information is available from Burt Wolder <burt@fdsteele.org>.

Donald Sutherland died on June 20. He began his acting career on television in 1962, appeared in his first film in 1963, and starred as Hawkeye Pierce in "M*A*S*H" in 1970. He appeared as the spiritualist Robert Lees in "Murder by Decree" (1979), and was cast as Moriarty in a never-produced film "Limehouse", based on the John Gardner novel *The Return of Moriarty* (scheduled for production in Apr. 1976); there's a first-draft screenplay by Erik Lee Preminger in someone's collection.

This Work of Storytelling, edited by Cathy and Glen Miranker (San Francisco: Quarterming Press, 2024; 63 pp., \$60.00), is as close as we'll ever get to Conan Doyle's speech to the Author's Club in London on June 29, 1896. There's a full-color facsimile of the eight-page manuscript, with a transcription and knowledgeable essays by experts. There's only passing mention of Sherlock Holmes (who in 1896 was thoroughly deceased), but it's a grand opportunity to learn more about Conan Doyle. It is available from the Wessex Press <www.wessexpress.com/html/Miranker2.html>, and (signed by the editors) from the Mysterious Bookshop <www.tinyurl.com/29njz3h2> (for \$75.00).

Sherlock Is a Girl's Name, edited by Narrelle M. Harris and Atlin Merrick (Bittern: Clan Destine, 2024; 193 pp., \$21.99), is an anthology of stories inspired by the Canon, all of them presenting Sherlock Holmes as a woman, in genres that include imaginative fantasy, alternate universes, science fiction, and other genres. Harris also edited the anthology *The Only One in the World* (Oct 21 #4).

She also has written a novel, *The She-Wolf of Baker Street* (2024; 290 pp., \$22.99). It's set modern times, and the she-wolf is Mrs. Hudson, who is a werewolf; Holmes and Watson are on hand, along with many other characters from the Canon, some human and some not, some heroes and some not, and the story's told with verve and drama and humor. The author has a web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/47j86e7f>, and Clan Destine has an interesting (and colorful) web-site at <www.clandestinepress.net>.

Jun 24 #6 Powell's Books in Portland, Ore., is one of a very few survivors in a vanishing world of old-time massive bookshops, and it's still a destination for collectors: the line of customers grew until it was nearly two miles long, at a recent warehouse sale at Powell's, according to a story at OPB's web-site (June 3) <www.tinyurl.com/55fc2atk>, kindly forwarded by Bill Seil.

Jennie Paton reports the Sherlock Patisserie in Zamalek in Cairo (Egypt) <www.facebook.com/p/Sherlock-patisserie-61552743720496>.

Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition (the new name for the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes) is now at the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M. <www.farmingtonnm.org> through Sept. 28. The exhibition debuted in Portland, Ore., in 2013, and has toured widely since then. It's truly impressive, Doylean as well as Sherlockian, as you can see at the EDG web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yytm7m9s>.

Chloe Robyn Smith has an unusual hobby: creating closed fore-edge artwork on her books. One of them is a collection of the Sherlock Holmes stories, and you can see her at work at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=nL3XQKh24N0>. Her YouTube channel's at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCrUHTnF6deuWhumeQc1eZow>.

H. A. Saintsbury starred as Holmes in the Gillette play, with Kenneth Rivington as Watson and Charlie Chaplin as Billy, touring in Britain in 1903, and a program from the Grand Theatre in Wolverhampton (Sept. 14, for six nights only) was offered at Bonhams in London on June 20 with an estimate of £600-£800 <www.tinyurl.com/pmmbmphpd>; it sold for £2,560 (including the buyer's premium).

Theatrical news: "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is running at the Chester Little Theatre in Chester, Cheshire, through July 6 <www.chesterlittletheatre.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Okoboji Summer Theatre in Okoboji, Iowa, July 2-7 <www.okobojisummertheatre.org>; the French Creek Theatre in Sheffield Village, Ohio, on Sept. 13-22 <www.tinyurl.com/23eb8txf>; and at the Wayne Theatre in Waynesboro, Va., Oct. 25 <www.waynetheatre.org>.

Fractal will perform "The Sherlock Files" (an improvised mystery) at the Interchange Theater in Milwaukee, Wis., July 26; the theater's web-site is at <www.interchangetheater.com>.

Oliver Gray's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will tour in Britain, July 27-Sept. 15 <www.illyria.co.uk>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is scheduled at the Caine Lyric Theatre in Logan, Utah, Oct. 4-12 <www.cca.usu.edu/theatre>.

Todd Wallinger's "The Enchanted Bookshop" is due at the New Castle Playhouse in New Castle, Pa., Aug. 9-18 <www.newcastleplayhouse.org>.

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

Jul 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

SHERLOC (an abbreviation for Scanning Habitable Environment with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals), is now on board the Perseverance rover on Mars, and it has been operating for three years; it malfunctioned in January, but it's back in action now, and there's more about SHERLOC at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's web-site, which is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/9bdzdvs>.

"The story of early cinema may have been different had Wordsworth Donisthorpe been better at blackmail." There's nothing Sherlockian about Irfan Shah's essay at the Public Domain Review web-site (June 24), but it's well worth reading <www.tinyurl.com/y62433js>. Donisthorpe, was (according to Shah) a forgotten polymath, political individualist, chess reformer, and inventor of a peculiar kind of film camera. Wool combing in England also was involved in this intriguing bit of history.

It seems that Scuttlebutt is not only something in the title of a newsletter. It's also a sandwich, conceived by Carolina Fidanza at her restaurant Saltie in Brooklyn. The restaurant has been closed, but Ray Betzner has found a recipe at the N.Y. Times web-site <www.tinyurl.com/bp8dcbht>.

"Collectors are not odd," according to the late Jim Lehrer (in an essay in Smithsonian magazine (March 1990), "we are merely possessed with a need to collect certain things that some people might consider odd." Lehrer gladly described himself as a world-class collector of depot signs and other memorabilia). There's an article on "Britain's most eccentric collectors" at the Country Life web-site (Jun 22) <www.tinyurl.com/mrxbuw6y> (none of them are Sherlockians, but they're still eccentric).

Jennie Paton discovered a documentary on "'Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home'" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sy7iUoWi_-U>. The good old days weren't as good as they could have been.

Stephen Fry appeared on BBC-2's "Celebrity Mastermind" series in 2004, answering (or not answering) questions about "Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes"; he answered 8 of the 14 questions correctly. Jennie Paton found video of his appearance <www.youtube.com/watch?v=WdxafxQe-Bc>, and you're welcome to see how well you do.

There's an International Buster Keaton Society, and a Keaton Journal, and (reported by Andrew Malec) an interesting article about the film "Sherlock Jr." (1924) at <www.tinyurl.com/yezwdvk8>.

The Generic Radio Workshop <www.genericradio.com> offers free downloads of a wide variety of old-time radio scripts: twelve from the Rathbone, Con-
Conway, and Gielgud series <www.genericradio.com/series/sherlockholmes>, another from the Mercury Theater broadcast of Orson Welles' version of the William Gillette play <www.genericradio.com/show/8VCGXSKAOS>, one from the Jack Benny Show series with a 12-minute version of "The Hound of the Bas-
kervilles" <www.genericradio.com/show/7STBVAZP4E1>, and one from the Sus-
pense series broadcast of "The Lost Special" <www.tinyurl.com/b9ds75d4>.

Jul 24 #2 Jennie Paton has reported Jigidi (a free on-line community for jigsaw puzzle lovers), as well as a free on-line 80-piece jigsaw puzzle <www.tinyurl.com/mvwzzh7b> that shows the Sherlock Holmes Pub in London. You can search the web-site for [sherlock] and [moriarty] and [conan doyle] to find more on-line jigsaws. It's nice that you don't need to worry about losing pieces. And yes indeed, some purists do insist that jigsaws are not puzzles.

Sorry about that: the URL for the "immersive experience with Arthur Conan, Mina "Margery" Crandon, Harry and Bess Houdini, and Howard Thurston", due at the Spirits' Speakeasy in New York, Sept. 19-Nov. 3, should have been <www.thespiritsspeakeasy.com>. Brian Silliman will perform as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and tickets are now on sale.

An emoji, according to Wikipedia, is a pictogram (or logogram or ideogram or smiley) embedded in text and used in electronic messages and web-pages. There's now a wide variety of emoji, including some for admirers of Holmes and Watson, noted by Jennie Paton <www.tinyurl.com/2h5jn2ku>.

There was a tour of the grounds of "the world's most famous school" at the Country Life web-site (June 29) <www.tinyurl.com/59m2h6x2>. That's Eton, mentioned twice in the Canon (three times, if you count an Eton jacket). There's also an interesting article explaining "How to Win at Rock, Paper, Scissors" <www.tinyurl.com/58rfz4x6>.

Conan Doyle was one of many researchers who used the historic Reading Room at the British Library <www.tinyurl.com/5n6mf8xs>. The Reading Room has been preserved and now is a feature of the British Museum, and open to the public for visits and tours <www.tinyurl.com/yc72np45>.

This year the Morgan Library & Museum in New York is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a public institution, and Samantha Wolov has noted a short video by Fran Liebowitz <www.tinyurl.com/ycjhdjxy> shows some of the wonders of the Morgan, which include the manuscript of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (written by Oscar Wilde after that fateful dinner in 1889, when the editor of Lippincott's asked both Wilde and Conan Doyle to write stories for the magazine).

The East Haddam Stage Company <www.ehsco.org> continues to honor William Gillette in performances at Gillette Castle, and is performing his play "All the Comforts of Home" on weekends through Aug. 11. The four-act comedy was first produced in 1890 and published in 1897, and you can read it on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3wed7m4j>.

There seems to be no end to the saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Feb 24 #2). The Milton Advertiser & Lymington Times has reported (July 5) that the developer has submitted a plan to demolish the entire hotel, including the facade designed by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle <www.tinyurl.com/5aaf4jcw>; the developer claims that the building has been so long neglected that it is no longer safe to work in or near it. The rebuild would reinstate the elements of Conan Doyle's design, according to the developer, and the public had until the end of July to comment on the plan.

Jul 24 #3 "This game can be played only once. To solve the riddles, you will have to write on, fold, and cut the game materials." The game is *Exit: The Game: The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*, created for Kosmos by Inke and Markus Brand (Thames & Kosmos, \$17.95), and it offers a rare opportunity to annoy all fanatic collectors who believe that a "mint" copy is the best thing to have in one's collection (once you have played the game, it is no longer in mint condition) <www.tinyurl.com/mr4c3839>. A true fanatic, of course, will need to avoid opening the game's plastic wrapper.

A query about the "A Tip of the Deerstalker" awards that were presented by Mike Whelan to deserving members of the Baker Street Irregulars at annual dinners in 2014, 2015, and 2017; I wonder about awards in other years, and would welcome information about those awards <blau7103@comcast.net>.

Jennie Paton has reported video <www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjeDMxAqe34> from a 1970 episode of "The Flip Wilson Show" with Flip as Hemlock Jones, Johnny Brown as Dr. Dotson, and Connie Stevens as Prof. Doriarty.

Sherry Thomas' *A Ruse of Shadows* (New York: Berkley/Penguin Random House, 2024; 331 pp., \$18.00) is the eighth title in her "Lady Sherlock" series, which stars Charlotte Holmes, who does her detecting while pretending to be the sister of the non-existent Sherlock Holmes (with Mrs. Watson as her friend and business partner); Charlotte is continuing to battle Moriarty and his henchmen, and also is under threat from Scotland Yard. There is mystery and romance, as well as dire peril, in the story, and the author's web-site is at <www.sherrythomas.com>.

Magnadur (a Finnish "fierce melodic death metal" band) has issued a music video for "Dog of Baskerville" from their third album ("Unholy Punisher") due in September. You're welcome to watch (and listen to) the music video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBXzhTthLtI>.

Welcome news for those who've not yet seen Mark Gatiss' dramatization of "Lot No. 249" (which was broadcast last December BBC Two's annual series "A Ghost Story for Christmas") (Jan 24 #3): the story is one of six programs that have been acquired by American Public Television for syndication to public television stations for broadcast later this year. You're welcome, of course, to try to persuade your local PBS station to ask APT about "Ghost Stories".

Sorry about that: Baker Street Irregulars (Jun 24 #4) is a bar and grill on the Upper East Side in New York <www.irregularsnyc.com>, not the Upper West Side; east is east, and west is west, as someone once said.

There's more to be said about Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4): in addition to mentions of Fleming's friend Richard Hughes, who founded the Baskerville Chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars in Japan after World War II, there's a quote from Kingsly Amis, who ranked Fleming alongside the 'demi-giants' of an earlier age, Verne, Haggard, Conan Doyle; and a note that the verdict that most pleased Fleming was John Betjeman's comparison of Bond to an international Sherlock Holmes.

Jul 24 #4 Forbes magazine has offered "An Insider's Guide to The Langham, London" (July 14) <www.tinyurl.com/2p9v6t4f>; they don't have Conan Doyle and the Canon quite right, and there's no mention of the dinner in 1889 at which he was commissioned to write a story for Lippincott's magazine. The fault lies with the history at the hotel's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/ymckyx5u>, and in case you're thinking about staying at the hotel, an inexpensive room costs at least £600 a night.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition" (at the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M., through Sept. 9 (Jun 24 #6) now has an on-line presence that you can visit at <www.tinyurl.com/ms7tesbv>.

Variety has reported (July 2) <www.tinyurl.com/5n7apekr> that the AI firm ElevenLabs has license agreements with the estates of Judy Garland, James Dean, Burt Reynolds, and Laurence Olivier to use their legendary voices to read books, articles and other material to mobile users of its new Reader App. ElevenLabs envisions using AI for projects that might include Judy Garland reading *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, and Laurence Oliver narrating a Sherlock Holmes story, and already offers Judy Garland reading (briefly) from L. Frank Baum's book <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zo5-rhY0lNk>.

Kinky Friedman died on June 26. He was a satirist, raconteur, songwriter, singer, unsuccessful political candidate, and author, who once told a reporter, "with a name like Kinky, you should be famous, or else it's a social embarrassment." His *Spanking Watson* (1999) was nicely Sherlockian, and his *Greenwich Killing Time* (1986) and *The Love Song of J. Edgar Hoover* (1996) had amusing Sherlockian allusions.

"A Brief History of Ghosts and Spirit Photography" is an 16-minute video tour of some of the treasures at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London <www.tinyurl.com/3twukxfj>, with brief mentions of Charles Altamont Doyle and his son (at 2:20-03:10 and 10:00).

Laurie R. King' new novel about Mary Russell's uncle Jake (Mar 24 #6) has a (probably) final title: *Knave of Diamonds*; there's a brief video at her Facebook page <www.facebook.com/reel/816124467162116>. And there will be a new edition of *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* from Midworld Press, with illustrations by Grace Aldrich; you can see some of her artwork at her website <www.gracealdrichillustration.com>, and previous Midworld titles at <www.midworldpress.com>.

Bill Seil has noted an interesting interactive map of the U.S. that shows almost 6,000 bookstores <www.iheartbookstores.com>, useful indeed for anyone wondering if there's a bookstore nearby.

When in Hull (in East Yorkshire): you can visit the Northern Academy for Performing Arts and see A. Garth Jones' mosaic "Triumph of Art over Ignorance" <www.thehullstory.com/allarticles/napa-column>. Sherlockians are indebted to Garth Jones for his striking designs for the decorated covers of the first British edition of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and the four volumes of the Souvenir Edition of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Jul 24 #5 "Sherlock had been balling out in London as this world-class PI before he burned out on the game (and his massive coke habit, and straight up faked falling off a waterfall to get out)" according to Andrew Battershill, in his *Pet, Pet, Slap* (Toronto: Coach House Books, 2024; 235 pp., \$18.95); it's an intriguing surrealist and absurdist novel, featuring Pete "Pillow Fist" Wilson, with Holmes as Wilson's roommate and in-house doping expert.

Coming up on PBS-TV: "Lucy Worsley's Holmes vs. Doyle" will air in three weekly one-hour episodes beginning on Dec. 8; this is the American title for BBC Two's "Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle" mini-series that aired in the U.K. at the end of last year (Dec 23 #7).

Woof! Jennie Paton reports that Honour Sherlock is a greyhound racing in Nottingham <www.tinyurl.com/2t4afj28>.

Harry Houdini visited Cincinnati in 1925, with a check for \$5,000 offered to the medium Laura Pruden (who had thoroughly impressed Sir Arthur Conan Doyle) if she could prove that she wasn't faking; you can read all about it in a July 15 article in Cincinnati Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/3edtzbrw>.

It's time to report on something Guy Ritchie is doing while everyone waits for a third film in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" franchise (all that's needed for this is a script, and actors, and lots of money). What he is doing is preparing to direct an eight-episode "Young Sherlock" series for Amazon Prime Video, inspired by the "Young Sherlock Holmes" novels written by Andy Lane. Hero Fiennes Tiffin has been cast as Holmes, with Natascha McElhone and Colin Firth signed on in leading roles.

It's not unlikely that the success of Millie Bobby Brown's "Enola Holmes" films persuaded Amazon that the new young-adult series will be similarly popular with viewers. Andy Lane's "Doctor Who" novel *All-Consuming Fire* (Jul 94 #4) had The Doctor meeting Sherlock Holmes, and the later "Young Sherlock Holmes" novels were well-received.

Some grand news for admirers of Peter Cushing's performances as Sherlock Holmes: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced the discovery of an audio recording of the long-lost BBC-1 television broadcast of "The Second Stain" (1968) <www.tinyurl.com/35fam34b>. The recording has been restored and will premiere at event in London and Birmingham in September. One hopes, needless to say, that it will be more widely available eventually.

Admirers of Mycroft Holmes will certainly enjoy Tauhid Bondia's "Crabgrass comic strip (July 19) <www.gocomics.com/crabgrass/2024/07/19>, kindly reported by Bill Seil.

Les Klinger has kindly reported "Orlock Holmes: Night Detective" (a grand 37-second animation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uk2Yx9izr3s> created in 2022 to honor the 100th anniversary of the release of the classic silent film "Nosferatu". Credit goes to Albin Grau and Nick Hilligoss for character design, and Nick Hilligoss for animation.

Jul 24 #6 When in Montana: you may want to visit the Montana Valley Book Store in Alberton (which is about 30 miles northwest of Missoula on US 90, near the border with Idaho). A report on NBC Montana, kindly at hand from Bill Seil <www.tinyurl.com/58d54yym>, explains that the store offers a chance to browse 100,000 used books. The store has a web-site at <www.montanavalleybookstore.com>, but (alas) there's no way to search for books on-line (as was the case with the late and lamented wonderful Acres of Books in Long Beach).

On July 18 Forum Auctions in London offered a copy of the first volume of The Strand Magazine, bound in the publisher's decorated blue cloth, with a decorated tan dust jacket <www.tinyurl.com/4meas4b7>. Estimated at £2,500-£3,500; it sold for £1,500.

Reported: *Holmes in the Heartland*, edited by Joe Eckrich and Rob Nunn; an anthology of presentations at the 2018 and 2023 conferences of the Parallel Case of St. Louis <www.tinyurl.com/5dtw3wdy>.

Theatrics: Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is running at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre in San Diego, Calif., through Aug. 25; web-site at <www.theoldglobe.org>; and at the Robert Shackleton Playhouse in Cape May, N.J., through Aug. 25 <www.capemaystage.org>.

"Sherlock the Musical" (by Stefan van de Grff and Denning Burton) will be performed at the Building Block School for the Arts in Columbia, Tenn., on Aug. 2-4 <www.buildingblockarts.com>.

George Psarras' new "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" will be performed as a reading at the City Lights Theater in San Jose, Calif., on Aug. 4 <www.cltc.org>.

Tyler Scott Null's (also) new play "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Missing Mystery" will be performed as a staged reading at LaVal's Subterranean Theater in Berkeley, Calif., on Aug. 27 <www.aeofberkeley.org>.

Darryl Bojanowski's musical "The Case of the Counterfeit Napoleon" will be produced at the Palace Theatre in Duncan, Okla., Sept. 12-15; web-site at <www.duncanlittletheatre.com>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the First United Methodist Church in Elmhurst, Ill., Sept. 20-Oct. 6 <www.greenmantheatre.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>; at the Austin Playhouse in Austin, Tex., Nov. 22-Dec. 13 <www.austinplayhouse.com>; at the John Edson Anglin Performing Arts Center in Union, Mo., Mar. 1-4, 2025 <www.ecctheatre.com>; and the Lone Tree Arts Center in Lone Tree, Colo., Apr. 3-13 <www.lonetreeartscenter.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany, N.Y., Nov. 22-Dec. 22 <www.attherep.org>;

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Aug 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Interfax reported (July 23) that the Russian parliament has passed a package of bills that prohibit "the propaganda of narcotic drugs in Russia." But the Sherlock Holmes stories have not been banned: "all literature published before August 1, 1990, including works by Arthur Conan Doyle," is not affected <www.interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/104479>. Things were different in 1929, when the Soviet government banned all of Conan Doyle's works, because of his interest in "occultism and spiritualism," and almost nothing was published in the USSR until some of the Sherlock Holmes stories were translated into Russian for distribution to the Soviet Army during World War Two.

RiffTrax <www.rifftrax.com> has added "Spider Woman" (1944) to its list of Sherlockian films with commentary by Mystery Science Theater 3000 alumnae Bridget Nelson and Mary Jo Pehl; needless to say, they never take movies seriously.

The new CBS-TV series "Watson" (Jan 24 #5) will debut at MIPCOM in Cannes on Oct. 24. MIPCOM [Marché International des Programmes de Communication] is a four-day trade show for the television industry, and "Watson" will be broadcast here after the football season ends. Morris Chestnut (who plays Watson) and Craig Sweeny (executive showrunner and producer) will attend the screening (Sweeny was executive producer and writer on the successful CBS-TV series "Elementary").

Conan Doyle isn't the only famous author to have been honored by Montblanc in their "writer's edition series of pens (Jul 21 #6). The latest author is Jane Austen <www.tinyurl.com/4s3wsd4b>, and if you'd like to have a Conan Doyle pen, run a Google search for [montblanc conan doyle].

Barry Le Cheminant has won this year's Conan Doyle competition, according to a report <www.tinyurl.com/5hcd3p3u> in the Jersey Evening Post on July 23. The Conan Doyle competition is held annually, with a prize awarded by Britain's National Rifle Association, and you can read more about that in Christopher Bunch's book *The National Rifle Association: Its Tramways and the London & South Western Railway* (2019), which is conveniently available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/bdda2vzs>, and in Mark Alberstat's article "Conan Doyle Takes Aim" in the winter 2022 issue of the Baker Street Journal.

It's nice to report that Glen Miranker was a successful bidder at the auction of the Swanktko collection at Sotheby's (Jun 24 #1), and is the new owner of the manuscript of "The Sign of the Four" and Sidney Paget's original artwork for "The Death of Sherlock Holmes".

Latvia is not high on the list of countries that Sherlockians visit, but a recent post at the Culture Trip web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yck648yu> was a fine reminder that it was in Riga that the first Russian "Sherlock Holmes" television series (1979-1986, starring Vasilii Livanov and Vitali Solomin as Holmes and Watson) was filmed, and with good reason: the city still has a lot of Victorian architecture, and was a convenient and excellent substitute for Sherlockian London.

Aug 24 #2 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the summer issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

Rebecca Romney continues to post sales lists of interesting material from the collection of Andrew Jay Peck; if you would like to be on her mailing list, just sent her a message at <info@typepunchmatrix.com>. There's much more Sherlockiana and Doyleana at her web-site <www.typepunchmatrix.com>.

The "Sherlock Holmes @ 50" conference in Minneapolis was thoroughly enjoyable, with more than 160 people registered for the festivities. The major news included the announcement of three major donations that will be coming to the Sherlock Holmes Collections: Laurie R. King's notes and drafts for her novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, Denny Dobry's spectacular recreation of Holmes and Watson's sitting-room 221b Baker Street, and Jerry Margolin's comprehensive collection of original Sherlockian artwork. Laurie spoke (virtually) at the conference, and you can watch her video at <www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1536320753641832&ref=sharing>.

"Become a Detective at Sherlock Holmes Experience Space" was the headline on an article in the Shanghai Daily (Aug. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/4m9h3jyu> about a new attraction in the city's Old Millfun (described as a renovated historic slaughterhouse whose "unique architectural style and historical weight adds a mysterious atmosphere to the Experience Space").

Gaston Tissandier's *Popular Scientific Recreations in Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Geology, Chemistry, etc., etc., etc.* ("profusely illustrated" and published by Ward, Lock, and Co., ca. 1883) provides a comprehensive view of what science was like at the beginning of Sherlock Holmes' career as a detective, and the entire 782-page book is conveniently available online at the Public Domain Review's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3v285wc7>.

"To the Tower," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Sign of the Four"). It is nice indeed that the Royal Mail has issued a set of stamps celebrating the Tower of London, which was built almost a thousand years ago as a fortress and a symbol of royal power.

Aug 24 #3 Conan Doyle was described as "not himself distinguished as a particularly acute thinker," and Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes as having "quite a sniff of priggery about these two precious gents," in a long letter written by J. R. R. Tolkien in 1947, recently offered by Bayliss Rare Books. It sold for \$26,041.00 <www.tinyurl.com/4wscrr9a>. Aziz Adam has reported a short video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=G18hNoTCSsw>.

Six letters and notes written about Spiritualism and Houdini were offered at Canterbury Auction Galleries in the U.K. this month, with an estimate of £3,000-£5,000 <www.tinyurl.com/9zw9989a>; they sold for £2,800 (plus the 30% buyer's premium). The next lot, a letter from Houdini, was estimated at £1,000-£1,500, and sold for £900 (plus the premium). You can read a BBC News article, posted a day before the sale, at <www.tinyurl.com/3rxjsrrx>.

Howard Brody ("Anstruther") died on July 22. He was a doctor and an educator, a pioneer in medical ethics, and a frequent contributor to the Baker Street Journal and Baker Street Miscellanea. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1981.

A recent post to the "Economist Writing Every Day" blog is a fine example of what happens when someone looks at something Sherlockian, and thinks, "I wonder..." <www.tinyurl.com/22kdwnnb>. The memorable scene in the dockyard in the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film (2009) led to an interesting question: was that ship insured? And if you don't remember the scene, here it is at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8knG5h9m4I>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon" (1942) in modern times, spotted by Jennie Paton <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bt04D5p-dQo>; someone has "enhanced" the Rathbone/Bruce using AI. If you can recall seeing the film projected in a theater, you can decide whether AI can take you back to the good old days, or (for younger generations) whether AI enhancement can be as good as remastering for DVD or Blu-ray.

The television series "The X-Files" had (and still has) fans galore, and one of the episodes ("Fire") was nicely Sherlockian and Doylean; you can read all about it in an article posted to the Giant Freakin Robot web-site (Aug. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/nhmmn66c>. And you can watch "The X-Files" on Hulu.

"The Baker Street Boys" (a 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1 in 1983, starring Roger Ostone and Hubert Rees) is conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/3c97rdz8>.

"Fogtown is a mystery comedy series of multimedia projects (including a TV show) that's been in development since 2020, featuring the adventures of a brilliant but easily-distracted detective Sherblock and his ever-devoted Blockon," according to the series web-site <www.fogtownseries.com> (all of the characters are puppets). Articles about "Fogtown" were published in the Portland Oregonian (Aug. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/59h9tx8y> and in the Willamette Week (Aug. 13) <www.tinyurl.com/34b8fv3d>, and the pilot episode premiered on Aug. 22 at a special event in Portland.

Aug 24 #4 *The Sherlock Society*, by James Ponti (New York: Aladdin, 2024, 339 pp., \$18.99), is an entertaining middle-grade (ages 8-12) novel about four youngsters who decide to become detectives, and wind up involved in solving a real crime; there are many echoes of the Canon, and it's the start of a new series by an experienced author. There's a free reading-group guide available at <www.simonandschuster.net>, and Ponti's web-site's at <www.jamesponti.com>.

Colleen Hoover's *It Ends with Us* is a romance novel published in 2019, and now a movie released this month. The movie seems to be accidentally Sherlockian, as noted in a review at the British Film Institute web-site (Aug. 9) <www.tinyurl.com/mtsbfa8j>.

An interesting copy of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes* will be at auction at PBA Galleries in Berkeley on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/mryncw4b>; it's inscribed by Starrett to Franklin Rhode, a fellow Sherlockian in Chicago as well as a fellow member of the Baker Street Irregulars, it's estimated at \$200-\$300.

Randall Stock has updated his web-site pages on Sherlockian manuscripts at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-manuscripts.htm> to show new information on the recent sale of "The Sign of the Four" and the on-going exhibition that includes "The Valley of Fear".

The television series "Gomorra" (which first aired on Sky Italia in 2014 and 2016) is again available on Max (formerly HBO). The series is a fictionalized account of today's crime syndicate in Naples, and the title's a pun on the syndicate's real name, the Camorra <www.tinyurl.com/2yfundtv>, which of course is well known to those who are aware that the manuscript of "The Red Circle" states "Camorra" (but when the story was published the name was changed to "Carbonari"). Of course there are subtitles in English; when the series aired in Italy it was subtitled in Italian, because the dialogue is in the Neapolitan dialect rather than in proper Italian. Fair warning: the series is not for the faint-hearted.

"Mastermind" (a long-running British television game-show series launched on BBC-1 in 1972, and still on the air on BBC One) has had contestants who chose "Sherlock Holmes" as their topic. Philip Gartside was a contestant on Mar. 5, 1989, and Wilfrid de Freitas has suggested that you might want to see how you do <www.youtube.com/watch?v=jfszihbvL6E>. Wilfrid reports that he "failed miserably."

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's 2024 Christmas Card Competition is now open, and you don't need to be a member of the Society to submit a design; the deadline is Sept. 15, and you'll find more information about it at <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/christmas-card-competition-2024>.

The Northern Opera Group's opera "The Sign of Four" premiered at the Leeds Opera Festival this month, with much of the publicity explaining that it's the first Sherlockian opera. It may be the first one in Britain, but the U.S. had "A Scandal in Bohemia" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Fallen Giant" (2015), and there have been Sherlockian operas in Japan and China.

Aug 24 #5 Registration is now open for the fourth annual BSI Trust Lecture, available free on Sept. 21 via Zoom, but with registration required. Mattias Boström has analyzed thousands of newspaper articles to perform a deep dive into the activities of the Baker Street Irregulars to shed light on how the BSI has helped create and shape the Sherlockian landscape for nearly a century. You can register for the event at <www.bsitrust.org>.

Kingsley Amis' "Dr. Watson and the Darkwater Hall Mystery" was broadcast by BBC-1 (1974), and published in *Playboy* (May 1978). You can now watch the broadcast at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA0LbivaRBs>; Edward Fox appears as Watson.

"An Exciting Day at the Track" read the headline in the *Spokane Press* on Sept. 26, 1906, discovered by John Lockwood. "The talent all got down on Sherlock Holmes for the next heat," according to the article about harness racing at the Interstate park. You can read all about it at the Library of Congress web-site <www.tinyurl.com/um8f5j2h>.

Rebecca Romney is continuing to star as the book specialist on the "Pawn Stars" television series. On Aug. 14 she appraised the Limited Editions Club eight-volume "Sherlock Holmes" set; you can watch her segment on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=RV2UZm2Jiqg>.

Mike Homer notes that a friend has reported a Sherlock Holmes Irish Pub in Zumpano (in Cosenza Province in Calabria in Italy); plenty of reviews on-line but apparently no web-site.

The Reading Room in the British Museum, which has been closed to the public for many years, is open to visitors again, and *Country Life* had a nice story about it on Aug. 18 <www.tinyurl.com/2axmn7t3>. Conan Doyle was one of many people who had reader's tickets, and Sherlock Holmes spent a morning there reading about voodooism (as noted in "Wisteria Lodge"). There also is a nicely illustrated report about the Reading Room at the British Museum's web-site blog <www.tinyurl.com/bdh6he74>.

Registration is now open for "221B Con: A Fan Con For All Things Sherlock Holmes" in Atlanta, Apr.11-13, 2025 <www.221bcon.com>; many Sherlockians have attended, and I don't know anyone who didn't have a good time.

The John H. Watson Society, which bills itself as "The Open and Inclusive Worldwide Online Sherlockian Society (Really, We're about Having Fun)," has an annual John H. Watson Treasure Hunt; it's far from easy, and you can read all about it at <www.johnhwatsonssociety.com>.

"Shekhar Home" (a new six-episode Bengali television series from BBC Studios Productions India) is inspired by the Canon and stars Kay Kay Menon in the title role and Ranvir Shorey as his friend and assistant Jayavrat Saini. It debuted on Aug. 14, and was widely reviewed in India. You can find reviews (and a trailer) on-line, and watch episodes (with subtitles in English) at <www.dailymotion.com>; search for [shekhar home s01e01] to find the first episode (and s01e02, etc., for the others).

Aug 24 #6 Mystery fans who have attended Malice Domestic and other conferences will have enjoyed presentation by Luci Zahray, who is renowned as "the poison lady" and gladly shares her expertise with authors who want to learn interesting ways to poison people. You can read about her in the Gatesville Messenger (Aug. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/43d7wrve> and at the Daily Beast web-site (Aug. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/5xpf3nez>.

Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" comic strip had Nate in a Sherlockian arc that ran from Aug 19 through Aug. 24 <www.bignate.com>.

Bill Seil has forwarded an article in Publishers Weekly (July 31) reporting <www.tinyurl.com/8u43jp8f> the purchase by Barnes & Noble of the Tattered Cover bookstore in Denver. It's nice news indeed for faithful customers, but what's really interesting is the list of formerly independent bookstores now owned by Elliott Investment Management: Waterstones, Blackwell's Hatchards, Foyles, Hodges Figgis, Barnes & Noble, among others.

So Far Down Queer Street, Holly Turner's on-line journal that focuses on "Aspects of the Sherlockian canon and adaptations that are not ordinarily discussed in scholarly work," was launched in 2022, and the fourth issue is now available, at <www.downqueerstreet.com>; click on "Issues" to see all of them.

Rare Birds Books bills itself as "Edinburgh's liveliest bookstore," and is hosting a "make friends mixer" tea on Sept. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/2vysmt96>. The menu honors the city's famous writers <www.tinyurl.com/4fhkrwtu> and includes a raspberry cranachan as a tribute to Conan Doyle. You can consult Wikipedia's entry for "cranachan" to see how delicious it is.

Theater news: Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is running at the Lakewood Theater in Madison, Maine, through Sept. 7 <www.lakewoodtheater.org>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is scheduled at the Repertory Company Theatre in Richardson, Tex., Sept. 6-15 <www.rcttheatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson--Apt. 2B" is due at the Warehouse Theatre in Greenville, S.C., Sept. 13-Oct. 6 <www.warehousetheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled at the Theatre in the Country in Langley, B.C., Sept. 11-28 <www.theatreinthecountry.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be produced at the Playhouse in Huntsville, Ala., Sept. 13-22 <www.theatrehsv.org>.

Alexander Shevtsov's musical "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" has been scheduled (in Russian with English subtitles) at the Russian Club in Strathfield, N.S.W., Sept. 20-Nov. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2k6ujzxw>.

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Sep 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The British Film Institute's London Film Festival will include a screening of "Silent Sherlock: Three Classic Cases" on Oct. 16, with new scores by live musicians <www.tinyurl.com/ay5t538h>. All of the films are from the two-reeler series that starred Eille Norwood as Holmes and were released in the early 1920s, and one of them ("The Golden Pince-Nez") has not been screened since it was in theaters in 1922. The BFI is now restoring all of the Norwood films under a rights agreement with Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group (which acquired the rights when it purchased the Stoll Moss Theatres Group in 2000).

The best of the many articles about the screening was in the Guardian on Aug. 28 <www.tinyurl.com/bdbmjmtu>, with comment by Roger Johnson (editor of the Sherlock Holmes Journal). There's no word yet on the possible release of the newly restored films on DVDs, but one can hope. And in the meantime listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's 2021 interview with the late Russell Merritt about the Norwood series at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/4y2efnzd>.

The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Feb 24 #2) continues. The Southern Daily Echo reported (Sept. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/2sbev3af> that the first residents will move into their new homes in the development before Christmas. The only part of the old hotel that remains is the historic facade, which is said to have been designed by Conan Doyle in 1912, and which the New Forest National Park Authority had required the developer to preserve. But the developer now says that the facade is "in danger of collapse" and wants to demolish it.

"Two Sherlockians and a Former Journo Walk into a Zoom Call" was the headline on an Aug. 28 post to the CrimeReads blog <www.tinyurl.com/3mmm7ftb>. Nancie Clare was the former journo, and Leslie Klinger and Nicholas Meyer were the Sherlockians, talking about *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* and many other things, including Nick's next Sherlock Holmes novel.

You can also listen to Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Nick at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog at <www.tinyurl.com/4prcx9es> (among other things, Nick reveals the title of his next book), and read what Nick had to say about "The Great Escape of Art (and the Art of Detection)" on Apr. 24 at CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/2ztxeddv>.

There's also a video recording of Nick's appearance with Otto Penzler at the Mysterious Bookshop in New York on Sept. 9, conveniently available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/36arhteb>.

Tim Major has completed his trilogy of Sherlock Holmes pastiches, and continues with *Jekyll & Hyde: Consulting Detectives* (New York: Titan, 2024; 299 pp., \$25.99), in which Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde help Jekyll's former fiancée Muriel Carew (who appears in the classic 1931 film, but not in Robert Louis Stevenson's novel) in thwarting a band of malicious evildoers; the novel's ending suggests that there will be a sequel.

Sep 24 #2 On Aug. 23 the Miami New Times published a list of all of the books known to have been removed from school shelves in Florida from July 2021 to June 2024 <www.tinyurl.com/y4za569n>; *The Adventures and Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* is included for the Escambia County School District. The county is on the far western edge of the Florida Panhandle, with Pensacola its largest city. The Pensacola News Journal reported earlier this year <www.tinyurl.com/25ya3ydw> on protests by residents against how slowly the school board has been reviewing books that were "jailed" by the board.

The Little Free Library <www.littlefreelibrary.org> is more than just the boxes of free books one sees by the sidewalk in front of people's homes. The organization has compiled a state-by-state list of all the currently banned books, downloadable as a PDF file; only the one book by Conan Doyle is banned, and only in Florida.

Of course the Little Free Library has been around for a while, and it's a grand way to spread the gospel. Tom Fahres isn't the only Sherlockian who places Sherlockian duplicates in the boxes, and including a note about the local Sherlockian society is an excellent way to find new members.

David Stuart Davies ("Sir Ralph Musgrave" died on Aug. 16. He was a multi-talented author, editor, playwright, actor, and lecturer, praised for his Sherlockian novels, plays, interviews on radio and television, background commentary on Sherlockian DVDs, and by many for his performance of his one-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". David received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1995.

"Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth." Who said that, and when and where? Spoiler alert: the question will be answered later on in this issue.

Larry Millett, author of seven novels that featured Sherlock Holmes solving mysteries in St. Paul, Minn., turned his attention to Shadwell Rafferty, a supporting character in many of the novels, and now starring in his own stories, the latest being *Mysterious Tales of Old St. Paul* (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2024; 280 pp., \$24.95), which offers three of Rafferty's intriguing earlier cases.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for nominations for this year's Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award, an on-going effort by the Beacon Society to honor people who have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Details on the award, and a nomination form, are available at <www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>.

Country Life, in a post to its web-site (Sept. 7) about London's best restaurateurs <www.tinyurl.com/2wskme9t>, has many nice things to say about Jeremy King, among them that a relaunch of Simpson's on the Strand is imminent; the restaurant closed in March 2020, and much of its original furnishings was sold at auction last August <www.simpsons-auction.com>, but its web-site's still active <www.simpsonsinthestrands.co.uk>, with an account of the restaurant's history, and a mention of Sherlock Holmes.

Sep 24 #3 Playwright Ken Ludwig, fond of Shakespeare as well as Sherlock Holmes, has made news in Britain: the Guardian reported (Sept. 5) <www.tinyurl.com/2s3b95wc> that he has donated £1 million to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for crucial conservation work on Hall's Croft, the home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna and her physician husband John Hall (who is believed to have advised his father-in-law on medical matters).

There are many connections between Shakespeare and Sherlock Holmes, and it was grand that members of the Red Circle of Washington, D.C., were able to visit the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington twice in September, to see the manuscript of "The Valley of Fear" in the temporary exhibition of literary treasures from the Stuart and Mimi Rose Collection (Jun 24 #1), and to meet Nicholas Meyer, who is touring to promote his new novel *Sherlock Holmes and the Telegram from Hell* (May 24 #3).

The Folger conveniently offers a virtual tour of the exhibition at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/24hahdrs> (the manuscript is in case #4), and a spectacular book devoted to the exhibition (*Imprints in Time*), fully-illustrated in color, at their gift shop <www.tinyurl.com/4m9p7yvtv>, priced at \$125.00. And there's more information about the manuscript, including its history, at the Best of Sherlock Holmes web-site maintained by Randall Stock <www.tinyurl.com/36pxcygm>.

The quarterly Sherlock Holmes Magazine, launched in 2020, has reached its 18th issue <www.sherlockholmesmag.co.uk/latest-issue> (£6.99), which offers Daniel and Eugene Friedman's examination of Mycroft Holmes, who they think is the most colorful character in the Canon.

The University of Minnesota Libraries posted a nicely illustrated article about the "Sherlock Holmes @ 50" conference held in Minneapolis in July, and you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/4c5526z4>.

Kelvin I. Jones died on Aug. 16. He was an energetic actor, teacher, researcher, and writer, and you can see many of his books offered by dealers at ViaLibri <www.vialibri.net>, a web-site that casts a larger shadow than AbeBooks <www.abebooks.com>.

Bill Seil reports another appearance of Sherlock Holmes in newspaper comic strips: in Georgia Dunn's "Breaking Cat News" (Sept. 14), nicely available on-line at <www.gocomics.com/breaking-cat-news/2024/09/14>.

The nicely inscribed copy of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, at auction at PBA Galleries in on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/v9sn8fd8>, was sold for \$281.25 (including the 25% buyer's premium).

"Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth." Who said that, and when and where? Credit goes to Auguste Dupin, who doesn't say that in any story written by Edgar Allan Poe. So who gave the credit to Dupin, and when and where? Spoiler alert: the question will be answered later on in this issue.

Sep 24 #4 The oldest surviving Sherlockian television broadcast is "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" (broadcast by NBC-TV in 1949); you can watch it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ew2_egscp0> (kindly noted by Jennie Paton) and see Alan Napier as Holmes, many years before he became famous as Alfred the butler in the long-running "Batman" series in the 1960s. You'll also see Arthur Shields as The Bookshop Man, who introduced all of the programs in Lucky Strike's "Your Show Time" series.

You may think you've seen and heard Arthur Shields before, and there's a reason: he was the younger brother of Barry Fitzgerald, and both of them appeared in "The Quiet Man" (1952). I've mentioned that grand film before (Jun 09 #3), because it has two tenuous Sherlockian connections: Francis Ford, who played Sherlock Holmes in the film "A Study in Scarlet" (1914) played Dan Tobin (the old man with the white beard), and when the locals arrived at the newlyweds' cottage, they sang "Mush, Mush" (the music's now used by Sherlockians when they sing "We Never Mention Aunt Clara"). The movie was inspired by one of the stories in Maurice Walsh's wonderful collection *Green Rushes* (1935), which has been reprinted as *The Quiet Man and Other Stories* (1992); I recommend reading the book from the beginning, so that you'll know who's who.

"Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth." So who gave the credit to Dupin, and when and where? Arthur Conan Doyle, in his short story "The Fate of the Evangeline" (which was published in 1885, four years before a similar quote appeared in "The Sign of the Four"). This is only one of many discoveries at the Quote Investigator web-site <www.quoteinvestigator.com> if you search for [conan doyle].

The Giant Freakin Robot blog offered an interesting interview with Nicholas Meyer on Sept. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/42jsknyv>. Nick talked about Star Trek, his obituary, and (of course) Sherlock Holmes.

There are many mentions of spiders in the Canon, most of them pejorative, but the Royal Mail wants everyone to see how attractive Britain's spiders are, as shown on the country's new set of ten colorful stamps.

Sep 24 #5 MidWorld Press is celebrating the 30th anniversary of Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* with a special edition of the book: 300 hand-numbered copies, signed by Laurie, with new dust-jacket art and four full-color interior illustrations by Grace Aldrich (\$140.00). There's more information about the new edition, and an opportunity to pre-order, at <www.midworldpress.com/store/p/the-beekeepers-apprentice>.

"The Sleuth" <www.disney.fandom.com/wiki/The_Sleuth>, a Sherlockian character created for Disney comics, also appeared in two episodes of "The New Mickey Mouse Club" television series on Oct. 26 and 27, 1977 (which, alas, seem not to be available on-line). Samantha Wolov spotted a puppet of The Sleuth used in the series offered at auction at Van Eaton Galleries in Los Angeles <www.vegalleries.com/auctions> on Sept. 21, estimated at \$7,000-\$9,000 (lot 255 on page 90 in the catalog). Bidding didn't reach the reserve, and the lot didn't sell.

Howard Ostrom has updated his comprehensive and well-illustrated "Holmes Was a Dummy" essay to include The Sleuth; it's conveniently available on-line at <www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-puppetry.html>.

Ian A. R. Brown's *The Langham: The Legend Lives Since 1865 (140th Anniversary)* (Langham Hotels International, 2025) is a spectacular 138-page tribute to the hotel, full of color illustrations and colorful stories about its guests, famous and infamous, and its ghosts. Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes are not neglected (see pp. 44-45 and 47). The book's out of print, but available from on-line used-book dealers.

Gareth Rubin's *Holmes and Moriarty* (London: Simon & Schuster UK, 2024; 340 pp., £18.99) has Holmes and Watson forced to work with Moriarty and Moran to investigate a malevolent conspiracy; the concept's imaginative, and Rubin discussed the book in the *Observer* earlier this year (Apr 24 #4); you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/kttmc7er>. There isn't an American edition (yet), but the book's available at Amazon, and presumably elsewhere on-line.

"221B Sesame Street" was recently posted to An Archive of Our Own by District Messenger editor Holly Turner <www.tinyurl.com/6477fnek>; it's Holmes and Watson rather than Sherlock Hemlock, and great fun indeed. The District Messenger is the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's monthly on-line newsletter, published since 1982, and a complete archive is available at <www.tinyurl.com/5h66be6c>.

A bit more about Nicholas Meyer: Steven T. Doyle had a long and interesting discussion of the impact of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* (the book and the film) at the CrimeReads blog on Sept. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/2e7fcm72>.

Emmett Kelly, who achieved fame performing as a circus clown, once hoped to appear on television in his own show. He made a pilot in 1962, with a brief appearance as Sherlock Holmes, but the pilot never made it onto the air. You can see him as Holmes, thanks to Jennie Paton, who discovered a brief clip at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=eel438nB7tc>.

Sep 24 #6 An old (Dec. 4, 2016) post at the ABC-TV Good Morning America web-site <www.tinyurl.com/6vecuybn> on "what to see and what to skip in London" recommends a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and dining on "Watson's favorite food": Cumberland sausages. There's no mention of Cumberland sausages in the Canon, but Wikipedia reports that they have been a local delicacy for around 500 years.

Theater news: Don't Go Into the Cellar (Victorian Theatre with Bite) continues to tour a long list of touring shows <www.dontgointothecellar.com>, many of them one-man Sherlockian presentations starring Jonathan Goodwin.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is running at the Claude L. Shaver Theatre in Baton Rouge, La., through Oct. 6; their web-site's at <www.lsu.edu/cmnda/theatre/events/index.php>.

Stewart Howson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sting of the Scorpion" is touring in Britain through Oct. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/2s37w4su>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Coaster Theatre Playhouse in Cannon Beach, Ore., through Oct 26 <www.coastertheatre.com>. It's also due at the McKinney Performing Arts Center in Deep Ellum, Tex., Oct. 4-12 <www.tinyurl.com/y5yrwsc>, and the Old Opera House in Charles Town, W.Va., Oct. 18-27 <www.olderoperahouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Hailey Theater in Lynchburg, Va., Oct. 3-5 <www.tinyurl.com/bp8yfkpv>; and the Fern Street Theatre in West Palm Beach, Fla., Oct. 3 to 5 <www.pba.edu/venue/fern-street-theatre>; and the Prince William Little Theater in Manassas, Va., Oct. 4-12, web-site's at <www.pwlt.org>. Also at the Tyler Civic Theatre Center in Tyler, Tex., Oct. 13-20 <www.tylercivictheatre.com>; the Carrollwood Players Theatre in Tampa, Fla., Oct. 18-Nov. 3 <www.carrollwoodplayers.org>; and the Austin Play-house in Austin, Tex., Nov. 22-Dec. 13 <www.austinplayhouse.com>.

"Holmes/Poirot" (by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) will have its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 9-Nov. 3 <www.parksquaretheatre.org>. Hatcher and Hendrickson were interviewed on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/mrym6a2w>.

Gina Tracy's "William and James: A Ghost Story" will be performed at Gillette Castle in East Haddam, Conn., Oct. 18-27 <www.tinyurl.com/3ab76xrm>; it's an imaginary conversation between William Gillette and James O'Neill at The Players in New York, on the opening night of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes".

Thomas W. Olson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at the Black Box Arts Center in Shepherdstown, W.Va., in November <www.rovingperegrine.squarespace.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Brook Street Mysteries" (adapted by Melinda O'Brien and Michael Muldoon from "The Resident Patient" and "The Naval Treaty") is to be performed at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 15-Dec. 8 <www.lyndhurst.org>.

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Oct 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

"Your message was believed to contain questionable content, and therefore was not delivered to the intended recipients," was Comcast's excuse when last month's issue didn't arrive to be posted at the Red Circle web-site in a timely fashion. Fortunately, there was a work-around: Gmail did not believe there was any questionable content in the issue. One does wonder just what Comcast thought was questionable, but there seems to be no way to figure out how Net Nannies work.

Information about many of the events (formal and informal) planned for the birthday festivities in New York in January 2025 is available at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.tinyurl.com/57y38z3h>. Only a few of them are invitation-only, and the birthday festivities continue to be a (very) long weekend that runs from Wednesday through Sunday.

If you're wondering how Facebook algorithms work, someone I know recently had carpeting done, and accidentally got high from glue fumes, and posted about it on Facebook, and now is flooded with advertisements for microdosing and dispensaries. Big Brother really is watching us all.

"Our greatest export: murder," Mark Gatiss noted from the U.K. in a promo for the PBS-TV series "Moonflower Murders" <www.tinyurl.com/5n787zbu>.

There is a small but intriguing sub-genre of Sherlockiana: short stories and books with titles that appear to be Sherlockian, but aren't. Such as David Henry Hwang's *Yellow Face*, which is a play (2007), film (2010), video (2013), novel (2023), and audio (2024) <www.tinyurl.com/25bmru6m>.

Dame Maggie Smith died on Sept. 27. One of our greatest actors, she appeared in her first film in her 20s in 1956, made her stage debut in London in 1957, and went on to become an award-winning star on stage, screen, and television. Of course, she also had Sherlockian credits: she was Dora Charleston in the film "Murder by Death" (1976) and voiced Lady Blueberry in "Sherlock Gnomes" (2018).

"Fluffy yellow haze in the glass, with notes of overripe yellow peaches, juicy Valencia oranges, fresh honeydew melon, and tropical guava," as well as an imaginative can: Sherlock Bones IPA from KCBC, noted by Jennie Paton <www.shop.kcbcbeer.com/product/sherlock-bones-ddh-hazy-ipa-7-2-4-pk>.

The Susan Rice Mentorship Board has issued a call for nominations for the 2025 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, given annually to "one outstanding Sherlockian mentor who, like the late Susan Rice, is committed to bringing aspiring Sherlockians into the cause, and encouraging them to find ways to keep green the memory of Sherlock Holmes." The mentor and the mentee need not be members of the Baker Street Irregulars, and the winner will be announced during the birthday festivities in New York in January 2025. More information about the criteria and the history of the award can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward>. Nominations, with a brief explanation of how they honor Susan's spirit of mentorship, should be submitted Nov. 10 to <susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com>.

Oct 24 #2 An old (Dec. 4, 2016) post at the ABC-TV Good Morning America web-site <www.tinyurl.com/6vecuybn> on "what to see and what to skip in London" recommends a visit to the Sherlock Holmes Pub, and dining on "Watson's favorite food": Cumberland sausages. There's no mention of Cumberland sausages in the Canon, but Wikipedia reports that they have been a local delicacy for around 500 years.

Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 15. Well, it was Sherlock Paul Holmes, Jr., aged 93, son of Sherlock Paul Holmes, Sr. You'll find an obituary for him (and for many other people named Sherlock Holmes) at <www.legacy.com>. It is interesting how many people named Sherlock Holmes are in the Internet telephone directories <www.411.com> and <www.whitepages.com>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping): Randall Stock's annual and informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books, movies, DVDs, and more, go on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1. You will also find recommendations of older material, all with helpful explanations of his choices. There's always much more of interest at his web-site, including discussion of manuscripts, Beeton's Christmas Annual, and Sidney Paget; you can click on "Site index" at the upper right to see what's available.

One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, including the Sports section of the Washington Post (Oct. 2), at the end of Thomas Boswell's column about Pete Rose <www.tinyurl.com/y6t2mk6n>.

Barbara Leigh-Hunt died on Sept. 16. She began acting on stage in London, and went on to a career on stage, screen, and television that included her appearance as Madge Larrabee in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in London, Bristol, Washington, and New York in 1974.

Johanna Draper Carlson reports that the University of Chicago Press is offering Grolier Club books in a half-off sale until Dec. 1, so here's your chance to purchase Cathy and Glen Miranker's spectacular *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker* catalog discounted to \$40.00 <www.tinyurl.com/57kdvp8m>; just use the code GROLIERSALE in the shopping cart.

There still are Sherlockian philatelists, including Matt Hall, who has an interesting "221B Cooee" blog at <www.221bcooee.blogspot.com>, and posted about some Sherlockian postage stamps on Oct. 4. Steve Trussel's splendid web-sites on detectives on stamps are still on-line <www.trussel.com>, but haven't been updated since he died in 2020 (Oct 23 #4).

"Will & Harper" debuted on Netflix on Sept. 27, starring Will Ferrell (who appeared as Holmes in "Holmes & Watson" (2018)). It's a touching documentary about his cross-country car trip with his trans-gender woman friend Harper Steele. Ferrell packed his Sherlock Holmes costume, and is wearing it at the Big Texas Steak Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, when he tries to eat a 72-ounce steak in one hour; there was more to the visit than is shown in the film, reported in Vanity Fair (Sept. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/trmunxkz>.

Oct 24 #3 Reported earlier (Feb 19 #5), but still available: *The Adventure of the Creeping Man* (Winchester University Press, 2017; 132 pp. £34.00). It's a facsimile edition of the manuscript, accompanied by an introduction and annotated transcript by Neil McCaw, and a facsimile of the story as published in *The Strand Magazine*; the book's nice epigraph is: "Read at once if convenient—if inconvenient, read all the same." You can (and should) order the book at <www.tinyurl.com/mudyy782>.

There are people who consider the story to be science fiction, but there really was some science involved. Lion Heart Autographs is offering (for \$300) a document signed by Serge Voronoff, well-known in those days as the "monkey gland surgeon" <www.tinyurl.com/mwawtb2f>.

A welcome holiday present for Sherlockians and Doyleans: "Lucy Worsley's Holmes vs. Doyle" will air on PBS-TV in three Sunday episodes beginning on Dec. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/467yus6k>. The mini-series was broadcast in Britain on BBC Two last year as "Killing Sherlock: Lucy Worsley on the Case of Conan Doyle" (Dec 23 #7).

Lion's mane mushrooms have long been believed to be healthful and helpful (Sep 18 #4), and it's not at all surprising that one can now find lion's mane mushroom gummies in health stores (and on the Internet), and at Walgreen's, recently reported by Karen Murdock.

Further to last month's query about "Exclude the impossible, and what is left, however improbable, must be the truth," Cliff Goldfarb notes that he reported in the *Baker Street Journal* (Dec. 1979) that Antoine de Fourcroy, the French astronomer, wrote (in the *Magasin Encyclopedique*) in 1803, "ce n'est qu'en éliminant l'absurde ou l'impossible, que l'on peut adopter ce qui aura d'abord paru incroyable." If you'd like a copy of his article, it's available from Cliff by e-mail <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

John Carter's *ABC for Book Collectors*, first published in 1952, is a valuable reference work for anyone who wants to understand the jargon used by careful collectors, dealers, and bibliographers. Max Magee has discovered the eighth edition (2004) available on-line <www.tinyurl.com/yyhp233a>.

Plan ahead: the Gaslight Gala (an alternative birthday-festivities event for those not invited to the Baker Street Irregulars' annual dinner) will be held on Jan. 17, 2025. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, you can contact Ann Brauer Andriacco <aandriacco@fuse.net>.

"It's a cracker," is how the Sherlock Holmes Society of London describes this year's colorful Christmas card <www.tinyurl.com/54hbe6wf>. £7.00 for a packet of ten cards and envelopes.

Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition (the new name for the International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes) has ended its run at the Farmington Museum in Farmington, N.M. (Jun 24 #6). If you'd like to see it, or see it again, just persuade your local museum to put it on display, it's available for March-September 2025 <www.tinyurl.com/j2y4bsrf>.

Oct 24 #4 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Sep 24 #1) has come to an end. The BBC noted (Oct. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/yff6dwjm> that the New Forest National Park Authority's planning officers had reported that it was clear that the remains of the building were in "a perilous condition" and that retention of that part of the hotel "was no longer a viable option." That's the historic facade, said to have been designed by Conan Doyle in 1912, which the NPA had required the developer to preserve. This was what some call "demolition by neglect," and the Daily Mail reported on Oct. 15 <www.tinyurl.com/4rcbe23t> that the Victorian Society was still campaigning to preserve the façade. The campaign was not successful: the Bournemouth Echo reported (Oct. 16) that the NPA planning committee, after lengthy discussions, had approved the proposal to demolish the building <www.tinyurl.com/yff6dwjm>.

Don't Go Into the Cellar (Victorian Theatre with Bite) continues to offer a long list of touring shows <www.dontgointothecellar.com>, many of them one-man Sherlockian presentations starring Jonathan Goodwin.

Here's your chance to own a (reasonably) authentic signed copy of Professor Moriarty's *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, up for bids at Propstore Auctions on Nov. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/dff4enuf>, estimated at £1,000 to £2,000. It's the prop used in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011). There will be other Sherlockian items in the auction, including the sword used by Holmes (Nicholas Rowe) in his battle with Rathe (Anthony Higgins) at the end of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), estimated at £4,000-£8,000.

Further to the report (Jul 24 #5) on the discovery of an audio recording of the long-lost BBC-1 television broadcast of Peter Cushing's "The Second Stain" (1968) <www.tinyurl.com/35fam34b>, Mark Jones reports that Kaleidoscope has restored the audio, with closed captions and AI images, and that he has posted it at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmnpfEBQJEk>.

"If you have ever amused yourselves by reading some of the work of 'spoof' criticism about Sherlock Holmes (e.g. *Baker Street Studies* or H. W. Bell's *Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson*) you will see just how far pseudo-scientific method can be used to interpret these 'fossil remains' scattered about the Sherlock Holmes stories, and what ingenuity can be used to force the indications into an apparent historical consistency. As regards the past of his characters, Conan Doyle's imagination was not, in fact, very consistent; there are lapses and contradictions, as well as lacunae. But let us suppose a novelist with a perfectly complete and flawless past history; and let us suppose, further, that the fossil remains were being examined by one of the characters, who (since his existence is contained wholly within the covers of the book just as ours is contained wholly within the universe) could not get outside the written book to communicate with the author. (This, I know, is difficult, rather like imagining the inhabitants of two-dimensional space, but it can be done.)" Dorothy L. Sayers, in "Creative Mind" (an address given to the Humanities Club at Reading on Feb. 1942); quoted by Olivia Rutigliano at the CrimeReads blog (Sept. 14, 2024) <www.tinyurl.com/2mjn4chv>, and published in full in Sayers' collection *Unpopular Opinions* (1946).

Oct 24 #5 Jennie Paton noted an interesting question on-line: "How many Sherlocks have acted opposite one another?" The on-line answer was: Robert Downey Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch in the "Avengers" movies, Ian McKellen and Christopher Lee in "Lord of the Rings", and Robert Stephens and Robert Downey Jr. in "Chaplin". Can you add to the list?

The British Film Institute's plans to restore all of the Eille Norwood silent films (Sep 24 #1) received nice publicity this month. There's video available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LMorPqG122A>.

The vtdigger web-site reported (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/yydx86ma> that the Landmark Trust USA is working to protect Naulakha (Rudyard Kipling's home in Vermont) from increasingly punishing precipitation. Conan Doyle visited Kipling there in 1894 (Jan 24 #3).

Plan ahead: the first BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies is to be held in Indianapolis, Ind., on Apr. 26, 2025. The Conclave, according to an announcement in the autumn issue of the Baker Street Journal, is officially recognized by the Baker Street Irregulars and is intended to assist scion societies in sharing ideas, collaborating, networking, and thriving. Stay tuned for further details.

Jerry and Chrys Kegley's splendid obit for the late Maggie Schpak (Jun 24 #3) in the autumn issue of the Baker Street Journal reports that she appeared on television in 1970s and 1980s. You can watch her on "Press Your Luck" in 1984 <www.tinyurl.com/2eev3yb7> and <www.tinyurl.com/4n7hy326>.

CBS Entertainment announced (Oct. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/bdh4kudy> that the new series "Watson" (with Morris Chestnut in the title role) will debut on Jan. 26 (following the AFC Championship game), and then take its regular time slot at 10:00 pm (ET) on Feb. 16. The series will also stream on Paramount+. You can read what Chestnut had to say about the series in an interview at the Deadline web-site (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/bejcp3vd>.

If you'd like to know more about Larry Millett's *Mysterious Tales of Old St. Paul* (Sep 24 #2), and Rafferty and Holmes and the Twin Cities, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have a nice interview with Millett at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/36rn237x>.

One also hears of Conan Doyle everywhere: Asif M. Basit wrote about Conan Doyle and Britain's Muslim community, and his visits to the Fazi Mosque in London, in *Al Hakam* (Oct. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/4stjx7bh>. And Ajay Kamlakaran wrote about Conan Doyle's visits to India in a post at the Scroll web-site (Oct. 19) <www.tinyurl.com/mt8ps7hk>.

Jennie Paton has noted *Mandevilla sherlockii*, a new species of rocktrumpet discovered in Mexico and named by Leonardo O. Alvarado-Cárdenas and Lucio Lozada-Pérez in 2017 in honor of Sherlock Holmes, who "reflects much of the work of taxonomists and scientists in general, which is entirely detective work. Additionally, he was conceived as an amateur botanist, mainly interested in plants that can be used as poisons."

Oct 24 #6 Some theatrical news: the People and Stories company is touring Scott Ramsey's "Summons in the Night" in and near Portsmouth through Nov. 16. Set in Portsmouth Harbor, it has American adventureress Irene Hunter, touring theater manager Bram Stoker, and local physician Arthur Conan Doyle battle deadly forces when an Egyptian sarcophagus arrives by sea <www.peopleandstories.co.uk>. There was a review in the Portsmouth News (Oct. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/ym6vhwew>.

Jonathan Ross' new dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is on at For His Glory Productions in Kingsport, Tenn., through Nov. 3; web-site at <www.fhgproductions.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Emerald Coast Theatre Company in Miramar Beach, Fla., through Nov. 3 <www.emeraldcoasttheatre.org>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" is scheduled at the Gateway Center for the Arts in DeBary, Fla., Nov. 1-10 <www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Fine Arts Building at the University of Alaska Anchorage, Nov. 1-16 <www.midnightsuntheatre.org>.

Philip Dart's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" is scheduled at the English Theatre in Vienna, Nov. 5-Dec. 21 <www.englishtheatre.at>.

Phil Cheadle's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Selecting a Ghost" will be produced at the Stanley Arts Centre in London, Nov. 6-9; their web-site is at <www.twolinesproductions.com>.

The Lower Shore Performing Arts Company will tour Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" from the Art League of Ocean City in Ocean City, Md., on Nov. 9 to the Mar-Va Theater in Pocomoke, Md., on Dec. 7, 2024; their web-site is at <www.lowershorepac.org>.

Shanahan's play also is scheduled at the Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany, N.Y., Nov. 22-Dec. 22 <www.attherep.org>; and at the Appleton Village Hall in Appleton, Oxon., Nov. 28-30 <www.tinyurl.com/4hkdn67p>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Brook Street Mysteries" (adapted by Melinda O'Brien and Michael Muldoon from "The Resident Patient" and "The Naval Treaty") is to be performed at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 15-Dec. 8 <www.lyndhurst.org>.

Mark Edwards Lang's "The Death of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed (radio style) at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 15-23 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

Jacklyn Fazio's "Sherlock Holmes and the Familiar Face" will be performed during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., Nov. 16-17 and 23-24 <www.capemaymac.org/experience/special-events/sherlock-holmes-weekend>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Village Hall in Longdown, Devon., Dec. 3-5 <www.tinyurl.com/uxwxcxkc>.

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Nov 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Something else to do in New York during the birthday festivities in January: there will be an interesting exhibition at the Grolier Club (47 East 60th Street). "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" (Dec. 5 to Feb. 15) <www.tinyurl.com/433pemja> quite likely will include one or more Sherlockian items. The exhibition book, to be published by Oak Knoll <www.oakknoll.com/pages/books/141071>, shows on its cover a copy of The Strand Magazine that contains the short story "The Giant Rat of Sumatra".

Registration for Baker Street Irregulars events that are open to the public closes on Dec. 4, so there's still time to register if you act quickly (and if space is available) <www.tinyurl.com/8az9xdak>.

The 1937 German film "Sherlock Holmes: Die graue Dame" with Herman Speelmans as Jimmy Ward/Sherlock Holmes has been available at YouTube for some time (Sep 17 #5), all in German. Jennie Paton has found it available now with closed captions that can be set for English (and other languages) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSVWTFPZY2A>.

There's a Sherlock River in the Pilbara region of Western Australia, and according to Wikipedia it was named in 1861 by surveyor and explorer Frank Gregory while in expedition in the area. Obviously, from the date, it was not named in honor of Sherlock Holmes, but there's also a Sherlock Station homestead, a Sherlock antimony mine, and possible exploitation of gold and antimony at a new Sherlock Crossing project <www.tinyurl.com/26p7ptnm>.

Ann McClellan, who lectured on "The Holmes You Never Knew: Black American Adaptations Then and Now" earlier this year (Mar 24 #2), also talked about the longevity of the famous sleuth at the Whitman Public Library in 2021. Her 92-minute lecture "(Not So) Elementary My Dear Watson" will be found on-line at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CAQjOVikIR8>.

CBS-TV has released a teaser for their new "Watson" series, starring Morris Chestnut in the title role <www.tinyurl.com/4cx7avdt>. The first episode is scheduled for Jan. 26, after the AFC Championship game. The series will then air weekly at 9:00 pm beginning on Feb. 16.

Gina Russell Tracy's *Willima & James: A Ghost Story* is a two-act play that was produced at Gillette Castle in October; it's an imaginary conversation between William Gillette and James O'Neill at The Players in New York, on the opening night of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes", and the script's available from Next Stage Press <www.tinyurl.com/2smaymfy> (\$10.55 print/\$7.95 digital).

There's still time (if you act quickly) to subscribe to the Baker Street Journal for 2024; the BSJ's Christmas Annual for 2024, available only to subscribers, will be titled "Gather 'Round the Sundial: A Night with the Five Orange Pips". It's a selection of papers delivered at recent meetings of the oldest scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, edited by Rebecca Romney. Subscribe to the BSJ at <www.tinyurl.com/2jzkekm9>.

Nov 24 #2 Sabine Baring-Gould is of interest for his collections of the legends of Dartmoor, his meeting with Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes in Laurie R. King's *The Moor*, and (perhaps most important) the Sherlockian classics that were written by his grandson William S. Baring-Gould. The Public Domain Review recently discussed Sabine Baring-Gould's *The Book of Were-Wolves: Being an Account of a Terrible Superstition* (published in 1865) <www.tinyurl.com/2twasvf6>.

Country Life continues to publish items of interest to Sherlockians. One recalls that Sherlock Holmes lived in retirement "in a small farm upon the downs," an area described as "the perfumed arcadia" and "England' oldest manmade habitat" by their correspondent John Lewis Stempel in a web-site post on Oct. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/u2ek86me>.

Paul Morrissey died on Oct. 28. He began his film career as a writer and director in 1964, and served as Andy Warhol's personal manager from 1965 to 1974. His long list of film credits includes directing the Peter Cook and Dudley Moore version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

Internet users have many ways to learn what the "word of the day" is. On Nov. 7 the Classic City News (in Athens, Ga.) proposed "infracaninophile" (a word that's not yet in the Oxford English Dictionary, but ought to be). It was invented by Christopher Morley, and will be found in his preface to *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* <www.tinyurl.com/34sm5cy4>.

"How many Sherlocks have acted opposite one another?" was the query (Oct 24 #5). Scott Monty kindly reported that someone has posted the question at Reddit <www.tinyurl.com/t3wn77z6>, and there was a flood of answers, so there's no need for a lengthy paragraph here. So: a new question (which I hope will have fewer answers): which plays, films, or television episodes had three or more Sherlocks acting together?

For those who understand Italian, or just want to watch: here's a Facebook excerpt from the new "Sherlock Holmes: Il Musical", which was co-authored by Enrico Solito and is being performed at theaters in Italy through Jan. 26 2025 <www.tinyurl.com/7j6kj4hr>. For more information about the musical, here's its web-site <www.sherlockholmesilmusical.it/#lo-spettacolo>.

John Lawrence's *Sherlock Holmes: The Affair at Mayerling Lodge* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2023; 285 pp., \$24.95) involves Holmes and Watson in a real historical mystery in the Austro-Hungarian Hapsburg Empire in 1889: the deaths of Crown Prince Rudolf and one of his mistresses in a hunting lodge at Mayerling. The author is a historian who has his own solution to the mystery, and paints a vivid picture of the goings-on in the Empire and in the Royal Family.

Timothy West died on Nov. 12. He began his professional acting career on stage in 1956, then made his London stage debut in 1959, joined the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1960s, and went on to play major roles in film, radio, and television, retiring from acting in 2023. His lengthy list of credits included appearing as Dr. Watson in the BBC Radio 4 broadcast of Loren D. Estleman's "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" (1981).

Nov 24 #3 The Beacon Society continues to publish its "quarterly gazette for younger Sherlockians everywhere," and the autumn issue of Sherlock's Spotlight is available at their web-site (check the menu at the left) <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective, and the gazette is intended to provide younger Sherlockians with information and entertainment.

William Sarjeant, co-author of the then-controversial *Ms. Holmes of Baker Street* (Dec 89 #6 and May 04 #2) was a distinguished paleontologist, and receives a mention in Martin Fone's thoroughly amusing article about "how a bad joke confused paleontologists for generations" in *Country Life* (Nov. 2) <www.tinyurl.com/mwuf2s69>.

The Literary Hub web-site offered (on Nov. 5) "A Brief History of the Most Famous Swear Word in the World" (a word that won't be spelled out or even asterisked here) <www.tinyurl.com/46s9vhap>. It's well worth reading.

"The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" was a South African series, broadcast by Springbok Radio from 1979-1985, with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson. Jennie Paton has found a series marathon (with 12 hours of the programs) at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4klQz4F-ycc>. A few of the programs are Canonical, most of them are not.

If you've not yet ordered a Sherlockian calendar for 2025, here's a link to one offered by the Strand Magazine <www.tinyurl.com/4fvxasfw>; you're also welcome to explore their shop and blog.

"Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" celebrated its 45th anniversary on Nov. 16 at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, this year with lectures that focused on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Sponsored by the local Sherlockian societies, the event was recorded, and the seven lectures are conveniently available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/live/ZQLU7ibcoUc>.

The Agra Treasurers' tenth "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held at the Quality Dayton Airport Inn in Dayton, Ohio, Mar. 21-22, 2025; their web-site is at <www.agratreasurers.net> (with links to programs for previous conferences), and registration's now open.

Henry Ward Beecher is mentioned in only one story in the Canon ("The Card-board Box"), but he has been the subject of much Sherlockian scholarship. Michael Dirda's review of Richard Shaplan's new biography of Beecher, *Free Love: The Story of a Great American Scandal* (McNally Editions) was in the Washington Post on Nov. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/2rnpjvjrd>.

Riverside Studios, the British Film Institute, and the Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes Podcast have announced the "Sherlock Holmes: 40th Anniversary TV Showcase" on Dec. 15 at the Riverside Studios in London; the event will include a screening of two episodes from the Grenada series, followed by a Q&A with some of the people who worked on the episodes. Details will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/pnpwthdp>. Gus and Luke Holwerda preside over the podcast <www.sherlockpodcast.com>, and presented Brettcon earlier this year (Feb 24 #2).

Nov 24 #4 The August issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Phil Bergem's report on Laurie R. King's donation of her Mary Russell archives to the Collections, anniversary celebrations of Conan Doyle's *Memories and Adventures* and Nicholas Meyer's *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution*, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

The Marco Navas Studio has honored "The Sign of the Four" with a new set of 1/32 figurines; they're hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and you can see them at <www.tinyurl.com/4t92zv2>. This is the latest in their Sherlock Holmes Collection <www.tinyurl.com/2s3m7r5b>; some of their earlier figurines are still available.

On the Nov. 4 episode of the BBC Two "Mastermind" quiz-show series, contestant Kaushik Bhattacharya answered questions about the Sherlock Holmes stories <www.youtube.com/watch?v=bvmOS3d1D-M>. See if you can do better than he did.

"Khitrovka: The Sign of Four" was a Russian film, released in 2003, and it will be issued on Blu-ray (with English sub-titles and added features) as "In the Moscow Slums" on Feb. 11. You can read much more about the film (and see a trailer) at <www.blu-ray.com/news/?id=35507>, and it's available for pre-order at Amazon.

I try not to report on rumors about films and television and such, but on occasion there's something attention-getting: a report in the Kosovo Telegraph about a new film starring Sacha Baron Cohen as Sherlock Holmes and Will Ferrell as Dr. Watson <www.tinyurl.com/4erjjje>. But if one is observant one sees that the report is from 16 years ago. And 16 years ago the report was accurate. The casting eventually was revised: when "Holmes & Watson" was released in 2018 it starred Will Ferrell as Holmes and John Reilly as Watson.

"Fury as Woke Uni Gives Sherlock Holmes Book a Trigger Warning Because It Explores 'Violence & Murder'" was the headline on a story at the web-site of the London Sun (Nov. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/57bz69pu>. According to the story, "soft-touch dons" at East Anglia University have included *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in a list of books that may be "emotionally and intellectually challenging" proposed for a module on "The Art of Murder". The founder of the university's Free speech Union suggested that anyone studying "The Art of Murder" didn't "need to be Sherlock Holmes to figure out that the books you'll be reading contain violence and murder," adding that "if you require a trigger warning to alert you to that fact, maybe a university education isn't for you."

It's not the first time that East Anglia has made the news about trigger warnings: two years ago the Daily Mail reported <www.tinyurl.com/c5d8k8h8> that students were warned that the history of St. George (patron saint of England) and his martyrdom "contains descriptions of and allusions to torture and violence leading to his death."

Nov 24 #5 Country Life's web-site turns up often in these pages. This time with an article that announces "if oysters be the food of love, shuck on" (Nov. 7) <www.tinyurl.com/mtsdetm9> that will be of particular interest to members of S.P.O.D.E., who meet to dine on oysters during the birthday festivities in New York in January, and elsewhere at other times. The full name is the Society for the Prevention of Oysters Destroying the Earth (see "The Dying Detective").

This year's Baker Street Irregulars Trust Lecture, featuring Mattias Bostrom (Aug 24 #5), now is available (along with lectures from past years) at the Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org/2023/12/bsi-trust-lectures.html>.

The (reasonably) authentic signed copy of Professor Moriarty's *The Dynamics of an Asteroid*, up for bids at Propstore Auctions on Nov. 17 (Oct 24 #4) estimated at £1,000-£2,000, went unsold when bidding did not reach the reserve; it's the prop used in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011). The sword used by Holmes (Nicholas Rowe) in his battle with Rathe (Anthony Higgins) at the end of "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), estimated at £4,000-£8,000, also did not sell.

Will Thomas' *Season of Death* (New York: Minotaur, 2025; 352 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in the excellent series that features private enquiry agents Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and Thomas Llewelyn (his faithful and long-suffering partner); the series now runs to 16 titles, and this time they are pitted against a would-be crime lord who wants to control all the gangs in London. As always, Thomas has great fun with his colorful characters on both sides of the law.

Fifty Fantastic Years: An Anniversary Celebration (a 46-page booklet published in August by the Three Garridebs of Westchester County) is a pleasant collection of memories, reminiscences, and photographs. You can order a copy from Troy Reynolds (122 Waterside Close, Peekskill, NY 10566) for \$7.00 postpaid.

Jennie Paton spotted an advertisement for T-shirts promoting the Sherlock Sharks <www.tinyurl.com/3pfe7nkn>. This Sherlock is the Sherlock Elementary School in Cicero, Ill., named for local resident and attorney John J. Sherlock <www.cicd99.edu/sherlock-school/about>.

Lloyds Bank will close its Baker Street branch on Jan. 6, many years after becoming world-famous in 1971, when enterprising thieves managed to tunnel into the bank from a nearby shop in a robbery inspired by "The Red-Headed League". The BBC web-site had a long and well-illustrated story about the robbery at its web-site on Nov. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/35x3rt2w>.

The Rosenbach Museum & Library in Philadelphia is continuing its series of Canonical virtual programs (May 24 #4), with senior manager of public programs Edward G. Pettit as host and featuring a rotating group of Sherlockian co-hosts <www.tinyurl.com/susvpm64>. "Sherlock Mondays" is now "Sherlock Monthly", and all the programs can be watched at the Rosenbach's YouTube channels <www.tinyurl.com/3u4xy7cw> <www.tinyurl.com/5cfnr27x>.

Nov 24 #6 Theatrical news: Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" seems to be everywhere this holiday season. It is being performed at the Historic Opera House in Mantorville, Minn., through Dec. 22; web-site at <www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com>. And at the San Jose Stage Company in San Jose, Calif., through Dec. 1 <www.thestage.org>; and at the Marylebone Theatre in London until Jan. 5 <www.marylebonetheatre.com>.

It also is scheduled at the Footlighters Theater in Redlands, Calif., Dec. 2-29 <www.redlandsfootlighters.org>; at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., Dec. 4-29 <www.vastage.org>; the Cary Arts Center in Cary, N.C., Dec. 5-9 <www.caryplayers.org>; the Community Theater in Brandon, S.D., Dec. 6-15 <www.mightycorson.com>; the Stage III Community Theatre in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 6-22 <www.stageiiiitheatre.org>; and at the Cailloux Theater in Kerrville, Texas, Dec. 6-15 <www.caillouxperformingarts.com>.

Also at the Red Curtain Foundation for the Arts in Marysville, Wash., Dec. 6-22 <www.redcurtainfoundation.org>; at the Dream House Theatre in Myrtle Beach, S.C., Dec. 11 to 19 <www.longbaytheatre.com>; at the Henry Heymann Theatre in Pittsburgh, Pa., Dec. 13-22 <www.kinetictheatre.org>; and (last listing this month) at the Westport Country Playhouse in Westport, Conn., Dec. 17-22 <www.westportplayhouse.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is on at the Sundre Arts Centre in Sundre, Alta., until Dec. 7 <www.sundreartscentre.com>; and the Santa Paula theatre Center in Santa Paula, Calif., Dec. 15 <www.santapaulatheatrecenter.org>. And it is scheduled at the Lone Tree Arts Center in Lone Tree, Colo., Nov. 3-13 <www.lonetreeartscenter.org>.

Billy Morton's new "A Sherlock Holmes Christmas" will be performed at The Old Courthouse in Oxford, Oxon., Dec. 9-21 <www.wildgoosetheatre.co.uk>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at the Boone Community Theatre in Boone, Iowa, Jan. 3-11 <www.boonecommunitytheatre.org>; it also is due at the Centerstage Theatre in Federal Way, Wash., Jan. 31-Feb. 23 <www.centerstage.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Tottenham Tosser" (by Rob and Linda Garget) has been scheduled at the Keelby Village Hall in Keelby, Lincs., on Feb. 1-8 <www.tinyurl.com/bdejc928>. It's a British pantomime, with a great title.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" will be performed at the Coolidge Theatre in Wellsboro, Pa., Feb. 14-22, 2025 <www.hamiltongibson.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Jones Hall for the Performing Arts in Houston, Tex., Mar. 1 (with two performances) <www.tinyurl.com/3v4kjqvn6>.

The musical "Sherlock & Cinders" (by Tom Kirkham and Matthew Crossley) will be performed at the Witton Middle School in Droitwich Spa., Worcs., Mar. 18-20 <www.witton.worcs.sch.uk/musical-2025-sherlock-cinders>.

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Dec 24 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Reported: *The Captain of the Polestar: A Ghost Story for Christmas*, illustrated by the Canadian cartoonist Seth (Windsor: Biblioasis, 2023; 64 pp., \$6.61), in a continuing annual series with almost two dozen titles from a wide variety of authors.

The October issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers detailed reports on this year's "Sherlock Holmes @ 50" conference in Minneapolis, and news from and about the collections. Copies of the "A Festive Fifty" exhibition catalog may still be available (\$30.00) <<https://z.umn.edu/holmescatalog>>; copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Fans of the late MSFK3 [Mystery Science Theater 3000] will enjoy the work of the parodists at RiffTrax <www.rifftrax.com>; their latest Sherlockian offering is Ronald Howard's "The Case of the Christmas Pudding" (1955).

Two Conan Doyle letters were at auction at Ewbank's in Woking on Dec. 5, of interest because they're examples of many letters written and signed by his secretaries (Michael Meer has suggested that the letter from Davos was signed by Conan Doyle's sister Lottie) <www.tinyurl.com/46xxpds>; the estimate was £200-£300, and the letters sold for £338 (including the buyer's premium).

"A storybook embodiment of architectural splendor" is how Sotheby's International Realty describes Otto Penzler's home in Kent, Conn., now offered for sale <www.tinyurl.com/4fmthzcv>, complete with a three-story library, a turret, and a gargoyle; 5,800 square feet and ten rooms, with an asking price of \$2,950,000.

Offered by David Duggleby Auctioneers in Scarborough on Dec. 6: an oil-on-canvas painting by Sidney Paget of "Figures in a Gothic Landscape with Ancient Castle Ruins" sold for £850 <www.tinyurl.com/4sk97xme>. You needn't pay a lot for Paget artwork that isn't Sherlockian.

Doug Wrigglesworth ("The Retired Colourman") died on Dec. 1. Doug taught high-school chemistry, and was recognized as Science Teacher of the year in 1988. He was a distinguished member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, as well as one of the founders of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Reference Library, and was awarded his Investiture by the Baker Street Irregulars in 2004.

William Oxer's painting "The Muse or Like for Like" (one of three commissioned for Phil Growick's anthology *The Art of Sherlock Holmes* (published by MX Publishing in 2019) was available at Anglia Car Auctions in Norfolk on Dec. 7, estimated at £12,000-£15,000 <www.tinyurl.com/y9wv723m>; bidding did not meet the reserve, and the painting's still available. Or you can buy a digital print from MX for \$35.00 <www.tinyurl.com/2832373y>.

Dec 24 #2 The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes, with Steve Steinbock's reviews of some Sherlockian (and other) books, Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column about a mystery that intrigued Conan Doyle, Terence Faherty's parody of "The Greek Interpreter", and editorial happy birthday wishes. This is the 1,000th issue of EQMM, and the last to be edited by Janet Hutchings, who is retiring after 33 years at the editor's desk. The new editor will be Jackie Sherbow, only the fourth editor in the long history of the magazine.

Jennie Paton reports a truly unusual performance of Sherlockian music, by the James Madison High School Marching Band in Vienna, Va., available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr8cZ0ajlQ>.

The Boston Sunday Post published many Sherlock Holmes stories in the early 20th century, when quite a few newspapers gladly offered readers more than mere news, and Ross Davies has found some attractive artwork preserved in the Internet Archive <www.tinyurl.com/573876vu>.

John Rabe and the New Speckled Band have recorded "The Ballad of Dr. Bell" (described as "a loving honkytonk tribute to Conan Doyle's inspiration for Sherlock Holmes") <www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5kQKqnj2BM>. John is the son of the late Bill Rabe and shares his father's devotion to Sherlock Holmes, and for many years delighted the listeners at KPCC-FM (Los Angeles). You can request a copy of the lyrics from John at <johnsrabela@gmail.com>.

Just in time for the second day after Christmas in 2025: Laurie King has created a video that offers eight members of the Baker Street Irregulars reading "The Blue Carbuncle" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZvlovETrnhg>.

Oscar Ross died on Dec. 5. He was the sparking plug for the Crew of the S.S. May Day, the Sherlockian society in Northern Ireland, and presided over their newsletter (May Day May Day), which he launched in Oct. 2000. The society's web-site is at <www.thessmayday.org.uk>.

Howard Ostrom has updated his illustrated essay on "The World of Sherlock Holmes Statues" to include Jenny Mackenzie's "Bighead" Holmes and Watson; 64 pages, available at <www.nplh.co.uk/sherlock-statues.html>.

The Conan Doyle Medical Centre in Edinburgh was officially opened on Nov. 30, 2007 (Dec 07 #4); it's located in Nether Liberton Lane, near Liberton Bank House. Alas: the Edinburgh Evening News reported that the Scottish government's health and care experience survey ranked the Braefoot Medical Practice at the Conan Doyle center among the worst GP practices in Edinburgh <www.tinyurl.com/386hf4j8>.

There still are vinyl records, Jennie Paton notes, and so there are. One of them is the soundtrack, by David Arnold and Michael Price, of the Benedict Cumberbatch "Sherlock" television series' first three seasons, available from various on-line sellers; try a Google search for [sherlock original television soundtrack vinyl]. It's quite possible that they're all pirated from the CD issued by Silva Screen Records in 2015.

Dec 24 #3 A copy of the July 1890 issue of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine was sold at Heritage Auctions on Dec. 11 for \$5,500 (including the buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/ymxxdc3r>; it contains Oscar Wilde's story "The Portrait of Dorian Gray" (commissioned at the Langham Hotel at the same dinner when Conan Doyle agreed to write "The Sign of the Four"; a copy of the Feb. 1890 issue, with that story, was sold for \$9,062.50 in 2021 <www.tinyurl.com/cetxv7x6>.

The Public Domain Review has kindly made available an electronic copy of Allan Pinkerton's *Thirty Years a Detective* (1884); there's nothing about the Molly Maguires, but the book offers a thoroughly colorful account of crime and criminals in those days <www.tinyurl.com/mrxy63k8>.

CBS-TV has released an official trailer for the new "Watson" series that stars Morris Chestnut in the title role <www.tinyurl.com/3uswcxpy>. The first episode is scheduled for Jan. 26, after the AFC Championship game. You can see and hear Chestnut read an excerpt from "The Blue Carbuncle" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FfmpEOnzEI>.

Reported: Elizabeth Clark Ashby's *The Miniature Library of Queen Mary's Dolls' House* (London: Royal Collection Trust, 2024; 160 pp., £16.95); the author, curator of books and manuscripts at the Trust, has not ignored the Library's manuscript of Conan Doyle's "How Watson Learned the Trick" (one of the treasures in the Library); the Trust's press release about the book is at <www.tinyurl.com/7ffzjkuz>, and you can purchase the book from the Trust at <www.tinyurl.com/ms58k2ex>, as well as from Blackwell's in Oxford <www.tinyurl.com/3jafn7dp> at a slight discount and with free shipping to the U.S. (the image at the Blackwell's web-site shows the cover of an older edition, but they ship the new edition).

Nigel Miles-Thomas is continuing to tour in David Stuart Davies' one-man play "Sherlock "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act"; you can watch a video promo at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5wxhPhNnA0&t=4s>.

Hugh Bonneville (fondly remembered as Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham, by fans of "Downton Abbey") has recorded some of the Sherlock Holmes stories for BBC Sounds <www.tinyurl.com/2knfsyku> <www.tinyurl.com/4ymbzpth>. You can hear the first of three parts of his narration of "The Speckled Band" at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kpFkNyr09s>.

Al Gregory is offering for sale a set of four letters written and signed by King Charles III that have serious Sherlockian contact. If you're interested, you can contact Al at <gaslightandfog@verizon.net>.

Bruno Vincent's *The New Adventures of Old Sherlock* is an amusing trilogy of parodies that involve Holmes and Watson in present-day and far-fetched mysteries (London: Viking Penguin, 2024). *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Trigger Warning*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Air Fryer of Doom*, and *Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Forgotten Password* (each with 112 pp., £10.99). They're all illustrated with Sidney Paget artwork, with new and imaginative captions. There are no American editions (yet).

Dec 24 #4 "Fogtown", an interesting (and amusing) television series that is still in development, will offer "the adventures of Sherlock Holmes with hand-crafted puppets in a cozy 3D animated world, meant for audiences young and old alike" <www.fogtownseries.com>. Some bits and pieces have been available on-line for a while, but now (kindly reported by Roger Johnson) you can watch Sherlock and Blockson solve the "mystery of the moth napper" (that's the first 30-minute episode) at the web-site, which has a link to trailers and to the first episode (click on "see the pilot soon at YouTube"). There also are quite a few videos about the series at its YouTube channel <www.youtube.com/@FogtownSeries/videos>.

The Beacon Society has announced its 2025 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Apr. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <www.beaconsociety.com/joel-senter-essay-contest.html>.

Scott Monty offers some helpful tips for those attending the birthday festivities in New York in January <www.tinyurl.com/59x7fa9p>.

The three episodes of "Lucy Worsley's Holmes vs. Doyle" were broadcast by PBS-TV this month (they aired in Britain a year ago); if you missed them, they're still available on PBS Passport and Amazon Prime, and Warner Bros. will release them on a DVD on Jan. 7 (according to Amazon).

Madresfield Court (in Worcestershire) was the house that inspired Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*, and it's grand indeed, as you can see in an article in *Country Life* (Feb. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/26m69heh>. The library is especially grand.

Max Magee has launched a new Sherlockian society: the Scarlet Threads, for anyone who gives blood to the Red Cross after signing up via the Red Cross app as a member of the Scarlet Threads team. Information on how to join is available from Max <maxpmagee@gmail.com>, and their Facebook group is at <www.facebook.com/groups/1126077539211380>.

Fans of "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" will welcome the news that the Japanese-Italian anime television series, which was launched in 1984 (with the first six episodes directed by Hayao Miyazaki) can now be seen streaming on Hulu.

Reported: a new Blu-ray release of Christopher Plummer's "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962) with added features that include an interview with director Terence Fisher and commentary by Barry Forshaw and Kim Newman, enthusiastically reviewed by John Soltes at the Hollywood Soapbox web-site <www.tinyurl.com/vunvzhxf>.

Thorley Walters, who played Dr. Watson in "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace", played Watson three more times, in "The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes' Smarter Brother" (1975), "Silver Blaze" (1977), and one more that counts as a trivia question: which film? Hint: Peter Jeffrey was Sherlock Holmes. Second hint: it was an X-rated film. No credit if you had to use the Internet to answer the question.

Dec 24 #5 Phil Cheadle's dramatization of Arthur Conan Doyle's "Selecting a Ghost" was produced at the Stanley Arts Centre in London, Nov. 6-9. You can hear more about the play (and Conan Doyle's story) at the "Doings of Doyle" blog <www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDmyGQ37PlE>, where Mark Jones and Paul Chapman interview Phil Cheadle and Edward Bennett (who starred in the play) and offer a link to the text of the story (first published in *London Society* in Dec. 1883); their blog <www.doingsofdoyle.com> was launched in 2019 and does a grand job of exploring Conan Doyle's non-Sherlockian and Sherlockian books and stories.

Peter Jeffrey and Thorley Walters appeared uncredited as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson in "The Best House in London" (1969). Synopsis: in Victorian London, the British government attempts a solution to the problem of prostitution by establishing the world's most fabulous brothel."

"From beer and facial hair to stomach bugs and car parts, test your knowledge of English's transatlantic idiosyncrasies." The Guardian offered a nice little quiz on this (Dec. 10) <www.tinyurl.com/pes4v4a3>. "England and America and two countries divided by a common language," George Bernard Shaw is alleged to have said (although no one has been able to find just where or when he said it).

Registration is now open for the Midwest BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies in Indianapolis, Ind., on Apr. 26, 2025 (Oct 24 #5); more information is available at <www.tinyurl.com/BSIMWConclave25>.

Brain Games: Sherlock Holmes Puzzles was first published in 2017, and offered "over 100 cerebral challenges inspired by the world's greatest detective." There's also a second volume (Morton Grove: Publications International, 2021; 192 pp., \$9.00) with different puzzles that challenge you to "gather the clues and solve the case!"

Congratulations to Nicholas Meyer: "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan" has been added to the Library of Congress' National Film Registry (for films considered to be of "cultural, historic, or aesthetic importance"). Nick directed the film, which had a record first day box-office gross and made possible the "Star Trek" franchise that continues today.

"The Man Who Disappeared" (1951) was a British film, made as a television pilot but apparently never broadcast, with John Longden (Sherlock Holmes) and Campbell Singer (Dr. Watson). The film survived, and Jennie Paton has found it on-line at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM8CdVU4HOA>. It's "The Man with the Twisted Lip" and nicely done for its time.

Robert J. Randisi died on Oct. 6. Bob was a prolific author and editor, credited with more than 650 books in the mystery, western, adventure, and fantasy genres, and more than 30 anthologies, and he was a co-founder and editor of *Mystery Scene* magazine. One of the stories in his *The Private Eye Writers of America Presents Mystery Street: The 20th Anniversary FWA Anthology* (2001) was Warren Murphy's "Highly Irregular on Baker Street". Ali Karim's interesting interview with Bob at Bouchercon in 2003 appeared in the *Shots* eZine <www.tinyurl.com/4hyzbnpt>.

Dec 24 #6 *The Sherlock Holmes Miniature Library* was published by Canterbury Classics in 2019 (\$55.00); it's a boxed set with eleven volumes, 5" high, ten with the stories (without *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes*), plus a lined notebook (one suspects they planned a complete Canon but encountered copyright problems). It's out of print now, but available at from dealers (some of whom are asking outrageous prices).

One does hear of Sherlock everywhere, but occasionally he's not the correct answer to a question, as was the case on the British game show "Tipping Point" (broadcast by ITV) earlier this year; there was a nice report in the Daily Express (with video) on Oct. 25 <www.tinyurl.com/52j4v6fr>.

There's less theatrical news this month, because Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" appears not yet to be planned anywhere next year (there were at least 18 regional productions of the play this year).

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Hanover Tavern in Hanover, Va., through Jan. 26 <www.va-rep.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Pro Arts Playhouse in Kihei, Hawaii, Jan. 31-Feb. 16 <www.proartsmaui.org>; and at Main Street LIVE in Trinidad, Colo., Feb. 14-23 <www.mainstreetlive.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is scheduled at the Rochester Repertory Theatre in Rochester, Minn., Jan. 16-26 <www.rochesterrep.org>; and at the Slightly Off Broadway Theatre in Excelsior, Mo., May 31-June 15 <www.sobtheatre.org>.

Martin Parsons' dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" as a radio-play toured in Britain in 2022 and 2024, and it will tour again, Apr. 5-19 <www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk>.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is scheduled at the Doug Mitchell Memorial Theatre in Ayden, N.C., Apr. 11-12 <www.smilesandfrowns.org>.

T. S. Forsyth's "Sherlock Holmes: A Study in Scarlet" will be performed in the Parkview Room in Johnson Springview Park in Rocklin, Calif., Apr. 25-26 <www.placerrep.org>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" is due at the Sunset Playhouse in Elm Grove, Wis., June 5-22, 2025 <www.sunsetplayhouse.com>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Lydney Town Hall in Lydney, Glos., July 4-6, and the Larrupers Centre in Ross-on-Wye, Heref., July 11-13 <www.thedeantheatrecompany.com>.

Tim Marriott continues to tour in Bert Coules' one-man show "Watson: The Final Problem", and Smokescreen Production's forward schedule is on-line at <www.smokescreenprods.com>. The show is scheduled in New Jersey, Nov. 6-16.

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THE YEAR 2024 IN SHERLOCKIAN COMICS

Johanna Draper Carlson*

As news of the official move of Sherlock Holmes into the public domain percolated through popular culture, more and varied comic projects came about in 2024, most through crowdfunding (Kickstarter and the like). While there was one notable project from a larger, established publisher, most appearances of Sherlock Holmes (or associated characters) came from individuals or small publishers, making for a variety of approaches.

The established project was one of the most entertaining. IDW gave us the first two issues of *Godzilla's Monsterpiece Theatre* by Tom Scioli by the end of the year. It's a memorable mashup that begins with lines and scenes from *The Great Gatsby* ... then Godzilla attacks Gatsby's mansion during one of his famous parties.

Gatsby enlists the aid of Thomas Edison (to provide the gadgets), Jules Verne (now a cyborg), the man with H.G. Wells' Time Machine, and an elderly Sherlock Holmes in his G-Force, brought together to fight the monster. It's inventively bizarre. The second issue even had a variant cover that homages something most of us are familiar with, the first appearance of Holmes in *Beeton's Christmas Annual*.¹

Scioli's art shines in the splash pages of Godzilla attacking, capturing the power of comics in picturing visions of imagination. By the end, in issue #3 (out early 2025), we've also got Count Dracula, the Mummy, and Frankenstein in a giant fight amongst all the pulp favorites. The collected edition is due out July 2025.

For those interested in comic versions of the classic stories, Manga Classics added *A Study in Scarlet* to their line. It was adapted by Crystal S. Chan and illustrated by Julien Choy. It's in full color, with manga-styled character designs and staging, but otherwise a fairly faithful adaptation (with an abbreviated Utah section). This approach really brings forward the action and adventure of the origin tale, with a charmingly young-looking Watson serving as the reader representative.

Bret M. Herholz put out two comics for the 221B Con held in April 2024. The first, *The Adventure of the Cardboard Box*, is an unfinished adaptation of the story by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The comic primarily illustrates the opening scene between Holmes and Watson, where Holmes deduces what

* Johanna Draper Carlson has been reviewing comics for over 25 years and running ComicsWorth Reading.com since 1999. Copyright 2025 Johanna Draper Carlson.

¹ You can see the cover here: <https://bit.ly/gmtstudy>.

Watson had been thinking about, and ends with the two arriving at Croydon with Inspector Lestrade. Herholz's style is reminiscent of Edward Gorey, with gloomy, elongated figures, which makes him a great fit for Victorian thrillers. His author's notes at the back of the issue provide valuable insight on how an artist revisits an old project years later.

The other Herholz comic was *The Curious Affair of the Neapolitan Music Teacher*. It's also an adaptation, but of a deleted scene from *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, the 1970 film. Herholz again provides interesting end notes on his love of the film. He is currently working on another Holmes story, to be serialized on his Patreon.

Sherlock Holmes: The Dark Detective began its four-issue run in fall 2024. It reprints a 2009 comic published in Australia with additional text pieces (and re-lettered). It's written by Christopher Sequeira and illustrated by Philip Cornell (and Jan Scherpenhuizen for issue #1).

The first story, lasting three issues (concluding in early 2025), is called "Claws of the Chimera" and puts a light horror twist on the classic Holmes, with an art style reminiscent of a caricaturist. Watson and Holmes are on the outs, but a victim who shows up at the doctor's office brings the two, plus Mary, back together. The characters sound right, plus there are deductions and (in the first issue) hints of a fascinating secret society engaging with monsters. The art's involving, character-driven, and evocative, but you may need a magnifying glass to read the narration captions.

Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie successfully crowdfunded in spring 2024. This black-and-white hardcover, written by Joel Meadows and illustrated by Andy Bennett, shows an older Holmes, no longer in Baker Street. He's also without Watson, who's left to work with his old friend Crick in investigating genetics. The book is primarily setup and character introductions; presumably there will be more story in the second volume, which completed its crowdfunding campaign in February 2025 with books to deliver in the fall.

In a followup to the *Major Holmes and Captain Watson* series (mentioned in my Year in Comics 2023 column), writer Jeff Rider crowdfunded and released a one-shot starring Sheffield Holmes, Sherlock's nephew. Sheffield Holmes in *The Adventure of the Errant Slipper* (Cloudwrangler Comics, illustrated by Jarret Katz) is a flashback to Holmes' time in India, where he's sent out to kill a man-eating tiger.

At the bottom of the heap, Zenescope continued the adventures of Spencer Holmes, descendent of Sherlock, in a three-issue teamup with Erica Houdini, *Holmes & Houdini* (written by Honor Vincent, art by Oliver Borges & Alessandro Uezu). Sherlock Holmes does appear in issue #3 in a flashback

showing him, Watson, and Houdini taking a bunch of magical artifacts to a safe house in Scotland, where they set up an organization called the Order to protect the world from magic.

Holmes & Houdini: The Curse of Moriarty (written by Dave Franchini & David Wohl, art by Renato Rei, Massimiliano La Manno, and Allan Otero) came out later in the year, adding the immortal and scantily dressed Liesel Van Helsing to the mix. They fight the latest generation of Moriarty descendants and some supernatural zombie monsters.

One of the last releases of the year was *Sherlock Holmes: The Phantom Masquerade*. Daniel Kalban wrote and Jeremiah Schiek illustrated this crowd-funded issue that begins a story following up *The Phantom of the Opera*. Christine and Raoul's son has disappeared while she is performing in London, and an irritable Sherlock Holmes is enlisted by Wiggins, of the Baker Street Irregulars, to help find him. It's appropriately moody and atmospheric, a good start that leaves the reader eager to find out what happens next.

The high point of the year, by far, was *Watson's Sketchbook* from Molly Knox Ostertag. It began as a webcomic adaptation of the moments we didn't see in the original Doyle stories, before it turned into, in the author's words, "an ongoing narrative that paired with a deep research dive into queer Victorian history." The episodes are published at her substack (ostertag.substack.com), and the first volume (of two) came out in print in 2024.

Ostertag is an extremely talented cartoonist and award-winning graphic novelist. She began reading the canon and illustrating some of the moments that struck her in the stories before shifting into a retelling aiming to address some of the "holes and contradictions" in the tales. The result is a love story that represents Holmes and Watson's relationship as a complicated, delicate dance between two repressed Victorians ... with very amusing asides, wonderful reaction drawings, and comments on what their real feelings might be.

She's created her own chronology and filled in the gaps, stitching together the familiar stories in a new order with a modern take on what the various bits of canon might really mean, told through gorgeous, expressive art. So *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is when they reveal their feelings, Victor Trevor (from "The Adventure of the Gloria Scott") is Holmes' ex-boyfriend, Mary Morstan is Watson's beard, and the person being blackmailed by Charles Augustus Milverton is Holmes himself. It's glorious.

As always, find out about these titles and more at [SherlockComics.com](https://www.SherlockComics.com).

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND LAW 2024

Ira Brad Matetsky*

January 1, 2024: Works that were published and copyrighted in the United States in 1928, and whose copyrights were duly renewed, enter the public domain as their extended 95-year copyright terms expire. The arrival of “Public Domain Day” each January 1 is no longer relevant to the canonical Sherlock Holmes stories, the last of which first appeared in 1927, but remains significant for Arthur Conan Doyle’s final non-Sherlockian writings. This year, as of January 1, Doyleans can now enjoy unrestricted access in the U.S. to Arthur Conan Doyle’s “When the World Screamed,” “The Story of Spedegue’s Dropper,” and most of *The Maracot Deep*, all of which first appeared in 1928.

April 22, 2024: Henrik Fibæk Jensen, a Danish author, publishes *Sherlock Holmes and the Law: A Book about Arthur Conan Doyle’s World Famous Private Detective*. The book focuses on Sherlock Holmes’s approach to crime and punishment — more specifically, how Holmes decides whether to turn the culprits he uncovers over to the police or to let them escape the justice system. The author concludes that “[u]ltimately, [Holmes] puts his own sense of justice above English law, and he does so based on his inner moral compass.” The book is available from amazon.com and other online sources.

April 30, 2024: A shareholder in Meta Platforms, Inc., the Delaware corporation that operates Facebook, sues Mark Zuckerberg and others for breach of fiduciary duty. The plaintiff offers the novel theory that because many shareholders perceive themselves as “diversified equity investors,” Delaware corporations must be managed for the benefit, not of the specific corporation and its owners, but “the economy as a whole.” Vice Chancellor J. Travis Laster dismisses this claim as inconsistent with longstanding Delaware law, in an opinion that cites numerous cases in which Delaware courts focused on a transaction’s financial effects on the specific company involved rather than on the broader national economy. Laster concludes: “If directors owed duties to diversified investors, then we have curious cases of dogs not barking in the nighttime. But the nights were peaceful for a different reason: Directors only owe fiduciary duties to firm-specific stockholders.”¹ Laster appends a

* Ira Brad Matetsky is a lawyer and is “The Final Problem” in the Baker Street Irregulars.

¹ *McRitchie v. Zuckerberg*, 315 A.3d 518, 553 & n.93 (Del. Ch. 2024). For more on “dogs that did not bark,” see my article “The Law of Dogs That Do Nothing in the Night-Time: Judges and the Sherlock Holmes Canon,” in Candace Lewis, Ira Brad Matetsky & Roger Donway, eds., *Upon the*

footnote quoting the familiar “dog that did nothing in the night-time” passage from “The Adventure of Silver Blaze.”²

May 5, 2024: Professor Frederick E. Vars publishes a *New York University Law Review Forum* article titled “The Dog That Didn’t Bark Is Rewriting the Second Amendment.”³ Vars argues that the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Bruen* decision, which allows legislatures to restrict firearms ownership only when similar restrictive legislation existed in the past, is based on inferences drawn from “legislative inaction,” a concept he analogizes to Holmes’s “dog that didn’t bark” inference in “Silver Blaze.” Vars opines that this mode of analysis is inconsistent with prior U.S. Supreme Court decisions that rejected statutory interpretations based on “dog that didn’t bark” inferences, but does not discuss other Supreme Court decisions that were more friendly to such inferences. Vars concludes that “Sherlock Holmes knew better. ... Unlike the Court, Holmes understood that a negative fact is meaningful only under very special circumstances.”⁴

May 22, 2024: A Louisiana man pleads guilty to two counts of illegal firearms possession and receives an unexpectedly severe sentence of 27 years in prison. He contends on appeal that this sentence is unconstitutionally excessive, and the Louisiana Court of Appeals agrees. Judge Marcus L. Hunter, quoting Sherlock Holmes in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, writes that “the best method to determine excessiveness within the framework of our law and jurisprudence requires a perspective from the fictional character, Sherlock Holmes, whereby he comments, ‘I know what is good when I see it.’”⁵ Judge Hunter then asserts that this is the same test that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart applied to hard-core pornography in *Jacobellis v. Ohio*, a comparison that would surely have given Arthur Conan Doyle considerable pause.⁶

May 28, 2024: Attorney Stuart J. Kaswell publishes an article discussing a securities-law case recently decided by the U.S. Supreme Court. After analyzing the decision himself, Kaswell reports having, “out of curiosity,” asked an AI program some questions about the decision. Kaswell finds the AI program’s analysis of the case to be incomplete and oblique. He concludes that

Turf: Horse Racing and the Sherlockian Canon 149 (BSI Press 2020), and all the prior installments of this column.

² *McRitchie*, 315 A.3d at 553 n.93.

³ nyulawreview.org/forum/2024/05/the-dog-that-didnt-bark-is-rewriting-the-second-amendment, citing *Harrison v. PPG Industries, Inc.*, 446 U.S. 578, 592 & n.8 (1980).

⁴ *Id.* at 2.

⁵ *State v. Pleasant*, 386 So. 3d 1220, 1228 & n.15 (La. App. 2024).

⁶ *Id.* at 1228 & n.16.

“[u]ntil AI can help a reader understand the nuances in new judicial opinions, I suggest reading those opinions carefully, including the footnotes.” Kaswell titles his article “The Dog That Didn’t Bark and the AI Program That Is No Sherlock Holmes.”⁷

June 25, 2024: The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims addresses a complex issue of statutory construction. Judge Scott J. Laurer’s majority opinion employs a dozen “judicial tools, also dubbed canons of interpretation or canons of construction, [which] are a set of rules and presumptions to help judges decipher the meaning of a law.”⁸ One of these is the “[t]enth judicial tool: Congress’s silence has meaning. Congress didn’t consider whether to change the key term [in the relevant statute when it was amended]. Said otherwise, the dog didn’t bark.”⁹ In a footnote, the court cites “Silver Blaze” and observes that “[t]he ‘dog didn’t bark’ canon derives from a short story from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in which Sherlock Holmes deduces the identity of the villain after realizing that the dog of the house did not bark when the individual came to the house. ... The Supreme Court has also used this canon of statutory construction.”¹⁰ Judge Grant C. Jaquith, dissenting, asserts that a governing appellate precedent had already “rejected ‘the government’s implicit ratification argument,’ — what the majority in this case calls the ‘dog didn’t bark’ canon” as applied to this statute.¹¹

July 2, 2024: Investors bring a securities-fraud claim against a biotechnology company that allegedly made false statements about the results of an impending study. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit affirms the dismissal of the claim, because the plaintiffs have not sufficiently alleged that the defendants knew of the study’s disappointing results when they made the challenged statements. Among other grounds for this decision, Judge William J. Kayatta Jr. writes: “even plaintiffs’ confidential witness offers no actual fact that would create a strong inference that defendants knew of the study results [at the time the statements were made]. Like Conan Doyle’s dog that did not bark, this silence says much.”¹² Unlike other judges who invoke “the dog that did not bark,” Judge Kayatta provides no explanation or citation for the phrase, presumably in the belief that readers of the opinion would catch the reference by themselves.

⁷ <https://businesslawtoday.org/2024/05/the-dog-that-didnt-bark-and-the-ai-program-that-is-no-sherlock-holmes/>.

⁸ *Jackson v. McDonough*, 37 Vet. App. 277, 287-88, 293-94 & n.122 (2024) (citations omitted).

⁹ *Id.* at 293-94.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 294 n.122 (citations omitted).

¹¹ *Id.* at 303 (Jaquith, J., dissenting).

¹² *Quinones v. Frequency Therapeutics, Inc.*, 106 F.4th 177, 183 (1st Cir. 2024).

July 11, 2024: Professor Ryan Calo provides written testimony to a U.S. Senate Committee on privacy risks resulting from ordinary online activity. One of these risks is that AI programs can reach inferences about intimate aspects of people’s lives based on their routine internet usage. Calo writes: “The famous detective Sherlock Holmes — with the power to deduce whodunit by observing a string of facts most people would overlook as irrelevant — is the stuff of literary fiction. But companies *really can* determine who is pregnant based on subtle changes to their shopping habits, as Target did in 2012, or diagnose postpartum depression with 83 percent accuracy based on parent Twitter activity.”¹³

August 20, 2024: The plaintiff in a case before the Massachusetts Land Court asserts that he has an ownership interest in a parcel based on an alleged missing deed. The court disagrees because there is no evidence, other than pure speculation, that such a deed ever existed. Judge Robert V. Foster writes:

In effect, [plaintiff] is making the equivalent of the “dog that did not bark in the night” argument. He is arguing that the various facts in evidence point to an absence that supports an inference that there is a missing deed. The problem with this argument is not that the dog did or did not bark in the night; it is that there is no dog to begin with.

Predictably, a footnote in the opinion quotes the familiar passage from “Silver Blaze,” which readers of this column can likely recite from memory by now.¹⁴

August 27, 2024: *The Green Bag* releases its latest U.S. Supreme Court Justice bobblehead doll, featuring Associate Justice Elena Kagan. The packaging of the doll, created by editor Ross E. Davies, includes one of Sidney Paget’s iconic illustrations of Sherlock Holmes drawn from the pages of *The Strand Magazine*. Subscribers to *The Green Bag*¹⁵ who have redeemed their bobblehead certificates have already seen the packaging, and interested others can view it online.¹⁶ Those who cannot figure out the relevance of Sherlock Holmes to Justice Kagan’s work — a group that admittedly included this columnist — are referred to the bobblehead’s annotated cheat-sheet (reprinted on the next page) and the introduction to last year’s *Baker Street Almanac*.¹⁷

¹³ “Professor Ryan Calo Testifies Before U.S. Senate,” <https://www.law.uw.edu/news-events/news/2024/calosenate-committee-testimony>.

¹⁴ *Vincent by Persons v. Allen*, No. 23 Misc. 000366 (RBF), 2024 WL 3874153, at *6 & n.3 (Mass. Land Ct. Aug. 20, 2024).

¹⁵ Which everyone should be. See Matetsky, “An Irrational Market,” 9 *Green Bag* 2d 13 (2005), https://greenbag.org/v9n1/v9n1_to_the_bag_matetsky.pdf.

¹⁶ <https://greenbag.org/bobbleheads/packKagan.jpg>.

¹⁷ Ross E. Davies, “The Envelope Please,” 2024 *Baker Street Alm.* 1 & n.2.

JUSTICE ELENA KAGAN

THE BOBBLEHEAD

"It is 'inherent in the nature of sovereignty not to be amenable' to suit without consent. And the qualified nature of Indian sovereignty modifies that principle only by placing a tribe's immunity, like its other governmental powers and attributes, in Congress's hands." *Michigan v. Bay Mills Indian Community*, 572 U.S. 782 (2014).

"Colonel Mustard, in the conservatory, with the rope, on a snowy day, to cover up his affair with Mrs. Peacock?" *Descamps v. U.S.*, 570 U.S. 254 (2013).

"[T]he Third Circuit's Goldilocks position is the legally right one." *U.S. ex rel. Polansky v. Executive Health Res.*, 599 U.S. 419 (2023).

"[T]he fundamental strangeness of giving a debtor an allowance for loan or lease payments when he has not a penny of loan or lease costs." *Ransom v. FLA Card Services*, 562 U.S. 61 (2011).

"But if the plaintiffs have already proved by a preponderance of the evidence that race predominated in drawing district lines, then we have no warrant to demand that they jump through additional evidentiary hoops (whether the exercise would cost a hundred dollars or a million, a week's more time or a year's)." *Cooper v. Harris*, 581 U.S. 285 (2017).

"But the courts below did not gaze into crystal balls, as the majority tries to suggest." *Rucho v. Common Cause*, 588 U.S. 684 (2019).

"The answer appears from 30,000 feet not very hard." *Axon v. FTC*, 598 U.S. 175 (2023).

"Is the person risk-prefering or risk-averse – a high-roller or a penny-ante type?" *Kirtseng v. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.*, 579 U.S. 197 (2016).

TBH, this was supposed to be an unexplained puzzler (there's always at least one), but it is annoying so many thoughtful people that we've opted to explain it here: This is a dual-use *U.S. Reports*. The volume (591) is, as usual, a reference to several especially interesting opinions by the Justice. The date (2009) is, unusually, a reference to the volume (561) in which Kagan appears both as an oral advocate for the U.S. (as the Solicitor General) and as a judge of the U.S. (as a Justice). *Compare, e.g., Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project*, 561 U.S. 1, *with Orders*, 561 U.S. 1048-58. This has happened once before.

For the art on the box (see below), read *U.S. ex rel. Polansky v. Executive Health Resources, Inc.*, 599 U.S. 419 (2023), *Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Inc. v. Goldsmith*, 598 U.S. 508 (2023), and *Advocate Health Care Network v. Stapleton*, 581 U.S. 468 (2017), and the stories behind the pictures.



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September 26, 2024: Deven Khanna, an attorney in India, authors a blog post discussing controversial reassignments of Indian judges from one court to another. The post is replete with Sherlockian references, including its opening words: “Imagine Sherlock Holmes sitting in his Baker Street flat, scratching his head over the enigma of judicial transfers in India.” Khanna quotes former India Supreme Court Judge Madan Lokur, who once asserted that “[t]he mystery behind the change in the appointment of the chief justice from one high court to another will need a Sherlock Holmes to unravel’.”¹⁸

October 15, 2024: A federal judge in California must evaluate a claim that the packaging of “a popular line of freeze-dried fruit toddler snacks” contains an unacceptable amount of empty space (referred to in the business as “slack fill”). While identifying deficiencies in the complaint that must be addressed in an amended pleading, Judge Philip S. Gutierrez finds that at the current early stage of the lawsuit, “it [is] at least plausible that a consumer could be deceived by a package filled with 37 percent air, regardless of whether the volume and weight of the freeze-dried snacks are displayed on the Product’s label.”¹⁹ After all,

“[t]he reasonable consumer does not don Sherlock Holmes garb to scrutinize an entire aisle filled with shelves of a various pancakes by comparing the exact weight of each box’s content with the price across a dozen brands or shaking and manipulating each box to detect the nature of the hidden culinary treasure.”²⁰

December 31, 2024: At the stroke of midnight, copyrighted works first published in 1929 enter the public domain in the United States. If anyone has been waiting to publish *The Complete Professor Challenger* (including the last Challenger story, “The Disintegration Machine”) or *The Complete Maracot Deep* (including the last two chapters, first published as “The Lord of the Dark Face”) in the United States, the coast is now clear.

¹⁸ Deven Khanna, “Inconvenient Judgments That Ruffle Too Many Feathers — The Case of the Silent Majority, Judicial Transfers and Sherlock Holmes,” <https://lawumbrella.org/2024/09/26/inconvenient-judgments-that-ruffle-too-many-feathers-the-case-of-the-silent-majority-judicial-transfers-and-sherlock-holmes/>.

¹⁹ *Oh v. Fresh Bellies, Inc.*, No. CV 24-5417 PSG, 2024 WL 4500727, at *8 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2024).

²⁰ *Id.* (quoting *Stewart v. Kodiak Cakes, LLC*, 537 F. Supp. 3d 1103, 1141 (S.D. Cal. 2021)).

THIRD PILLAR FROM THE LEFT

MUSIC AND SHERLOCK HOLMES IN 2024

*Jens Byskov Jensen**

At the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, on Friday, January 12, 2024, a musical interlude was provided by Karen Wilson and Alex Katz. According to Carla Coupe's report in the *Baker Street Journal*: "Alex Katz ('Sarasate') donned a deerstalker and Karen Wilson ('Bartholomew Wilson') a bowler and slowly drooping mustache to perform their Canon-inspired version of the Cole Porter classic 'Friendship.'"

Cole Porter wrote the song "Friendship" for his 1939 musical *DuBarry Was a Lady*, where it was introduced by Ethel Merman and Bert Lahr. The following year, on April 15, 1940, the song was recorded and released as a single on the Decca label, featuring Judy Garland and Johnny Mercer with Victor Young and His Orchestra.¹

Judy Garland's daughter, Liza Minnelli, has also sung Cole Porter. For her 1987 record-breaking run at Carnegie Hall, she sang a beautiful version of "I Happen to Like New York,"² a statement which I can personally agree with as well.

Keen's Steakhouse in New York City was established in 1885 and is still open for business. The ceiling is adorned by numerous clay pipes, as regular diners could have their personal pipe brought to the table after dinner and then stored at the restaurant until their next visit. Liza Minnelli is a patron at Keen's and her pipe is kept in a glass cabinet. In the same cabinet is the pipe that belonged to Isaac Asimov, BSI ("The Remarkable Worm"). In the past, Keen's has also hosted dinners of the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. It is, indeed, a very special place with a great atmosphere.

2024 premiered a new Sherlockian musical in Italy — *Sherlock Holmes: Il Musical*. This amazing accomplishment has been achieved by Enrico Solito, BSI ("Gennaro Lucca"), who has written the musical together with Andrea Cecchi and Alessio Fusi. The production stars Neri Marcorè, one of Italy's most popular actors on TV, film, and stage, as Sherlock Holmes. With more

* Jens Byskov Jensen is a violinist by profession — among other roles, he is the Doctor in the Doctor Django and His Nurses quartet, and a member of the Danish Philharmonic Orchestra — and "The Blanched Soldier" in the BSI.

¹ The late Bjarne Nielsen, BSI ("The Veiled Lodger") was an honorary president of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben and a fan of Judy Garland.

² Originally written for the 1930 Broadway musical *The New Yorkers*, this unusually structured song is through-composed instead of obeying the strictures of 32-bar songs that were the norm at the time. The underlying harmony never seems to settle on an established tonal center and gives the song a vertiginous quality.

than 20 actors on stage, captivating music, and stunning scenery, the musical tells an original story that remains true to the Canon and is packed with twists and turns:

The plot unfolds during the Diamond Jubilee in June 1897, when a mysterious plot is discovered, aimed at the Queen herself and threatening to spark a new European — or perhaps even global — war. The government calls on Holmes to thwart the conspiracy. At the heart of the story, however, is Watson's budding romance with who will become his second wife and, most importantly, his enduring friendship with Holmes, a bond deeply explored and celebrated.³

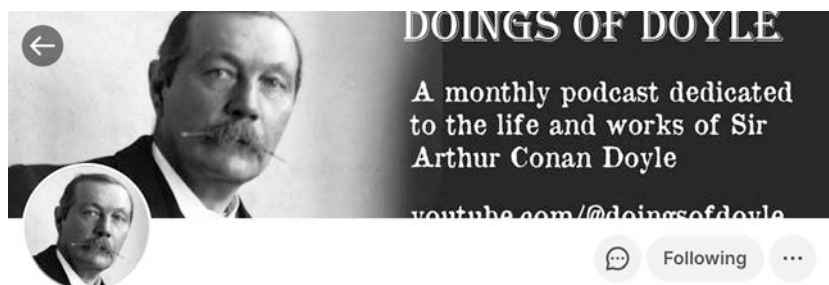
We celebrated the anniversary of the Italian composer, Giacomo Puccini, in 2024, marking the centenary of his passing. It is more than likely that Puccini's operas kept Sherlock Holmes greatly entertained during opera nights at Covent Garden.

Another Italian composer who shared a similar anniversary was Ferruccio Busoni (1866-1924). Perhaps not as well known to the general public as Puccini, Busoni was living in Vienna during the mid-1880s, where he met fellow composers Karl Goldmark and Johannes Brahms. I have suggested elsewhere,⁴ that Sherlock Holmes was familiar with the violin concertos of both Goldmark and Brahms. Busoni's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in D major op. 35a BV 243 (1896-1897) is equally delightful and its passion and depth would surely have appealed to Holmes's taste in music. Perhaps the passers-by strolling down Baker Street might have heard fragments of this piece from the open window, with Holmes drifting off to violin land on his Stradivarius violin?

The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street, the oldest and most singular Sherlockian society in Denmark, held their annual meeting in the city of Aalborg on Wednesday, October 9, 2024. The canonical toasts were proposed to the accompaniment of a rare Muddy Waters single from the Library of Congress as recorded by Alan Lomax. These recordings were made by Alan Lomax at Stovall Farm in Clarksdale, Mississippi in August 1941 and at a return visit in July 1942. In 1943, Muddy Waters (McKinley Morganfield) made the move to Chicago. Incidentally, this was the same year that Vincent Starrett BSI founded The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), the Chicago chapter of the Baker Street Irregulars.

³ For the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, on Friday, January 12, 2024, a postcard was produced by Enrico Solito, BSI, advertising the musical.

⁴ "The Violinist from Baker Street" in *Referring to My Notes*, Edited, with an Introduction, by Alexander Katz and Karen Wilson (Baker Street Irregulars Press 2021).



Doings of Doyle

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DOINGS OF DOYLE IN 2024

*Mark Jones**

Doings of Doyle is a podcast dedicated to the life and works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The show is hosted by Mark Jones and Paul M. Chapman from the UK and started broadcasting in November 2019. In each episode, Mark and Paul look at a different aspect of Conan Doyle's work, exploring the writing history, literary influences, cultural connections and links to the Sherlockian canon. In 2020, they ran their first interview show to showcase the work of Doylean scholars and explore different aspects of Conan Doyle's life. The podcast can be accessed from the show's website, www.doingsofdoyle.com, and from all the major podcasting platforms including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Amazon Alexa and YouTube (www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle).

- Episode 47 — “ACD 2023 — The Year in Review” — Mark and Paul pick out their highlights from the Doylean year (January 31, 2024).
- Episode 48 — *The Great Shadow* (1892) — Conan Doyle's tale of a young Scottish man who finds himself facing an old enemy at the Battle of Waterloo (February 29, 2024).

* Mark Jones is the co-founder and co-host of *Doings of Doyle*, and of *The Literary Agents*.

- Episode 49 — “The Pot of Caviare” (1908) — A tale that warns of the dangers of defeatism, with the Boxer Rebellion as its backdrop (March 31, 2024).
- Episode 50 — “The Surgeon of Gaster Fell” (1890) — Mark and Paul celebrate their 50th episode with one of Conan Doyle’s most personal tales, and one he sought to suppress (April 29, 2024).
- Episode 51 — “The Nightmare Room” (1921) — A little known and oft-overlooked tale that has a bizarre, postmodern ending (May 30, 2024).
- Episode 52 — *Round the Red Lamp* (1894), with Roger Luckhurst — A discussion of Conan Doyle’s eclectic selection of medical tales with the editor of the Edinburgh Works edition (June 30, 2024).
- Episode 53 — “The Coming of the Huns” (1910) — A tale of imperial decline, set during the fourth century (July 30, 2024).
- Episode 54 — “The Adventure of the Second Stain” (1904) — The great diplomatic tale that riffs on Poe’s “Purloined Letter” (August 31, 2024).
- Episode 55 — “The Blood Stone Tragedy” (1884) — One of Conan Doyle’s strangest tales, which draws on the real-life case of a notorious Welsh druid (September 30, 2024).
- Episode 56 — “John Barrington Cowles” (1844) — A dark and haunting tales of mesmerism, laden with fears about the New Woman (October 30, 2024).
- Episode 57 — *The Lost World* (1912) — Part one of a three-episode examination of Conan Doyle’s classic Boy’s Own Adventure. Continued in Episode 59 and 60 (November 30, 2024).
- Episode 58 — “Selecting a Ghost” On Stage (2024) — Paul and Mark talk with the director and star of a stage adaptation of this early Conan Doyle story about the challenges and opportunities dramatizing such a work entails (December 23, 2024).

AN UN-BIRTHDAY PRESENT

A REPORT ON THE BSI BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2025

*Madeline Quiñones**

Editors' note: Yes, yes, we know — this report covers events that occurred in 2025, not 2024, and so it's a bit odd to put it in the 2025 *Baker Street Almanac* — a book about events of 2024. But we think it belongs here, just as Madeline's report on the 2024 Weekend belonged in the 2024 *Baker Street Almanac*.

The BSI Birthday Weekend began somewhat late in January of 2025. The Weekend is pre-disposed to hop around as the Baker Street Irregulars and the Sherlock Holmes Society of London alternate on which society will celebrate on or closest to January 6. But with the BSI annual dinner taking place this year on the 17th of January, Sherlockians were very decidedly celebrating Sherlock Holmes's "un-birthday" in New York City.

The weather was also much more in line with the time of year than some previous Weekends, with temperatures regularly around or below freezing and a frigid wind chill. That said, some Sherlockians were arriving from even harsher temperatures back in the Midwest, and the genuine cold in New York was joked to be "balmy" compared to back home.

Ira Matetsky, as is his new tradition, presided over an "early bird" dinner on Tuesday for the early arrivals. (Given the trajectory of other Sherlockian events, we might find that, several decades from now, this dinner is firmly lodged in the regular calendar of the BSI Birthday *Week*.)

Wednesday saw the arrival of many Sherlockians in time for the ASH Wednesday dinner, hosted by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes.

But before that, Hal Glatzer once again produced a live radio play, *A Musicale in Mrs. Hudson's Parlor*,¹ performed at the Coffee House Club at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday. Those who couldn't get into town in time for the production congregated in the lounge of the Westin Grand Central, pregaming the fun and fellowship of the ASH dinner.

The ASH dinner, hosted by Jen Kneeland, was held for a second time in the Joyce Public House, where reunions and introductions were held in a cozy environment.

Afterwards, some Sherlockians ventured out to Rosie Dunn's, Irish pub and designated center for late-night Sherlockian revelry. Every "official"

* Madeline Quiñones runs the John H Watson Society and her own podcast (*Dynamics of a Podcast*). All photographs are by Madeline Quiñones. Copyright 2025 Madeline Quiñones.

¹ You can watch the recording on YouTube at youtube.com/watch?v=JlaqBzWFsEQ.



Jim Cox, left, waits for everyone to gather on the steps of the New York Public Library before heading back off on the Christopher Morley Memorial Walk.

event of the Weekend is lovely, but also usually crowded. The second floor of Rosie's, on the other hand, provides a haven for proper one-on-one conversations and heart-to-hearts.

Thursday morning dawned bright and early for several hardy souls looking to take the Christopher Morley Memorial Walk under the guidance of Jim Cox. The Walk, ever changing, included the New York Public Library and their Treasures exhibit this time, as well as the Algonquin Hotel, and it concluded with a visit to the actual-work-of-art Woolworth Building downtown.

Meantime, the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane breakfasted at the Gee Whiz Diner, within easy walking distance of the Mysterious Bookshop. The diner does not provide tea, but they were willing to provide hot water for the Tea Brokers to *make* tea.

Ross Davies hosted the fourth annual ACD Society Awards at the Mysterious Bookshop; one of the recipients (sadly not in-person) was none other than Mark Gatiss himself for his adaptation of Doyle's short story "Lot 249."² Then came the Wessex Cup, the race of toy horses — traditional wood this

² A full listing of the awards can be found at acdsociety.com.



Sherlockians gather for lunch and fellowship at McSorley's Old Ale House —
and for an informal wedding reception!

time, as opposed to the plastic wind-up toys of the first two years. The race-track was tilted to accommodate the wooden horses. Bruce Harris won with his horse, “The Doctor.”³

Many attendees of the Awards went on to McSorley's Old Ale House for lunch, and eventually the Morley Walkers joined them. This traditional but casual BSI Weekend meal was “taken over” by something of an informal wedding reception for Lyndsay Faye and Nicholas Anderson, who had married the previous June. There was much joy, and much cake.

Then, about 30 Sherlockians headed further south to the Bowery.

This was the inaugural meeting of the Bowery Ruffians, a scion society created by Matt Hall. Any gathering of two or more Sherlockians in the Bowery (or any place with “Bowery” in the name) counts as a meeting. Also the only toasts can be to Canonical “nefarious criminals and ne’er-do-wells.”⁴

³ The recording of the awards and the race can be found at youtube.com/watch?v=h4OPBtt6eZE, courtesy of the *Doings of Doyle* podcast.

⁴ You can read Matt's personal recap here: 221bcooee.blogspot.com/2025/01/the-first-meeting-of-bowery-ruffians.html.



Sherlockians hang out on the upper floor of Rosie Dunn's.

The Canonical reference is the following quote from “The Red Circle”:
“Gennaro was able to do a service to an Italian gentleman — he saved him from some ruffians in the place called the Bowery, and so made a powerful friend.”

Black Gorgiano, Moriarty, Old Patrick (Elsie Cubitt’s father), the Hound, and Jack Stapleton were all toasted in the narrow interior of The Wren. Matt also had beautiful society pins to hand out — one may well wish to join just to acquire such a pin!

Thursday evening, the Distinguished Speaker Lecture was held at the New York Bar Association. The speaker in question was Graham Moore, author of *The Sherlockian* and Academy Award winner for best adapted screenplay for *The Imitation Game*. Mr. Moore spoke on the similarities between Sherlock Holmes and John Maynard Keynes, a comparison for which the Sherlockian world was hardly prepared!

After the lecture, Sherlockians went their separate ways for dinner. Two separate groups attended the Grand Central Oyster Bar. SPODE, as usual, took to the private room on their mission to prevent oysters from destroying the earth. But the Praed Street Irregulars (PSI), helmed by Derrick Bel-

anger, met in the main dining hall. And still others stayed even closer to the Bar Association and filled The Red Flame Diner.

Friday morning saw the last sunshine for the Weekend, as the weather would take a turn towards rain on Saturday. Some Sherlockians met for coffee, some went on long walks in Central Park, and some attended BSI class breakfasts.

On Zoom, Mark Jones and Ashley Polasek hosted the fifth annual meeting of the Literary Agents, titled “The Land of Mist at 100.”⁵ Their guest speaker was Professor Christine Ferguson of the University of Stirling, who has written many works on spiritualism and edited the Edinburgh Works’ edition of *The Land of Mist*. The panel afterwards featured Michael Homer, Steven Rothman, and Bob Stek discussing Conan Doyle and spiritualism beyond that particular novel.

Downtown, the Mysterious Bookshop opened up to an eager first-timer for its annual BSI Weekend open house.

And at Connolly’s (West 45th St.), Shana Carter emceed the Gillette Luncheon, which marked its 80th anniversary this year. The Friends of Bogie performed a short skit with Andrew Joffe as Dr. Watson, Paul Singleton as Sherlock Holmes, and Sarah Montague as Mrs. Hudson. The skit saw Watson visiting Holmes in his retirement on the Sussex Downs, but quite a lot had changed in some funny and painful ways!

Also at the luncheon, Ashley Polasek presented the fourth Susan Rice Mentorship Award⁶ to Julie McKuras of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota, to hearty applause.

In the middle of the afternoon, about 20 Sherlockians headed to the Grolier Club to peruse one of the current exhibits: *Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books*.⁷ This visit was spearheaded by Anastasia Klimchynskya with support from Rudy Altergott and Max Magee, under the auspices of Rudy’s Facebook group for bibliophiles, The Pocket Petrarchs. Curator Reid Byers gave a thorough tour of his collection, which included a *Strand Magazine* issue with the story “The Giant Rat of Sumatra” (Vol. 37, No. 222, 1909) and a beautifully bound manuscript of Sherlock Holmes’s *On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus* (as mentioned in the “The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans”). One of the docents also took several attendees on a brief tour of the Grolier Club itself to see some of its historic rooms.

⁵ You can watch the recorded meeting here: youtube.com/watch?v=TaFxKvPWLZ0.

⁶ More info at vincentstarrett.com/blog/susan-rice-mentorship-award.

⁷ You can still view the collection online with an introduction by the curator here: <https://grolierclub.omeka.net/exhibits/show/imaginary-books>.



Reid Byers gives Sherlockians a tour through his *Imaginary Books* collection on display at the Grolier Club.

Then it was time to gussy up for Friday night festivities. The Gaslight Gala, the alternative to the BSI dinner, was open to all Sherlockians, on the second floor of Annie Moore's (previously the site of ASH Wednesday dinners). The BSI annual dinner was held once again at the Yale Club.

And for Sherlockians who could not attend the Weekend in person, Brad Keefauver hosted yet another night at The Dangling Prussian on Zoom, for the Montague Street Incorrigibles.⁸ This time, the evening's program included "PowerPoint Karaoke," wherein a brave soul would attempt to give a Sherlockian talk based on ten presentation slides put together by Brad. The results were often comedic!

The BSI dinner has been described as "nerd prom," and with good reason. Gowns and tuxedos abounded every year. And this year, in the midst of all this finery, Max Magee prowled the floor of the cocktail hour in a credible cosplay as Professor Moriarty!

⁸ sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/2025/01/the-dangling-prussian-2025-incorrigibles.html.

The cocktail hour is also the time when the honor of *The Woman* is announced. Ellen Pfeifer, wife of Dan Polvere (BSI, “Holloway and Steele”), was this year’s recipient; she was introduced and toasted by Richard Olken (BSI, “Bob Carruthers”).

This year’s dinner program, illustrated by Frank Cho (BSI, “The Duke of Balmoral”), featured a regal Mrs. Hudson on the cover. After the opening remarks by Wiggins (Michael Kean, BSI, “General Charles Gordon”), awards were announced. First came the Eddies, to Sonia Fetherston (BSI, “The Solitary Cyclist”) in absentia for “*Wiggins: Tom Stix & His Baker Street Irregulars*,”⁹ and to Ira Matetsky (BSI, “The Final Problem”) for *That Ghastly Face*,¹⁰ the manuscript book for “The Blanched Soldier.” Then the Morley-Montgomery Award was presented to Michael Meer (BSI, “The Englischer Hof”) for his article “The Methods of Sherlock Holmes: The ‘Examination Paper’ of 1893’s Author Revealed,” which appeared in the Winter 2024 issue of the *Baker Street Journal*.

SJ Rozan (BSI, “The Imperial Palace of Peking”) started off the toasts with a wonderful tribute to Mrs. Hudson in verse. Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves (BSI, “Toby”) toasted Mycroft, pointing out how much the elder Holmes loved his little brother, to drive Watson to the train station in “The Final Problem” (effectively driving his brother’s best friend to the airport!). Janice Weiner (BSI, “Scotland Yard”) was meant to toast Watson’s second wife but was unable to, so Monica Schmidt (BSI, “Julia Stoner”) delivered her witty toast in her stead. Mike McSwiggin (BSI, “A Seven-Per-Cent Solution”) rounded out the toasts to the characters of the Canon by toasting Sherlock Holmes, noting that anyone could be one’s personal Sherlock Holmes, except for, apparently, a cat. (However, one’s personal Holmes *could* be Dr. *Bob* Katz (BSI, “Dr. Ainstree”).) And the Toast to An Old Irregular was given by Michael Homer (“Enoch J. Drebbler”) in honor of Ronald Burt De Waal (BSI, “Lomax, the Sub-Librarian”).

After the dining had gone on for some time, Marsha Pollak (BSI, “A Small but Select Library”) stood Upon the Terrace once again to commemorate the ten Irregulars who had passed away in the previous year, one as recently as December.

The two speakers for the evening were Ross Davies (BSI, “The Temple”) and Ashley Polasek (BSI, “Singlestick”). Ross delivered a fascinating presentation on the Pinkerton detective agency and their fractious relationship with the American publication of *The Valley of Fear* and World War I care

⁹ Available for purchase at bakerstreetirregulars.com/2024/12/28/wiggins/.

¹⁰ Available for purchase at bakerstreetirregulars.com/2024/12/30/that-ghastly-face/.

packages. Facsimile care packages were distributed to everyone, which held two chocolates, two small pencils, and a small book containing “The Red Circle,” *Valley*, and “His Last Bow.”

Ashley followed with a thoroughly entertaining talk about adapting Sherlock Holmes, a subject in which she not only has her Ph.D. but also real professional experience. This came from being part of the creative team that brought Ken Ludwig’s play *Moriarty: A New Sherlock Holmes Adventure* to the stage for the first time. A blond Holmes, you could get away with, if the actor performs well otherwise,¹¹ but sartorial decisions are important, and no self-respecting Holmes should walk around in a suit that looks like a reject from the Joker’s wardrobe!¹²

Alex Katz (BSI, “Sarasate”) and Karen Wilson (BSI, “Bartholomew Wilson”) returned to the stage they have graced before with a duet, “Brush Up Your Sherlock,” a delightful riff on Cole Porter’s “Brush Up Your Shakespeare.” The audience chimed in on the chorus, as well.

Then came the moment everyone anticipates at the end of the dinner: the Birthday Honours List. Ten guests were invested into the Baker Street Irregulars. The first was Shana Carter, as “Carter.” The room immediately went wild, prompting Wiggins to comment, “Gee, that was a popular one.” Next came Jim Cox, as “Coxon.” The room went wild again, and some attendees began to chant Jim’s name briefly. Judi Ellis was invested as “The Carlton Club” (an investiture matching her husband, Robert Ellis, whose investiture is “The Illustrious Client.”) Ron Fish was invested as “The Hon. Ronald Adair,” Beth Gallego as “Lighthouses,” Bruce Harris as “Harris,” and Louise Haskett as “Aurora.” Rosemary Herbert was invested as “A Slim Youth in an Ulster,” an extremely apt moniker.¹³ Christian Monggaard was invested as “Neville St. Clair,” and Gary Thaden was invested as “Augusto Barelli.”

Finally, Andrew Solberg (BSI, “Professor Coram”) was honored with the Two Shilling Award, for service above and beyond.

After the program was concluded, the new Irregulars gathered to have their class picture taken, but another group gathered as well after that. This group was the Certain Gracious Lady Club, created by Jerry and Chrys Kegley

¹¹ And he did perform well! You can read this author’s review of the production here: dynamicsofapodcast.com/2023/05/09/review-falling-in-love-with-ken-ludwigs-moriarty/.

¹² The original costume was discarded in favor of a much tamer suit in time for the premiere performance, but made it into the promotional photos for the production. You can view them here: clevelandplayhouse.com/shows/2022/ken-ludwigs-moriarty/media.

¹³ Listen to the *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* interview with Rosemary to hear how she infiltrated the all-male Speckled Band of Boston in disguise in the 1970s: ihearofsherlock.com/2019/07/episode-173-another-case-of-identity.html.



Sherlockians spend one last night together at Rosie's.

(BSI, “Nathan Garrideb” and “Rachel Howells,” respectively) in honor of the late Maggie Schpak (BSI, “The Soup Plate Medal”). Maggie had been a professional jewelry designer and metalwork artist, and she had generously gifted friends with tiepins over the years. Some Los Angeles-area Sherlockians were also the beneficiaries of Maggie’s handiwork, as she would also craft the quiz medals for the Curious Collectors of Baker Street in L.A. Members of the Certain Gracious Lady Club gathered in a group photo to honor Maggie, wearing their pins.

Some attendees lingered to take advantage of the Yale Club’s open bar; others headed back to their hotel rooms. (One guest called it a night, but dialed in from their room to the Dangling Prussian Zoom to deliver the news from the dinner to an eager audience.) Eventually, a handful of BSI dinner attendees trickled out to Rosie Dunn’s to meet up with the Gaslight Gala attendees, and some stayed until 2:21 a.m. to mark the time and recite Vincent Starrett’s “221B.”

Saturday morning saw the Merchants Room in the Westin, a ballroom full of Sherlockian vendors including BSI Press, the BSI Trust, Wessex Press, Belanger Books, and individual Sherlockians with their wares. Carl Stix, son of the late Tom Stix, was present and kindly autographed copies of Sonia Fetherston’s *“Wiggins”*. Deals and treasures were to be had aplenty, and if one walked away with a lighter wallet, they did not walk away empty-handed!



Ann Andriacco, Fabienne Courouge, and Anastasia Klimchynskya
talk in The Long Room at the ASH Brunch.

Afterward, it was time for the BSI Luncheon Reception. The luncheon is known for two things: the auction and the recap. Peter Blau ran the auction, which benefits the John H. Watson Fund (a program to grant money to Sherlockians in need of some financial assistance to attend the Weekend). Emily Miranker gamely showed off the merchandise to the crowd. Then came the recap, when father-daughter team Al and Betsy Rosenblatt deliver a recounting in verse of the past year in Sherlockiana and of the Weekend. And we are reminded that they finish this poem the previous night, *after the Dinner*. An abridged version of the poem appears in the *Baker Street Journal*, and the entire thing in all its glory is usually uploaded to the BSI website.¹⁴

After the luncheon, some Sherlockians prepare to leave town, some attend private gatherings, and still others attend the *Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians* event on Saturday night.

Jerry and Chrys Kegley held court in the Playwright on 49th St., on the second floor (the room *Lost* had been held in previously having just been

¹⁴ You can download the poem in PDF format from the BSI website at bakerstreetirregulars.com/2025/02/15/the-2025-bsi-weekend-report/.

converted into a sports bar). The different layout and constant flow from the kitchen made things tricky, but such considerations cannot stop Sherlockians from having a good time! Raffle prizes abounded, a quiz was conquered, and the usual fare was consumed, all against the backdrop of football games on the TVs lining one wall.

Rudy Altergott toasted Dr. Watson. Lyndsay Faye toasted Sherlock Holmes, and entreated attendees to donate to the victims of the Los Angeles wildfires if they could. Jerry toasted absent (departed) friends. Shana Carter toasted the Founder of the Feast, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. And Maria Fleischhack read a passage from the Book of Ogden regarding politics that sounded uncomfortably familiar.

But the late-nighters still returned to Rosie Dunn's for one last time.

Sadly, this was about the time that some Sherlockians were beginning to fall prey to the flu. In the morning, some Sherlockians abstained from attending the ASH Brunch, the last official event of the Weekend. The current home of the brunch, the Long Room, was packed nevertheless!

But as the afternoon wore on, the number of Sherlockians trickled down to about a dozen stalwarts with no plans other than to spend one last day with each other. In the meanwhile, snow was brewing. Those who left earlier in the day made it out of town, but some Sherlockians were stuck overnight due to the winter weather.

Many Sherlockians made it home, only to come down with the flu (and a handful of cases of COVID-19). But even this last-minute turn of events has not deterred some first-timers from planning on coming back!

Much thanks to Scott Monty for his article on awards and honors from the Weekend on the *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* website,¹⁵ without which this account would have had far fewer details.

¹⁵ ihearofsherlock.com/2025/01/the-2025-bis-weekend-awards-and-honors.html.

THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF BAKER STREET WEST

*Linda Hein**

ORIGINS

Beginning in 2010, my partner-in-crime, Beth Barnard, and I had a custom of meeting for tea to discuss the stories of Sherlock Holmes. We would take The Great Detective any way we could — be it the original stories, pastiches, fan fiction, or stage scripts. Our appetite remained, and still does, quite insatiable. After three years of stimulating meetings, we became disenchanted with our drab restaurant surroundings. We wanted ambiance!

Being co-owner at the time of one of the largest used and rare bookstores in California — Hein & Company, in Jackson, a lovely town about an hour west of Sacramento — I felt Beth and I would improve our situation if we could eke out a bit of space to create our own 221B Baker Street in a very insignificant part of the second floor of the 12,000-square-foot shop.

One afternoon, I came back from Beth's and my invigorating book discussion in lackluster surroundings, to face my husband, Wolf (short for Wolfgang), to ask him for what Beth and I wanted, our own little Victorian room. He said ... "No." I thought, "Well, let's start with 'No' and see where it goes."

The book business was tough back then. The Global Financial Crisis in 2008 had hit us hard.

In fact, it's never been the same since. We suffered by having more books come into the store (folks wanting to sell their tomes to us) than having books leave the store (folks buying bags full of books).

Gone were our big buyers, who were a staple in the heydays of the book business. Prices began to plummet severely. Between 2008 and 2013, I was responsible for pricing books and listing our rarer ones on eBay. Those expensive prices for rare books, slowly at first and then like a landslide, slipped away, making it obvious we needed to diversify to survive.

Serendipitously, there came an opportunity that was to divert our trajectory from relying exclusively on book sales. Wolf's friend and mentor, William Burger, found himself in the hospital and called Wolf in for a visit. Feeling that he might not ever recover, Bill asked him to liquidate his estate.

* Linda Hein is an owner of Hein & Company and a founder and board member of Baker Street West. All photographs are by Linda, except those credited to Steve Farrell of Farrell Photography (<http://farrellphotography.net/>) or to Eleanor Caputo.



Hein & Company Bookstore.

Bill was an art, antique, and rare paper dealer. To say this was a large estate would be euphemistic in the extreme. It took two years to close out, during which Bill passed away. To help sell off the hundreds of art pieces alone, Wolf had to rent another storefront in downtown Jackson to display the expensive paintings and rare antiques. Dealers from as far away as New York City and Cape Cod came to shop the pieces.

INKLINGS

During this period of time, 2011 through 2013, Wolf had relented on his thwarting of our aspiration of having our own 221B, and he gave us a small storage room to hold our periodic book discussions. Beth and I jumped at the chance and were elated to get whatever we could and agreed to the negligible, dingy storage room.

However, unbeknownst to us, Wolf had made arrangements with his carpenter friend, Noel Stewart, to make the diminutive space into a self-respecting Victorian chamber. One day during the renovation, a wall separating the storage room from the used VHS room was demolished owing to mold. The intent of this carpenter Dynamic Duo was to replace the wall. I was conveniently present when it came down and mustered the moxie to say, "Keep the wall down, because we're going to take over the whole space!"

This move laid bare, to all who visited the second floor, the activity developing at this end of the bookstore, and soon, customers, friends, and family could see what was afoot! Thereafter, donations began making their way to the bookstore for our venture: Victorian prints, furniture, objets d'art, clothing pieces. Beth and I saw this as a sign. Folks were enchanted and wanted to be involved!

During the summer of 2013, Wolf and Noel worked hard to make the chamber as interesting as their imaginations could realize. These two gents did not balk when we asked if they could make a revolving bookcase. Two brackets, one at the top and one at the bottom, two heavy truck ball bearings, and we had a bookcase that could hold up to 6,000 pounds and move without a whisper.

As the room started shaping up, one of our more eclectic friends, Cedric Clute (who is actually related by marriage to Dean Dickensheet, BSI, 1956, Vamberry, the Wine Merchant), suggested christening our nascent 221B with a production. "Pomp and circumstance!" he declared. Toward that end, Cedric wrote a one-act play which he titled *Houdini and the Last Séance*. Having a proclivity towards the magical, Cedric capitalized on the relationship between Arthur Conan Doyle and Harry Houdini to give the performance in our new 221B some existential credentials.

Our 221B was ready to be extensively outfitted. However, because of the production, we rented 40 folding chairs, built a makeshift pub bar for adult refreshments, recruited the best artistic director in the county (of course, Beth Barnard), actors (Linda Hein, Wolf Hein, and Marv Hampton), and began to sell tickets. On the weekend after Halloween, we performed *Houdini and the Last Séance* four times to sold-out audiences.



Melinda Rosselli and the revolving bookcase.
Photo by (and copyright) Eleanor Caputo.

A propitious chance event occurred during that *Houdini* weekend: The presence of Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, a friend of Cedric and Jan Clute's. Quinn is an author of over 100 novels. She is renowned for the vampire Count Saint-Germain series. She has also written, along with Bill Fawcett, four Mycroft Holmes novels under the pseudonym Quinn Fawcett. During the weekend, Quinn was so moved that she declared she would write a play for our ... our Sherlockian ... for lack of a better name ... "adventure."

It was at this time Beth, always talented in naming anything needing naming, christened our new venue Baker Street West! (I'll refer to it as "BSW" from now on.)

Awestruck were we that folks were excited enough about our project to buy tickets to our modest one-act play. It occurred to us that others might want to join Beth and me in our study of the Sherlock Holmes Canon. If eight or ten folks would join us in our examination of The Great Detective, we would be over the moon with gladness. Beth, who works for the local newspaper, posted an advertisement asking for interested parties to join us on Monday, January 6, 2014. Expecting a handful of folks, we were staggered when 35 people answered our Sherlockian call. Brad, Beth's husband, hailed us "Holmes' Hounds!" *And the Hounds were hungry!*

We learned as much as we could about other Sherlockian societies. We read reports on the internet about the Baker Street Irregulars, about the Dame Jean Conan Doyle Estate, about copyright infringement cases.

Recognizing the enthusiasm of everyone who was hearing about BSW and of Holmes' Hounds, I played "Let's Make A Deal" with Wolf — "If you build us a Tea Shoppe, you could have a Pub right across the way ... over there." Beth chimed in with "*The Wolf & Bear Pub*," as "Bear" is Beth's endearment for her husband Brad.

At this point in the history of BSW, we needed only to name it for it to come to life. With a paucity of book-buying customers, Noel and Wolf kept busy building, and *Dr. Watson's Apothecary*, featuring a cantilevered display window, sprang forth next door to *Mrs. Hudson's Tea Shoppe*. Soon Noel had worn himself out, and he was replaced with another extraordinary carpenter, Dan Schmitz.

BSI VIPs

We continued to ponder copyright infringement, not wanting to step on any Doylean toes. I read an article mentioning Jon Lellenberg (BSI, 1974, Rodger Prescott), who represented the Conan Doyle Estate. I wrote Mr. Lellenberg an email. I explained what we were doing, and that we didn't



Cast of *Houdini and the Last Seance*: Wolf Hein, Linda Hein, Marv Hampton, Cedric Clute.

want BSW to cause any problems for ourselves. Was it acceptable that we were creating a Victorian collection of shoppes honoring characters from the Canon?

Meanwhile, the Burger Estate ended up being very lucrative, and it was funding more expansion — *Stewart's Scientifics* (offering scientific, chemistry, and natural history oddities) in honor of our carpenter, Noel, was part of a triptych of shoppes including *South Downs Apiary* (filled with beeswax candles, honey, and other bee-related surprises) and *Wiggins' Toy Shoppe* (everything Wiggins and his mates would find appealing but never had the chance to enjoy). These three shoppes flanked the side street of Victoria Square separating themselves from *The Wolf & Bear Pub*.

A continual parade of bookstore customers discovered the extraordinary project being hammered out upstairs, and they were captivated.

221B became accessible to patrons, but only after wading through mazes of bookshelves, lumber, and carpentry equipment. Our first private party was

held in Holmes' and Watson's flat. Celebrating a birthday, the party goes entertained themselves with an adult, life-sized version of *Clue*, all the while enthralled with their surroundings.

My correspondence with Mr. Lellenberg was cordial, and he wanted to learn more about our project before giving us his blessing. But an impediment to that end was that he was busy moving from Chicago to New Mexico. Consequently, Mr. Lellenberg invited his friend, Michael Kean (BSI, 1979, General Charles Gordon; 2020, Wiggins), from California to scrutinize BSW.

An email from Michael announced he was astounded to learn of our Sherlockian pursuits and of Holmes' Hounds. More than astounded — astonished, in fact, as he had been a customer of Hein & Company for many years and never knew of our small enclave of Sherlockians. Michael invited Beth and me and our husbands to visit him and his wife Connie at their home on the Pacific coast, where we spent several happy hours in Michael's library, then home to over 6,000 pieces of Sherlockiana.

BSW also corresponded with Peter Blau (BSI, 1959, Black Peter), and in due course Holmes' Hounds was granted Scion Society Status with the Baker Street Irregulars. Within the first 10 years of Holmes' Hounds existence, our number of members ranged between 50 and 100!

BSW has had other BSI luminaries visit BSW besides Michael Kean. Among them are John Durein (BSI, 2016, Wilson the Notorious Canary Trainer), Howard Lachtman (BSI, 1982, The Matilda Briggs), author of *Sherlock Slept Here*, and Walter Jaffee (BSI, 2009, The Resident Patient). Walter was a frequent visitor to BSW. He would bring Lady Ellen, and later, after Ellen passed away, he would visit with his companion, Patti. We all agreed that he has excellent taste in women. Both Michael and Walter have spoken to our Holmes' Hounds a few times, and their talks have been well attended and a highlight for our members. In 2018, both Michael and Walter attended our November meeting, wherein Michael spoke on *Twain, Harte, and Sherlock Holmes*, and Walter spoke on *A Discussion of Inspector Lestrade of the Sherlock Holmes Stories*.

BAKER STREET WEST TAKES TO THE STAGE

On August 30, 2015, Holmes' Hounds flaunted our Victorian finest down Main Street to the southern anchor of the street, The National Hotel, which had been newly renovated to recapture its 1860 Victorian origin. (Their website describes it thus — “*The splendid Victorian National Hotel was built in 1852 and is the longest running hotel in California. Step through our*

BAKER STREET WEST



Top: Mrs. Hudson's Tea Shoppe. Bottom: Wiggins' Toy Shoppe and South Downs Apiary.
Photos by Steve Farrell (<https://farrellphotography.net/>).

leaded glass doors and be transported to the 1860s.") We had a commemorative bookplate featuring the Langham Hotel made for the event.

After a sumptuous dinner, all Hounds returned to BSW to enjoy *A Golden Evening*, written and produced by Beth Barnard and featuring Joe Svec as Mr. Stoddart, Jason Ralphs as Arthur Conan Doyle, and Alex Sharp as Oscar Wilde.

Then, on May 20, 2016, the world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and the American Twins*, written by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, opened at BSW.

At that time, we hadn't yet finished the venue of our Victorian homage to Mr. Holmes. Perhaps audience members found theatre within the Victoria Square construction zone charming? So it seemed, based on the sold-out houses. With the audience at the center of Victoria Square, the acts of the play spun around with the characters acting out the drama, similar to theatre in the round only ... not exactly. We had good luck with this production. Not only did we have outstanding attendance, we also were nominated for several Elly Awards by SARTA (Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance) including Best Original Script and Best Costumes. For this world premiere production, we offered chess pie dessert during the intermission.

VICTORIA SQUARE AGAIN

Construction continued at BSW adding *The Deerstalker* (offering books and other Sherlockiana) and *Adler's Emporium* (filled with clothing, hats, and accessories).

At this time, a note must be made that Noel Stewart, our first carpenter, had created before his departure a series of secret doors passing through 221B into *Mrs. Hudson's Tea Shoppe*, extending behind closed paneled doors (with little stick figures dancing along the bottom edge) on to *Dr. Watson's Apothecary*, then through a very thin hallway behind a bookcase into *Adler's Emporium*. The intention was two-fold: To create a sense of mystery when giving the public tours, and to aid in more mystery for audience amusement when characters would retreat into one shoppe only to advance back into Victoria Square through another shoppe. These phenomena have always been wow factors at BSW. Another feature born from the mind of Noel was the cat doors built into each shoppe. Our feline Edgar Allen Poe (named such for he is very dark) would use many, if not all, the doors.

Mrs. Hudson's Tea Shoppe gave way to Edgar's food and drink inside the *Old Bookman's Room*.

The cat door into *Dr. Watson's Apothecary* gave Edgar a chance to enter up a step through a "doll's house" and down in. Into *Adler's Emporium*,

Edgar would have to snake through a tunnel. *The Deerstalker* offered a rustic entrance with wooden branches resembling a buck's antlers. Edgar would enter *Wiggins' Toy Shoppe* through a jack-in-the-box, the outside of which had the letters C-A-T on the three exposed sides. Edgar's entrance to *South Downs Apiary* was a bee hive! At *Stewart's Scientifics*, Edgar would pass through a steampunk doorway. *The Wolf & Bear Pub* offered Edgar a chance to enter through a proper doorway, following the paw prints he had left after walking through the freshly-painted floor of Victoria Square.

Our younger visitors were typically the only ones who noticed the cat doors. Of course, they had the best vantage to observe.

After all of the building on this upper level, one might ask: What happened to all of the books and bookshelves that covered the massive second floor? Well, advertisements were posted on Facebook offering the books that couldn't be absorbed downstairs at Hein & Company — free to anyone who was willing to cart them away. That is when we met the young gentleman who worked for the Little Free Libraries in Stockton, California (about 50 miles away to the east, midway between Jackson and San Francisco). He informed us that there were plans for 100 Little Libraries to be made and scattered throughout the Stockton area. Apparently, he had access to a truck, and to a storage place to house some books. Little did he know how many thousands of books we needed to clear out to make way for our Victoria Square. To our delight, he took all the books. All the wood from the bookshelves was used in the construction of the shoppes in Victoria Square.

BAKER STREET PLAYERS, DINNER MYSTERY THEATRE, AFTERNOON TEAS, AND OUR OWN DIOGENES CLUB

Baker Street Players, BSW's own theatrical company, arose out of the 2016 production of *Sherlock Holmes and the American Twins*. Auditions were held for a new play that would open on January 27, 2017, *The Final Toast*, by Stuart Kaminsky, and calls were put out for folks to help crew the production. Once an actor auditioned with Beth and passed, they were forever a Baker Street Player and did not need to audition again. *The Final Toast* required a young lead, and we were thrilled to have a play calling for a child actor, as *The American Twins* had a strictly adult-oriented cast.

So, we had Players, and they wanted to play! Enter Dinner Mystery Theatre (which I'll refer to as "DMT" from now on). *Vampire in Camden Town*, written by Beth Barnard, was the first DMT to grace Victoria Square.



Cat door entry to Dr. Watson's Apothecary.

Key Players in that show were Sherlock Holmes, Dr. John Watson, Mrs. Hudson, Clara Neville, Elizabeth Jane Cochran, Dr. Colin Sterndale, Violet Gilchrist, and Sir Stephen Douglas Coombe. The three-course meal was catered by The National Hotel.

During that autumn and the following spring, the DMT became regular fare at BSW. Beth kept up the writing, and the public kept up the attending. Beth began holding irregular workshops on performance, improvisation, and makeup. Among the DMT presentations were these likely dramas: *Bitter Nemesis*, *You Sea But You Do Not Observe*, *Death at the Derby*, *The Gypsy's Curse*, *Where There's a Will There's a Way*, *Ghost of a Chance*, *Murdering Moriarty*, and *The Last Voyage*.

As Beth steered the DMT ship, I captained Mrs. Hudson's seasonal Afternoon Teas, Dramatic Teas, and Tea Mysteries with themes including: *Pushing Up Daisies*, *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, *Million-Dollar Mystery*, *Steampunk Tea*, *Secret Garden Tea*, *Day of Dead Tea*, *Romantic Poet's Tea*, *Without a Clue*, *The Bruce Partington Plans*, *The Problem of Thor Bridge*, *Welcome to Shadow Island*, *The Gilded Tea*, and the grandest tea of them all, *The Titanic Tea*.

From the very beginnings of BSW's productions, we were extremely fortunate to have a dedicated Holmes and a dedicated Watson. In the early years, Brad Loffswold performed as an ideal Sherlock Holmes. Joe Svec embodied Dr. John H. Watson, and still does. Although in a pinch, as Joe likes to travel, we have invited Philip Faires or Conor O'Neill to perform as Watson. Unfortunately, around late 2017, Brad began having health problems, and his stamina wasn't the same after that. By 2019, we were never certain in what shape Brad would be in for our productions. Little did we know our ultimate Sherlock Holmes was not far away. It took a timely visit and the "third-degree" given by Mrs. Hudson to suss out our next dedicated Holmes. You will learn more about John Lee shortly.

In the later months of 2017, we decided to create our own Diogenes Club ... well, *Diogenes Room* ... in a small cubicle the bookstore used to maintain as a music room on the second floor. It originally held music books and vinyl records. BSW utilized it for storage. We decided to create a very masculine room that evoked the queerest club for the most unsociable and unclubbable men in town. Only, our *Diogenes Room* would admit gentlewomen to join the gentlemen in their clubbable pursuits. Two rooms at BSW were now always available to Holmes' Hounds members with an advance reservation: 221B Baker Street and the *Diogenes Room*.



Eric and Barbara Chronowski, Titanic Tea.

DOCENTS AND TOUR GROUPS

In 2015, BSW began its docent program. A call was put out to Holmes' Hounds and Baker Street Players asking for volunteers to guide tours at BSW. The response was gratifying. We immediately had six participants in our program. Beth and I trained each docent to give a tour of 221B Baker Street from the eyes of their character. By then, our 221B was a respectable re-creation of the 221B from the stories.

Recorded here are descriptions of our first docents:

Imagine being secretly ushered into the flat by Silas Brown (Don Sanderson), horse trainer, from *The Adventure of Silver Blaze*. "Secret?" you ask. Well, Mr. Brown has a bone to pick with Mr. Holmes, and he does his tours on the sly.

Fortunate you would be to see 221B from the perspective of Irene Adler (Beth Barnard), *The Woman*, from the story *A Scandal in Bohemia*. She is proud to be the object of Mr. Holmes' admiration, as she is the only woman to *best* Sherlock Holmes.

Eliza Barrymore (Jane Gleason) has come all the way from Baskerville Hall of Dartmoor to 221B to retell her part in this sinister story of a supernatural hound, the moor, and mayhem.

Miss Elizabeth Burnet (Melinda Rosselli), from *The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge*, will relate on her tour of 221B how she toiled undercover to trap the *Tiger of San Pedro*, a brutal dictator from Central America.

Examine 221B with Hilda Adair (Susan McMorris), who lost her brother by way of a murderous act perpetrated by Colonel Sebastian Moran. Her tale takes place after The Great Hiatus, when the errant Mr. Holmes returns to Baker Street and to *The Adventure of the Empty House*.

Mary Maberley (Meg Gottstein) is one of Mr. Holmes' newest clients. An unknown party has asked to buy her house, *The Three Gables*, its contents, and all of her personal effects. Should she be suspicious? Perhaps you can advise her.

Mrs. Hudson (Linda Hein), along with Irene Adler, gave hundreds of tours in the 11 years BSW existed on Main Street. Soon, two more joined the BSW Docent ensemble: Abigail Crosby (Tiffany Mitchell) from the Granada Series episode of *The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez* and Beryl/Jack Stapleton (Leslie Creighton Plank) from the *Hound of the Baskervilles*.



Baker Street West Docents: Melinda Rosselli, Susan McMorris, Jane Gleason.

This ushered in a time when we began collecting or creating specific items relating to each docent. For example; Fitzroy Simpson's Penang lawyer and John Straker's cataract knife; the photograph Irene Adler left behind; the test telegram from London placed in Mrs. Barrymore's hands; the note from Miss Burnet to Aloysius Garcia; the deck of cards representing the whist game played by the Honorable Ronald Adair; the golden pince-nez; the half-sheet foolscap paper sent to Sir Henry Baskerville with pasted printed words. Each docent had at least one prop to claim as their own.

For many years, BSW has also eagerly opened its doors to tour groups, usually consisting of elders, from San Jose, Sacramento, and Fresno. These groups aspire to encounter the extraordinary and unexpected experiences our state has to offer. For example, one group used to routinely come on Thanksgiving Day (until the COVID pandemic). Many in the group had no family to spend this holiday with. They would dine at The National Hotel, and afterward come to BSW to be treated to a classic dessert and be entertained.

Speaking of extraordinary and unexpected experiences, since 2021, BSW has been featured in the book *Secret California: A Guide to the Weird, Wonderful, and Obscure* by Ruth Carlson, with an excellent photograph of "Booknado," a book sculpture that used to greet customers on the first floor of the Hein & Company bookstore.

OUR PRODUCTIONS

After *The Final Toast* in early 2017, theatrical productions at BSW were regularly presented (and with every production came SARTA nominations for Elly Awards). Among the productions was one of our audiences' favorites — *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, adapted for the stage by Beth Barnard and nominated by SARTA for an Elly Award for Best Adaptation. BSW has produced this timeless classic already four times to sold-out audiences. The illustrious productions are:

Baskerville by Ken Ludwig, opened Sept. 8, 2017.

Jack The Ripper: Monster of Whitechapel by Joe Dickinson, opened Oct. 7, 2018.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, by Beth Barnard, opened Dec. 6, 2018.

The First Baker Street Irregular by Brian Guehring, opened May 24, 2019.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, opened December 5, 2019.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, opened November 26, 2021.

Baskerville by Ken Ludwig, opened Apr. 1, 2022.

Sherlock Holmes and The American Problem by R. Hamilton Wright, opened May 5, 2023.

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, opened Nov. 24, 2023.

THE BAKER STREET IRREGULARS

3040 SLOAT ROAD ♦ PEBBLE BEACH, CA 93953

15 May, 2022

Dear Linda, Beth, Brad & Wolf,

It was wonderful seeing you all on Friday, and being on the front row (thank you for the reserved seats) for your production of "Baskerville" was a real gift. It was a spectacular presentation, and I don't recall laughing so much since the beginning of the pandemic.

I've probably seen almost three dozen Sherlockian plays, including two on Broadway, and I've never enjoyed one as much as The Baker Street Players' "Baskerville." Thanks for the great evening.

Come and I hope to see you again during the summer, either in Jackson, at our cabra, or here in Pebble Beach. Meanwhile, stay well and be healthy.

All the best,

Michael



"IT IS THE UNOFFICIAL FORCE..."

Letter from Michael Kean.



Live-audience radio theatre.

LIGHT AND SOUND

Dave Vasquez, an accomplished musician and guitarist for the local classic rock band After Dark, has been the original composer for most of our productions. Don “Mitch” Mitchell has been our original sound effects technician. And Roger Fugere, along with Ruby, his pup (our only non-human Baker Street Player), have sat in Roger’s Roost above all the theatrics where he controls the sound and light for the show. Ruby starred in our second production of *Baskerville* dressed in sheep’s clothing. She was quite the audience pleaser!

Speaking of music and sound, we have our own dedicated duo, Sequoia, who play music for all our Holmes’ Hounds meetings as well as many of our other events at BSW. Frank Crosse (Norm Ivie) and Maud Selby (Pam Ivie) were so named by us from Arthur Conan Doyle’s non-Sherlockian novel *Duet, with an Occasional Chorus* (1899). Norm and Pam are from Columbia, California, and they visited BSW in the early days and offered to play music for us.

BSW has also engaged audiences with radio theatre many times throughout the years. It was a splendid way to introduce inexperienced actors to the stage, and rarely did we have exorbitant royalties to pay.

During the summer of 2017, our actors and Foley crew entertained patrons with *The Musgrave Ritual*, *The Case of the Dead Adventuress* (Anthony Boucher and Denis Green), *The Problem of Thor Bridge*, *Murder in the Casbah* (Anthony Boucher and Denis Green), *A Scandal in Bohemia*, and *The Adventure of the Tolling Bell* (Anthony Boucher and Denis Green). In the spring of 2018, we presented *An Evening of Mysteries With Sherlock Holmes* featuring *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, *The Misadventure of the Impossible Magician* (Vince Stadon), and *The Misadventure of the Disobliging Corpse* (Vince Stadon).

And on November 10 and 11, 2018, BSW hosted a unique musical affair. The Mother Lode Friends of Music presented *Baker Street Sonata: The Musical World of Sherlock Holmes*. We have all known, since we first read *A Study in Scarlet*, that Sherlock Holmes is a notable lover of music. Holmes's skill on the violin was "very remarkable," says Dr. Watson, "but as eccentric as all his other accomplishments. That he could play pieces, and difficult pieces, I knew well, because at my request, he has played me some of Mendelssohn's Lieder and other favourites." *Baker Street Sonata* featured internationally acclaimed musicians Joe Gold (violin), Debbie Dare (viola), Jaume Torrent (guitar), Anne Pearce (piano), as well as Marie Bedard (coloratura soprano), and the Cantare Singers. Expressive readings by select Baker Street Players accentuated and enhanced the musical experience. This concert was an unforgettable event that had no equal anywhere in the world. Whether one was a Sherlockian enthusiast, a devotee to music and the arts, or an adventurer at heart, this was an affair not to be missed.

In the early days of BSW in 2015, we had an unusual request from a metal-core hardcore band, Kingdom of Giants, from Sacramento, to make a music video at the bookstore and at BSW. We couldn't imagine this clamorous affair happening during business hours, so for two consecutive evenings, the group would come in and play and film their cacophonous music from 7 o'clock in the evening until 4 o'clock in the morning. We had firm preconceptions of the shape our shoppes would be in after the heavy metal band spent hours of time shaking and rattling the walls with their music. However, when we arrived in the shop after the recordings took place, our shoppes were as neat as a pin.

A few years later, in June of 2021, we hosted another music video production. Charley Young — singer, songwriter, actress, writer, and producer — booked our venue through Peerspace (we also list through Gigster) and came all the way from Florida to film her music video at BSW. She wanted a Victorian background. We supplied that, three actors, and some props and costumes. It was a great experience, and Beth and I worked well with Charley, her manager/producer, and Charley's mum.

MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Many folks don't realize the extent to which we have been publicized. Many were the times we were told, "You really should advertise." Through the years, we have had articles written about us in the *Orange County Register*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Sacramento Bee*, *San Jose Mercury News*, *Napa Valley Register*, *Life & Leisure Magazine*, *Stockton Record*, and scores of times in our local Amador County paper, the *Ledger-Dispatch*.

Our media team became very important to us. Our first graphic artist was my sister, Mary Wilder. She designed all of our logos, posters, some shoppe signs, letterhead, and other needed designs for operations. Sarah Broyles, her daughter and my niece, designed the fanciful logo for Holmes' Hounds. After Mary retired from graphic design, Lucy Hackett, our dear Mary Morstan, stepped up and began creating to fill all of our graphic needs, which expanded as we honed the craft of creating our own props.

In the early days, photographer Eleanor Caputo paid a visit to BSW. When she came up the 17 steps to the second floor, she had tears running down her face, so affected was she by the sight of our unexpected and astonishing Victorian village. She offered, in the strongest terms, to become our dedicated photographer, and we accepted. We made an agreement that she would volunteer to take photographs whenever the need arose, and in turn, we would give her rights to any photos to use in her side business, which was to submit images to use as book covers. One of her photographs actually was used as a book cover for *Sherlock Holmes and the Lady in Black* by June Thomson. (Mentioning book covers reminds me to fast-forward to 2022 when Brian Belanger of Belanger Books asked our permission to use one of our photographs of Holmes' desk at BSW for the cover of *Writing Holmes!* We eagerly consented and felt thrilled to see it covering the printed collection of essays!)

Sadly for us, Eleanor moved to Iowa, and we found ourselves looking for another photographer. In our wildest dreams, we knew we couldn't afford to use the best photographer in town, Steve Farrell of Farrell Photography, but we dared to ask him in the event he felt a benevolence for our peculiar piece of a Victorian world in the Gold Country of California. We struck a deal with Steve that he would give us his services in exchange for using BSW and the Hein & Company bookstore for any photo shoot he wanted to do there. We gave him carte blanche to use either business at any time he desired. In the ensuing years, he used it for many wedding, engagement, senior portrait, and eclectic photo shoots.

VICTORIAN CAROLER'S DINNER, AND THE TITANIC AFTERNOON TEA AND REMEMBRANCE DINNER

In 2017 and 2018, BSW hosted an elegant Victorian Caroler's Dinner at The National Hotel, with dessert and entertainment at Victoria Square and and caroling in between. Leading the carolers in song was our very own velvety-voiced Mary Maberley (Meg Gottstein). Our musician duo, Maud and Frank, played dozens of Christmas melodies sweetly serenading the diners. Back at BSW, while dessert was served, Baker Street Players performed the radio show, *The Night Before Christmas*, made popular by Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. This, as well as our production of *A Christmas Carol*, were popular in the extreme during the holidays. Both were local favorites but also drew folks from the greater Northern California area. The fare for the Victorian Caroler's Dinner in 2017 was Ebenezer's Oyster Bites, Deviled Eggs, Tiny Tim Tomato Salad, Scrooge McDuck, and Vegetable Wellington. In 2018, it was Duck Confit Tart, Stuffed Mushrooms, Roasted Beet Salad, Bistro Filet, and Vegetable Napoleon.

Those were also big years for two Edwardian events in honor of the 25th anniversary of the blockbuster motion picture, *Titanic*. On June 4, 2017, Barbara Chronowski, an actress (and member of the Titanic Historical Society) who played a first-class passenger and survivor in the film, spoke during a Titanic Afternoon Tea at BSW about her experience being in the film. This event was just a prelude to a more sophisticated Titanic Dinner on January 13, 2018. With background of recorded ship-boarding sound effects resounding throughout Victoria Square, guests met in their Edwardian finest at BSW, where they were served champagne and had photographs taken among the luggage waiting to be hoisted on board. At 6:00 p.m., the passengers embarked to The National Hotel, where they were greeted by our musical duo plus one: Frank, Maud, and Chris. The trio had taught themselves the music the musicians (an octet orchestra led by violinist Wallace Hartley) were playing on that fateful evening before the ship went down in the Atlantic Ocean. The voyagers sat down to a seven-course dinner echoing the ten-course dinner that was served on the *Titanic* that inauspicious night. During the repast, Barbara Chronowski and her beloved, Eric Swartz, acted out and relived many of the intense moments leading up to and following the collision with the iceberg. As The "Unsinkable" Molly Brown put it, "It was the most horrible experience of my life." (But our dinner was a satisfying, albeit somber, success!)

BAKER STREET WEST



Top: Passengers for Titanic Dinner. Bottom: Musicians for Titanic Dinner.

STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

In the spring of 2017, BSW hosted 35 high school students from the Liberty Ranch High School in Galt, a city in the metropolitan area of Sacramento. These students were attending Forensic Science and Criminal Justice classes. Their teachers reached out to BSW and asked us if we could instruct their classes on some of the scientific methods used by Mr. Sherlock Holmes. Responding with a resounding yes, we wrote a script for each of our participating docents and asked them to address the students from the doorways of the shoppes at Victoria Square. The high school students were seated at tables in the square with tea and crumpets at hand.

Silas Brown was stationed at *The Wolf & Bear Pub*, and he gave a dissertation regarding ciphers and canines in the Canon, focusing on the cases of *The Gloria Scott*, *The Valley of Fear*, *The Dancing Men*, *Silver Blaze*, *Shoscombe Old Place*, *The Sign of Four*, *The Missing Three Quarter*, and, of course, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Hilda Adair stood erect in the doorway to *Stewart's Scientifics* and spoke about firearms and ballistics citing *The Dancing Men*, *The Reigate Squires*, and *The Empty House*. Mary Maberley spoke from the doorway of *South Downs Apiary* and related her knowledge about blood, citing *A Study in Scarlet*. Eliza Barrymore greeted the group from the entrance to *The Deerstalker* and expounded on the habit Mr. Holmes had of examining the scene of the crime for clues with a magnifying glass. *A Study in Scarlet* was examined more closely. Irene Adler, tucked in the doorway of *Adler's Emporium*, made a good impression when she spoke of the telltale footprints left at scenes of crimes. She cited the cases of *The Sign of Four*, *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Creeping Man*, *Shoscombe Old Place*, *The Boscombe Valley Mystery*, and *Black Peter*. Elizabeth Burnet stood placidly at the threshold of *Dr. Watson's Apothecary* and regaled the students on ingestible means of mischief — poison — referencing *The Sign of Four*, *A Study in Scarlet*, *The Speckled Band*, and *The Devil's Foot*. Mrs. Hudson, positioned at the entrance to *Mrs. Hudson's Tea Shoppe*, discussed phrenology, referred to in *The Blue Carbuncle* and *The Final Problem*.

With our production of *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*, we recognized how enjoyable and enriching having shows with kids could be. Beth designed a program, *Summer With Sherlock*, a youth theatre program presented by the Baker Street Players at BSW, and we were given a grant by The Beacon Society. The grant covered the scripts for the performers, the royalties for the production, and a two-volume set of the Canon for each student. Beth's program taught theatre skills while introducing young people

BAKER STREET WEST



Top: Summer with Sherlock student production. Bottom: Summer with Sherlock class.

to the world's first consulting detective. We used the stage at BSW, and the young actors were immersed in the world of Sherlock Holmes' London in a living museum setting. The youngsters gained both stage and life skills while studying Mr. Holmes' techniques that culminated in a performance of a one-act play, *Young Sherlock*, by Craig Soldaro, at the end of the two-month-plus program. Classes, led by Beth — award-winning actor, director, and playwright — were held twice weekly. She taught theatre basics, acting techniques, dialect coaching, and more. She introduced students to the world of Sherlock Holmes utilizing Mr. Holmes' skills as a detective, which helped students to be more observant, to trust the facts, to remain objective, to never give up, to stay a step ahead, and to think outside the box. Sessions were open to young actors ages 8 to 18. The theatre students gained a more intimate knowledge of Sherlock Holmes and the Sherlock Holmes stories, which were incorporated into their parts as actors and crew in the production. Through theatre skills, all students learned elocution, teamwork, and stage dynamics. Each actor chose a character to work with relating to a specific story in the Canon, so character development was tied directly to Sherlock Holmes' case work. In the cast were 15 students along with four parents. The crew consisted of eight adults and two students. It was a wildly successful program, and we were told by the Beacon Society that we would likely be awarded the grant in the future upon request. We plan to produce *Summer With Sherlock* again.

Besides *Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol* and a handful of our Afternoon Tea Mysteries, all of our events have focused generally on the late Victorian era and specifically on Sherlock Holmes. However, when it comes to lending our singular venue to other civic-minded groups, we hold to no hard and fast rule that the event must be late Victorian. For example, we have welcomed with open arms any non-partisan community group who have need for a venue in which to meet. We have provided space for authors, both distant and local, to gather regularly or to hold speaking events for upcoming books. We have hosted other non-profit organizations, such as the Mother Lode Friends of Music for their regular meetings and events in our remarkable venue. We have welcomed the Amador Council of Tourism and the Chamber of Commerce for mixers. We have given space during the week to a local and renowned music teacher (Daryl Hooper of *The Seeds*, a band that formed in Los Angeles, California in 1965, and is best known for their highest charting single, *Pushin' Too Hard*) after the Mother Lode Music shop on Main Street shut its doors forever during COVID. Daryl teaches children and adults alike to play an assortment of musical instruments. We have provided our venue to other groups, such as the *Poetry Out Loud*

competition for high school students, the PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), the AAUW (American Association of University Women), and Mountain Melody: Women's Chorus of Calaveras County, California. We have welcomed our local State Senator, Marie Alvarado-Gil, who presented a regional forum on homelessness, real estate issues, and matters regarding the police department. We have hosted other musical events such as concerts with soprano Kellsey Long, and *How Can I Keep From Singing* with local folk musicians and singers. We have had "posthumous" visits from Walt Whitman and Woody Guthrie performers. We have provided living quarters for refugees and their pets during firestorms and snowstorms. We try our best to be available and offer our venue to anyone in need.

BAKER STREET WEST BECOMES A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

In 2019, Wolf and I decided we did not want to be responsible for such a burgeoning business as BSW was becoming. Therefore, those of us "movers and shakers" at BSW decided to make BSW a non-profit organization and reap the benefits of volunteers and soliciting donations. Baker Street West became a non-profit in October of 2019. We currently have a five-person board of directors consisting of Beth Barnard, Linda Hein, Lucy Hackett, Amanda Reis, and John Lee.

THE COVID DAZE

Then COVID. In March of 2020, we already had Afternoon Teas and Dinner Mystery Theatre dates scheduled. The last booking we had was the beginning of April for DMT. As producer, I found myself gritting my teeth trying to get our committed events accomplished without having to cancel anything before the certain closure. But our customers and the State of California wouldn't cooperate, which was natural considering the circumstances. A producer doesn't always get what she wants. BSW was closed from the end of March until sometime in September of 2020. For one whole month, I found myself going to an empty bookstore and an empty BSW to see what I could do. It was during this time that I took up painting in areas we had always planned to paint, and, thanks to instructional videos on YouTube, doing light carpentry repair in places needing attention. All the while, my mind was reeling. I started watching YouTube with a passion. Not knowing how long this curious and threatening pandemic would persist, I saw YouTube, perhaps, as BSW's savior. But more about that in a moment.



Lucy Hackett by her mural in the train station.

In May, I contacted Mary Morstan (Lucy Hackett), our graphic artist, and asked her to come down to our venue to see about the second entrance, the street entrance, into Victoria Square. The entrance led to an unappealing garage-type room. We had always stored ... stuff ... in there, and we hadn't taken pride in gussying it up, as it was rarely used. I had been staring at the wall opposite the entrance throughout the month of April in my alone time at BSW. Suddenly it hit me! Make a mural! Of course the iconic image by Sidney Paget with Holmes and Watson on the train bound for Dartmoor in *The Adventure of Silver Blaze* had to be our choice. We downloaded the best image we could find, attached the laptop to our projector, and then painstakingly drew in the outline of the image on the opposite wall. During the next three weeks, Lucy would come for a few hours at a time and layer the image with paint. Okay, now we had a mural of two men on a train. This wall looked stunning, but the rest of the room was still an unsightly drab mess. Now what? A train station, of course! Lucy made train signs, I gathered luggage, and then I went back to YouTube. We painted another wall to look like bricks (extremely time consuming!). We found a tutorial on how to paint faux flagstone. We applied the treatment on the concrete floor,

and, well, the proof is in the pudding: Once BSW opened its doors again, our customers thought the floor of the train station was real flagstone! Lucy and I continued to paint the rest of the floors to Victoria Square. It was a long, arduous process, but well worth the effort.

ZOOMING, YOUTUBING, AND PODCASTING

During our COVID closure, Beth and I found ourselves turning to Zoom sessions. We participated in as many Sherlockian society Zoom sessions as we could. Beginning in June of 2020 and again in August of 2021, we were invited, and attended, meetings of the Scintillation of Scions sponsored by Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City, Maryland; on January 7, 2021, Beth and I attended the BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture given by Andrew Lycett presenting *Conan Doyle's Questing World*, as he explored ACD's travel writings. The next day, Beth and I attended our first BSI Dinner ... virtually. In 2021, we attended five Sherlockians of Baltimore (SOBs) Zoom sessions, and in March of 2021, we attended a Zoom session with The Parallel Case of St. Louis. In October of 2021, we attended the BSI Trust Lecture delivered by Roberta Pearson, a professor of film and television studies at the University of Nottingham. The lecture, titled *The Adventure of the Mutable Detective*, explored the various factors contributing to the diverse portrayals of Sherlock Holmes on screen. We also attended the Zoom session of the inaugural Doylean Honors ceremony at The Mysterious Bookshop in New York City on January 13, 2022. And we recently attended the Zoom lecture given by Mattias Boström for the BSI Trust.

Through Zoom, Beth and I met Bob Katz, a very dynamic Sherlockian and great contributor to each session with his thoughtful insights on each of the stories. During the COVID years, Bob would sell BSI books to BSW for us to offer in The Deerstalker, our small bookstore at Victoria Square. On March 19, 2022, Bob volunteered to help us host a Zoom session focusing on *The Adventure of the Six Napoleons* to great success. That day, we also featured two of our favorite Holmes' Hounds, Cedric and Jan Clute, with their presentation of *Dickensheet & Boucher, A Remembrance*. Jan's cousin was Dean Dickensheet. In fact, Dean was the impetus for Ced and Jan meeting in San Francisco so many, many years ago. They were also friends with Anthony Boucher (BSI, 1949, *The Valley of Fear*). The presentation of the Clutes was thoroughly touching and heartfelt. It can be seen on BSW's YouTube channel.

During 2021, our very own and talented Beryl/Jack Stapleton (Leslie Creighton Plank) began offering Dramatic Readings of the Canon stories.

They have been very popular through the years, and give the public a chance to settle in with tea and biscuits and listen to a live reading of Mr. Holmes' exploits. Twenty-five Dramatic Readings with Beryl/Jack Stapleton are on our YouTube channel. Jack Stapleton, in particular, has received quite a bit of fan mail.

As the pandemic progressed, we considered every idea we possibly could dream of to keep BSW relevant. In 2021, we set up a little recording studio in the women's dressing room and began producing Podcasts: *The Legacy*, *A Golden Evening* (the drama Beth wrote for our Stoddart Dinner); *The Misadventure of the Disobliging Cadaver* by Vince Staddon; *The Adventure of the Speckled Band* (dramatized by Conor Broderick, one of our young Baker Street Players).

CONSULTATIONS AND A VISIT WITH MR. HOLMES

The COVID closure gave us time to process where we had been and where we were going. In 2020, the State of California was not quick, with good reason, to release businesses to operate at full capacity. Using the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, we calculated we could have no more than 26 people at one time in BSW. That meant we had no access to our full-house, money-making productions.

Hence came the idea to offer consultations with Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

The idea was brought to life by a real-life incident when a call was left on Mrs. Hudson's answering machine to inquire if Mr. Holmes was available to consult on a case of a missing Minion. After the Amador County Fair in the summer of 2019, one of the three Minions (of *Despicable Me* cinematic fame) on display at the fair was taken away in an unauthorized truck. I had visions of a Minion wildly flapping its arms (do Minions even have arms?) and yelling for help as the driver hit the accelerator! A concerned woman from the Fair Committee left her desperate message begging for Mr. Holmes to help find this helpless Minion (named Bob). Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson were alerted, the local newspaper was called in to observe the meeting between the Fair officials and the two gents, and clues and options were discussed. The *Ledger-Dispatch* alerted the public to be on-the-lookout, and, after several months, Minion Bob was eventually recovered. We thought we would capitalize on this experience by advertising to our troubled public that there was an answer to their woes. A Sherlockian consultation was a perfect event to offer during COVID, as the maximum number of folks involved could be no more than ten. Families and friends sheltering together were our target audience.

Our advertising for *Consultations with Mr. Holmes* resulted in the following scenarios — *Mischief at the Manor*, September, 2020; *The Mystery of the Missing Important Document* (consultation requested by the Amador Council of Tourism), November, 2020; *The Mystery of the Asiatic Box*, December, 2020; and *A Marriage Proposal for Mike & Kristin*, November, 2021.

Simultaneously with those *Consultations with Mr. Holmes*, a fortuitous visit enhanced our repertoire of Sherlockian offerings. A couple from the Sacramento area contacted BSW offering to make a donation of some Victorian possessions they felt needed to be passed on, and they wanted us to have them. Enter Trina and John Lee with at least 20 boxes of Victoriana. I happened to be on the receiving end that day, and I was thrilled. Since this took place during the height of COVID, we were all well-masked. After some polite conversation, I had an inkling there was more to John Lee than was meeting my eye that day. I asked very gingerly, “Well, John, have you ever done any acting?” Trina answered, “Yes, he has.” “Recently?” I asked John. Trina replied, “Yes, he has.” Now I felt compelled to make a bold request, “John, would you be willing to raise your mask for a quick moment?” Trina answered, “Yes, he will.” And he did. “Have you ever portrayed Sherlock Holmes?” I inquired. Trina offered, “Yes, he has ... quite a bit.” Then, looking directly at John, I asked, “I assume you have a good stage voice?” “Yes, I do,” John assured me. BSW had (and still has) a new Sherlock Holmes.

PUZZLES AND HIDE & SEEK

When BSW reopened in September of 2020, we wanted to make certain our customers would discover all the improvements we had made during our closure. For the kids, besides having them look for the ten cat doors at BSW, we also created a list of mice that were scattered throughout Victoria Square. The list contained 21 different mice, such as the Brass Mouse, the Wooden Mouse, the Leather Mouse, the Bristle Mouse, etc. Kids found this an engaging pastime while their parents were working on solving *A Pandemic Puzzle!* The directions for the puzzle read: “Below are seven quotes from the Canon that are missing one (or two) words. The answers can be found in BSW from the train station to the bolt hole. Next to the clue will be a letter. Combine the letters you find with the first letters of the answers in the quotes below and rearrange them to spell a common three-word Sherlockian phrase.” Some families spent hours roaming through shoppes and bolt holes and the train station, which, of course, was our objective. (Oh, yes, we had *two* bolt holes, in fact).

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

Sherlockian authors have frequented BSW. One of our more distinctive author presentations was by way of Zoom. On May 8, 2021, we hosted a dramatic Zoom Webinar introducing Bonnie MacBird's book *The Three Locks*. Our Zoom tech, Dave Horner, was able to set up a live filming of dramatic action taking place in Victoria Square and heading into 221B where Dr. Watson was ready to interview Bonnie (BSI, 2017, *Art In The Blood*) on the Zoom program. The event was a time travel affair going between present-day London at Bonnie's home to the 1895 Victorian era at BSW. During the interview, Baker Street Irregular street urchins would enter 221B handing written questions to Dr. Watson from the Zoom attendees. The Baker Street Irregulars would not retreat until Dr. Watson placed a shilling in their outstretched hands. Lovely Irene Adler made an appearance as well, giving the whole occasion a bit of charm and flair. On November 19, 2022, we gave Bonnie a similar dramatic treatment for her book *What Child Is This?* in our Victorian Christmas setting. Present to interview Bonnie were Irene Adler and Dr. Watson. Heffie, a character from the book, also made an appearance.

On May 21, 2022, BSW hosted a Zoom Webinar for author Michelle Birkby wherein Irene Adler interviewed Michelle about her novels *All Roads Lead to Whitechapel* and *No One Notices the Boys*. On June 24, 2023, BSW hosted a meet-the-author event for Jeri Westerson, author of *The Isolated Séance*. Jeri returned on November 9, 2024, to speak about *The Mummy of Mayfair*. On November 18, 2023, Steve Hockensmith visited BSW to discuss his books, do Bob Dylan impressions, and hand out left-over Halloween candy. Steve drew the largest crowd we have ever had for an author event.

HOW BSW LEARNED THE TRICK (OF FILMMAKING)

It was during the pandemic and after our first Zoom session with Bonnie MacBird that we resolved to begin schooling ourselves in how to make films. After all, we had the best backdrop we could ever imagine or hope for. It was time to show it off to the masses! I teamed up with Lucy Hackett, and she took the lead as script creator and director. I kept my usual position as producer and costumer. We began our film series *And So It Begins* with *The Adventure of the Red Circle*. The object of the *And So It Begins* series is to focus on the scenes where the client seeks the help of Mr. Holmes and/or Dr. Watson. In *The Red Circle*, Mrs. Warner, played by Karen Kraut, calls on Mr. Holmes, played by Gerry Schardt.



Top: Filming a scene from *The Greek Interpreter*: Lucy Hackett, John Lee, Brad Barnard.
Bottom: Filming *How Watson Learned the Trick*: Joe Svec, John Lee, Lucy Hackett.

In *The Adventure of The Engineer's Thumb*, Victor Hatherley, played by Aaron Wolk (his first acting gig and famous for declaring when the filming completed, “I *never* want to do that again!”), pays a late visit to Dr. John Watson, played by Joe Svec.

Not yet “in the can” for the *And So It Begins* series is the meeting between Victor Hatherley and Mr. Holmes in *The Engineer's Thumb* and the visit of Helen Stoner and Grimesby Roylott to 221B Baker Street in *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*. Unfortunately, before we could finish these films was when we suddenly got word we had to vacate the building and our exquisite film sets. In addition, on our YouTube channel is the dialogue between Sherlock and Mycroft in *The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter* and between Holmes and Watson in *The Field Bazaar* and *How Watson Learned The Trick*. Currently, there are 48 videos of our Sherlockian film efforts on our YouTube channel.

The summer of 2020 at BSW found Victoria Square hushed and shut away from the public. We played the waiting game, longing for the State of California to allow us to open our doors again. In August, I received a call from Dänna Wilberg, a guest who had attended one of Mrs. Hudson's Afternoon Teas in honor of Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead). Dänna explained to me that she was on the committee hosting Bouchercon 2020. Bouchercon, a World Mystery Convention, named in honor of Anthony Boucher, the distinguished mystery fiction critic, editor, and author. Large cities in the United States vie for the chance to hold Bouchercon and are selected five years in advance. Sacramento was chosen to host Bouchercon 2020. Sadly, the 2020 conference was unceremoniously canceled due to COVID. However, Dänna, a brilliant author and filmmaker in her own right, would not be defeated, and she and her committee became resolute to have the conference online. The committee hired Emmy-award-winning videographer Tim Walton to create films kicking off the opening of the online event as well as the opening to the conference's ceremony for its Anthony Awards. As Dänna and Tim scoured Sacramento for venues to film the online shorts, Dänna recalled the Afternoon Tea at BSW and suggested to Tim that they visit us. And visit they did on a lonely afternoon when they were free to wander about our empty Victorian village. As I recall, Tim spent most of his time at BSW with eyes wide open and mouth dropped. After a while, he declared to Dänna, "Let's scratch our plans in Sacramento and do all the filming here." Dänna and Tim wrote an outline of a script, asked if they could use our Mr. Holmes (Brad Loffswold) and Dr. Watson (Joe Svec), and *Inside 221B* was filmed in two days, on August 27 and 28, 2020. Before filming, Dänna asked if we had an Arthur Conan Doyle actor to use for the introduction to the Anthony Awards. We thought about it, and if we slicked back his hair and affixed a mustache to our young Sid Cohen, he might be able to pass. (The filmmakers did use a bit of poetic license: They asked ACD to use a typewriter!) The filming experience at BSW was an exemplary and inspiring one, enhanced by the warm relationship we forged with Dänna and Tim. We wanted more. And more was to come ...

At the beginning of 2023, Dänna Wilberg contacted us again with a new filming project — *Creative Interpretations*, a competition offered by the Capital Film Arts Alliance: A screenwriting and filmmaking contest with a twist; eight original films, one common script. Eight film teams were given the same one-page dialogue and each was to interpret the dialogue into a 1-to-10-minute film. Dänna and Tim paired up again after reading the whimsical script and interpreted it to be a Sherlockian mystery. They asked to use BSW as a set and requested actors from our Baker Street Players



Top: Filming *Inside 221B*: Tim Walton, Brad Löffswold, Amber Donnelly, Joe Svec.
Bottom: Cast of *Sherlock Holmes and the Headless Bishop*: Joe Svec, John Lee, Beth Barnard.

theatre company. All eight films were shown at The Harris Center, a regional performing arts center in Folsom, California. Four awards were possible to win — Best Actor; Best Use of the Script; Best Film (Judges' Choice); and Best Film (Audience's Choice). *Sherlock Holmes and The Headless Bishop* was created and ultimately won *BOTH* Best Film awards!

The film has since been submitted to small film festivals the world over and has won 31 laurels and 16 trophies from places as near and far away as Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, Dallas, Chicago, Atlanta, Florida, Rio de Janeiro, Sydney, London, Paris, Hamburg, Vienna, Turkey, Tabriz Iran, and India.

ASHES AND PHOENIXES

In July of 2023, Wolf got a phone call that was to shake the foundation of everything we had built at the building at 204 Main Street in Jackson — Hein & Company Bookstore, Hein & Company Estate Sales, and Baker Street West. Backing up in time to April of 2023, Wolf felt it necessary for our stability to buy the building we had been renting for the last 27 years. He and his then-friend, our landlord, struck a deal, contracts were drawn, and we entered into a three-month escrow to purchase the building. All requirements had been met, except one: The final signing of the papers. Our landlord was acting very strange, making appointments to sign, then canceling. In hindsight, it occurred to us that he was slipping into deep dementia. In the July call, the landlord informed us that he would not sign the escrow papers, and by the way, the rent for the building would be doubled. From experience, I can say now: These things happen. Is it for the better? In the midst of it, it is hard to say. Fortunately, synchronicity has always been at our side, and now it was in full force: places to relocate miraculously materialized. Hein & Company Estate Sales moved into a warehouse in Martell (a town just a couple of miles up the road north of Jackson); Hein & Company Bookstore, now managed by Wolf's two sons, moved into the most sought-after storefront in Sutter Creek (the town right next to Martell); and BSW was invited to remain right in Jackson and move into the town's Old Historic Courthouse. Flung near-and-wide were we, and we made it work.

Desperate to have one more production at BSW's Main Street address — our Christmas Swan Song — we produced *A Christmas Carol* there for a final time. Our landlord had been convinced, we think, by some well-meaning Jackson elders to let BSW stay until the end of the year. This production shone more than any other. The Players were at the top of their game. The audiences were more tender and touched than ever before. Conor O'Neill didn't *play* Ebenezer Scrooge, he *was* Ebenezer Scrooge. The comparison between Mr. Scrooge before his redemption and our situation at BSW was not lost on any astute observer. Ebenezer got his redemption, but I think any chance of redemption is not in the cards for the Mr. Scrooge of our story.

In the autumn of 2023, much media time was being given to BSW's plight. We received a call from a *Los Angeles Times* reporter wanting an interview, which we granted. Amanda Reis, one of BSW's corporate board members, reached out to invite Cody's Caravan — a show on our local CBS television station — to visit BSW and cover the tragic news. Cody himself came once at Halloween time and filmed a live show at BSW. Then he returned in December and covered BSW's *A Christmas Carol*, and he came in the spring of 2024 as well to the new Hein & Company Bookstore (in Sutter Creek) for the live filming of a book launch for Elizabeth Crowens and her new *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* book.

In late December, after our *Christmas Carol* production's closing weekend, we began the process of dismantling our beloved creation, BSW. We had just finished packing up everything in *Stewart's Scientifics* when I got a call from Dänna Wilberg: "Tim and I want to do a film at BSW as a fundraiser for your move." Wishing she had called just a few hours earlier, we halted the packing process. I promised to wait and keep BSW intact until after Beth and I returned from the cheerfully diverting activities at the BSI Weekend in New York City to discuss the project with her.

On January 16, the day after returning from New York, we began the formidable task of dismantling BSW, but only behind the scenes, as we had a movie to film! Ultimately, it took 52 volunteers, one carpenter, and two energetic movers to dismantle and move BSW. Completely. We moved every stick of furniture, every piece of costumery, every belonging from every shoppe, and every scrap of storefront down to the screws and nails.

Before we shut the doors one final time on the original home of BSW, a handful of us had a poignant ceremony in the train station in front of the Sidney Paget mural.

The following is an account by one of our expert packer volunteers:

April 13, 2024: It rained today — appropriate, for it was the end and the beginning. Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson, aboard the train, conferring about their current mystery, rode off into the darkness. The train entered a long, dark tunnel and is not expected to appear in the light at the next station for some time to come. The stage was empty, and the footsteps of the last players echoed through the empty building. The upstairs piano, sadly out of tune, uttered its few last notes. The players wandered through the building, reminiscing. They marveled at the four deceased bees that had found their way to the windowsill of (where) *South Downs Apiary* (used to be). The building, once creatively filled with shops and activity, mysteries, and laughter, was quiet and cold, and sad — its future

BAKER STREET WEST



Top: Victoria Square. Middle: Dismantling Mrs. Hudson's Tea Shoppe.
Bottom: Former Victoria Square.

unknown. The older players remembered its past and shared memories. The mood of the day was uplifted by the two children who came to help paint over the last vestiges of Baker Street. The artist and the gypsy went out into the rain. The creators gave each other a last hug and followed. Tears mixed with the rain drops. The red door closed forever. Perhaps it was a left-handed blessing; negative situations sometimes are, as a new venue — larger and more vibrant than the original — will rise like the Phoenix. Mr. Holmes and Dr. Watson will emerge from the train. A new stage will be filled with players. There will be excited guests laughing over teas and dinners and enjoying new performances. Rain can symbolize hope of a fresh start — a new beginning. Forward toward the light.

It took exactly three months to pack up and move the entirety of BSW to the Old Historic Courthouse. But ... only to the first floor. The second floor is the designated future home of BSW. Up 23 steps. Yes, we counted them.

We took a month off to rest and regroup. We had begun the process of carrying up boxes to the second floor with the help of local high school students who wanted to earn community credit. But they didn't last long. Boxes were one thing, but a piano? A refrigerator? An enormous revolving door? Those seemed to be insurmountable matters to hoist up 23 narrow steps. One of our movers told us about a mechanical stair stepper. I looked it up on the internet, and it was, indeed, affordable, and it could be sent to us within a few days. Beginning in the middle of June, we employed our new stair-stepper, which we christened "Brunton," and he did all of the heavy lifting. I consider Brunton to be the most valuable asset BSW owns. He has survived 1400 boxes, furniture, and lumber from almost 7,000 square feet of our former venue. He has also survived twice being launched down long staircases, once by human error and once by vandals. After three months of hundreds of trips up and down those 23 steps, BSW celebrated being fully moved into its new home.

Back to February of 2024 and the filming of *Sherlock Holmes and The True Believer* (a Christmas movie): Dänna and Tim, along with their production manager, sound technician, and production assistants arrived at BSW. We had actors ready, dressed, and with makeup applied. The crafts table was set. We spent all day on the 17th and all day and into the night on the 18th filming. Little does any audience member realize when viewing *The True Believer* film that wild and frenzied packing activity was being done behind the scenes — once we knew that a shoppe would not be needed for



Old Historic Courthouse.

BAKER STREET WEST



Top: Using "Brunton" to move old ship's organ, Jason and Jayme.
Middle: Moving revolving bookcase, Jayme and Jason. Bottom: View of former Superior Court room.

any more of the scenes, it was promptly disassembled. Our packing system was methodical. Each shoppe had a code, and a packing slip was made, copied on to a sticky label, then slapped on the box, and the packing slip was added to a three-ring binder. The filming went very well at BSW. But Dänna informed us it was necessary to find a vintage train to use for a few of the scenes. She had already checked with the California State Railroad Museum in Sacramento about using their facilities, but there were logistical problems, plus quite a hefty rental fee. I suggested that Railtown 1897 in Jamestown, California be investigated for a filming site. The logistics, as well as the rental fees, were better there. The problem then was that the money had run out.

We volleyed certain fundraising scenarios. Then I remembered the deadline for requesting TOT (Tax on Tourism) funds from Jackson was that Friday afternoon. It was Wednesday. I madly applied for funds from TOT and included an interview on a flash drive featuring Jeffrey Wiseman (our “Hollywood” actor of *Back to the Future* fame) to submit to the Jackson city council just minutes before the deadline. Fortunately, our request for funding was granted, and Jackson cut us a check for \$6,500. Our home city has been good to BSW. The year previous, they awarded us TOT funds in the amount of \$4,500 to buy new and professional theatrical lighting.

On July 13, August 17, and August 24 the filming at Railtown 1897 commenced. I cannot begin to describe the challenge of filming a Victorian Christmas movie in the middle of July! And the summer of 2024 was particularly scorching with 106- to 109-degree highs! We employed personal battery-operated fans for key crew members and applied frozen collars to cast. Happily, the folks at Railtown 1897 were enamored with having a film crew after a hiatus of many years, and they treated us well. Railtown 1897 has been a popular filming location for Hollywood productions since the early 20th century and can boast a list of over 200 movies, television shows, and commercials being filmed there.

Beth contacted our local theatre, Jackson Cinemas, and arranged for *The True Believer* to be shown on Friday, December 6. The Cinemas gave us two time slots for December 6, and we began selling tickets at the beginning of October. Virtually all of the tickets sold in one weekend. The Cinemas was delighted to add another showing on that date, and it too sold out. It has been an unbelievable fundraiser, as well as a phenomenal education, and an unimaginable amount of fun. Dänna plans to send *The True Believer* on the global small film festival trajectory after Tim spruces up some of the special effects.



Top: Theatre goers gathering at Jackson Cinemas for world premiere of *Sherlock Holmes and The True Believer*. Bottom: Cast and Crew for *Sherlock Holmes and The True Believer*.

By reading this lengthy dissertation, you may already have been able to perceive the folks at BSW take our Sherlock Holmes with equal doses of seriousness, entertainment, scholarship, instruction, and plenty of merriment. Our spirit symbol for our resurrection is, of course, the phoenix. There are times in the last year and a half we didn't believe it, but BSW *will* live on. Personally, I can attest it has taken a lot of grit to get where we are now. But



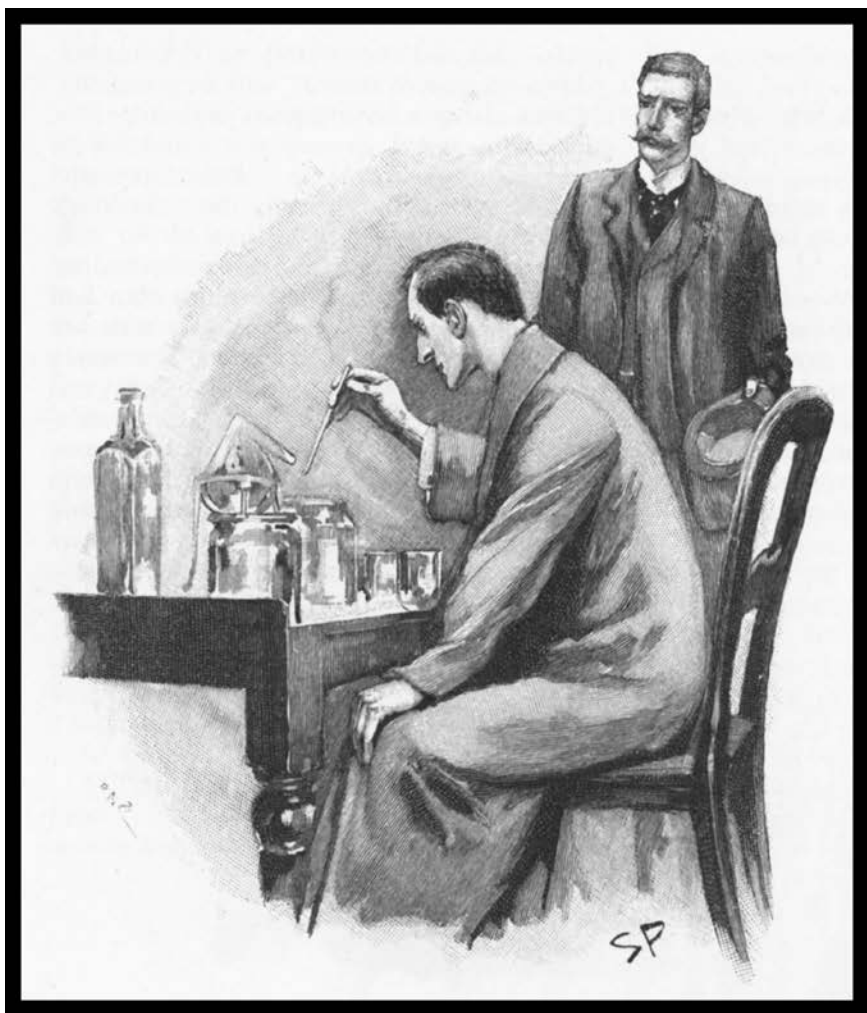
Linda and Beth in front of the Wolf & Bear Pub.
Photo by Steve Farrell (<https://farrellphotography.net/>).

it hasn't ever been up to us, really. It has been up to the folks who have showed up and volunteered their time, it has been up to our patrons who have always blessed us with full houses, and it has been up to so many who have opened wide their reticules or unfolded their pocketbooks. And it has been up to our passion for Sherlock Holmes.

This next year, we look forward to having singular events in Scotland Yard, the little brick building next to the Old Courthouse — author events, Holmes' Hounds meetings, and other happy occasions.

In April 2025, we plan to involve ourselves in the local *Celebrate Our Children Festival*, which will give Baker Street West an opportunity to share the world of Sherlock Holmes with up to 700 kids who will visit our local high school. We plan also to offer *Summer With Sherlock* again this year. As I write this, Beth and John Lee are collaborating on a script for a new stage production with the working title of *Sherlock Holmes and the Three Pipe Problem*.

The good folks at Baker Street West endeavor to continue our good work building out our slice of Victorian London on the second floor of this Old Historic Courthouse in the Gold Country. It won't be easy, but we relish a challenge. The new venue has a leaky roof and is ADA-deficient, the ceilings need work, the floors need care, but we have the best folks occupied with making our new home the greatest and grandest Sherlockian venue ever! Once we open our doors anew, we hope to see all our fellow Sherlockians visit Baker Street West ... Where the Game is Always Afoot!



ADVENTURES
&
DIVERSIONS

THE
ADVENTURE
OF THE DYING
DETECTIVE

By

Sir A. Conan Doyle



VOL. IV

ADVERTISING
DEPARTMENT
COLLIER'S WEEKLY

Title page of the *Collier's* Christmas 1913 booklet edition of "The Dying Detective."

THE FIRST EDITION OF ‘THE DYING DETECTIVE’

A 1913 CHRISTMAS GIFT

*Randall Stock**

When is a Sherlock Holmes first edition not a first edition? Collectors can argue about English and American editions, or authorized versus pirate copies. Some might debate what constitutes the first American edition of *The Sign of [the] Four*.

Yet there is also a rather obscure volume produced between the initial magazine appearance of a Holmes short story and its later publication in a collected edition. The original of that rare volume, the first separate American edition of “The Dying Detective,” remains beyond the reach of most people. The 2025 facsimile that accompanies this edition of the *Baker Street Almanac* (see the booklet in the pocket at the back) makes this artifact available to a wider audience.

HOLMES IN AMERICA

The American magazine *Collier's Weekly* famously made Conan Doyle an offer he could not refuse in 1903. He resurrected Holmes, initially with an eight-story commitment, then extended it to 12 tales, and eventually finished with a 13-story series. *Collier's* carried all the stories for *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, publishing them from September 1903 to January 1905.

Conan Doyle produced two more Holmes adventures in 1908, and *Collier's* again published them in America. However, the firm did not obtain the next three Holmes tales. The New York edition of *The Strand Magazine* carried “The Devil’s Foot” and “The Red Circle” in early 1911, while *The American Magazine* brought out “Lady Frances Carfax” that December.

Holmes finally returned to *Collier's* after a five-year hiatus. Conan Doyle wrote “The Dying Detective” in the summer of 1913. He signed and dated its manuscript on July 27, 1913. The story appeared a few months later in the November 22, 1913 issue of *Collier's*.

At only 5,800 words, it is one of the shortest tales in the Canon. Yet *Collier's* managed to extend it across five large pages, in part by including four Frederic Dorr Steele illustrations. The magazine also featured the story on its cover along with another Steele illustration.

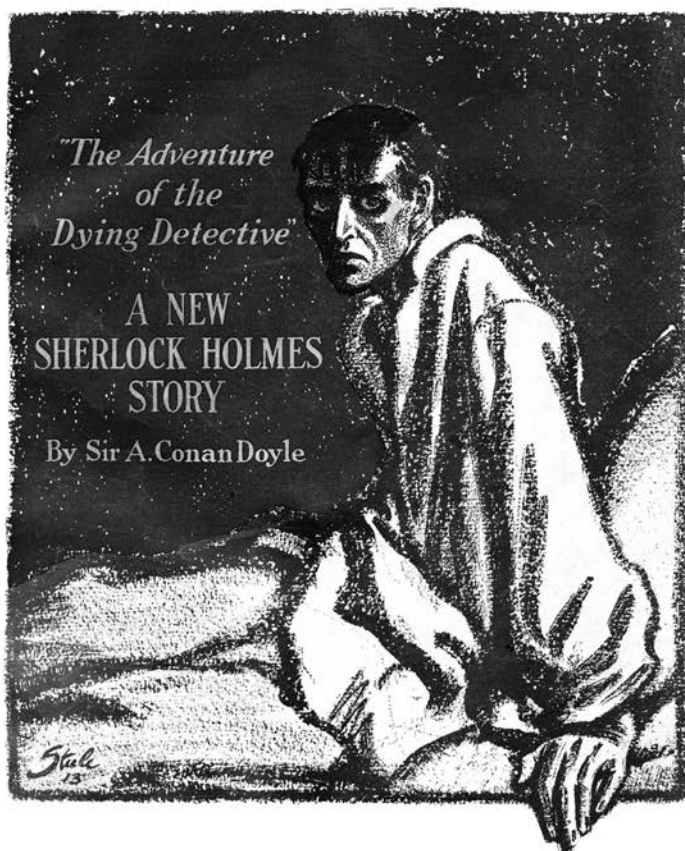
* Randall Stock, BSI (“South African Securities,” 2s) has presented and published widely on Conan Doyle rarities, and runs The Best of Sherlock Holmes website <www.bestofsherlock.com>. Copyright 2025 Randall Stock.

THE FIRST EDITION OF 'THE DYING DETECTIVE': A 1913 CHRISTMAS GIFT

Collier's

5¢ a copy

THE NATIONAL WEEKLY



VOL. FIFTY-TWO NO. 18

Entered at the New York Post Office as Second-Class Matter
Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Post Office Department, Ottawa, Canada

NOVEMBER 22 1913

Cover of *Collier's Weekly* (Nov. 22, 1913), with a "Dying Detective" illustration by Frederic Dorr Steele.

Like many Holmes short stories, "The Dying Detective" appeared in American newspapers after its initial magazine publication. The *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Minneapolis Journal*, *Chicago Inter-Ocean*, *Pittsburgh Press*, *Detroit Free Press*, and *New York World* all reprinted the story on December 21, 1913. It probably also appeared in other newspapers, but it is an additional publication by *Collier's* that deserves special attention.

PAYING THE BILLS

Advertising was an important part of the *Collier's* business model. The magazine carried more automobile ads from 1903 through 1908 than competitors such as the *Saturday Evening Post*, *Life*, *McClure's*, and *Scientific American*. Advertisements made up one-third of the issue with "The Dying Detective."

While *The Strand Magazine* also included advertising, its ads generally appeared at the front and back of an issue. American magazines like *Collier's* gave greater prominence to their advertisements, and often placed them next to the text of a story or article. That increased the effectiveness of the ads and allowed magazines to charge more for the ad space.

A *Collier's* reader initially saw three full-page ads before getting to "The Dying Detective." The first three pages of the story did not include any ads. However, *Collier's* frequently split their main stories and articles, continuing them in the second half of the magazine alongside ads. The text of "The Dying Detective" jumps from page 7 to page 24, and concludes on page 25, with ads on both pages.

Many *Collier's* issues included material targeted at potential advertising customers. A long-running series of numbered "bulletins" promoted good practices for businesses, including the use of advertising. Signed by the magazine's advertising manager, number 145 in the series appeared on page 37 of the issue with "The Dying Detective."

People selling ads often provide business gifts to their customers. At *Collier's*, the advertising department produced special publications that they probably gave to both existing and potential ad buyers. These publications reprinted material from the magazine.

For Christmas 1905, this took the form of a 30-page booklet entitled *Mr. Dooley on Timely Topics of the Day*. It reprinted three humorous pieces by Finley Peter Dunne from the November 4, November 18, and Christmas issues of *Collier's*. In 1908, the company produced the 22-page *Bridge Whist* by George Fitch, "compliments of E.C. Patterson, manager [of the] advertising department." That humorous depiction of bridge whist came from the August 1 issue of the magazine.

While *Collier's* probably churned out similar material in other years, most recipients likely disposed of such ephemera. The 1913 publication stands out as probably the most elaborate, and certainly the most collectible, of these promotional items. It included the first separate American edition of "The Dying Detective."

A CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

The 1913 production consists of four bound booklets held in a plain gray cardboard slipcase. That slipcase carries a white paper label on its right side measuring approximately 3.5 x 2.75 inches. The label gives the title of each booklet and credits *Collier's*. Printed in black ink within a triple-ruled frame, it reads:

Salesmanship. Your House in Order. Editorial Gems. Sherlock Holmes.
These booklets containing reprints of articles and editorials from *Collier's Weekly* are sent to you as a greeting from the Advertising Department.
Christmas MCMXIII.

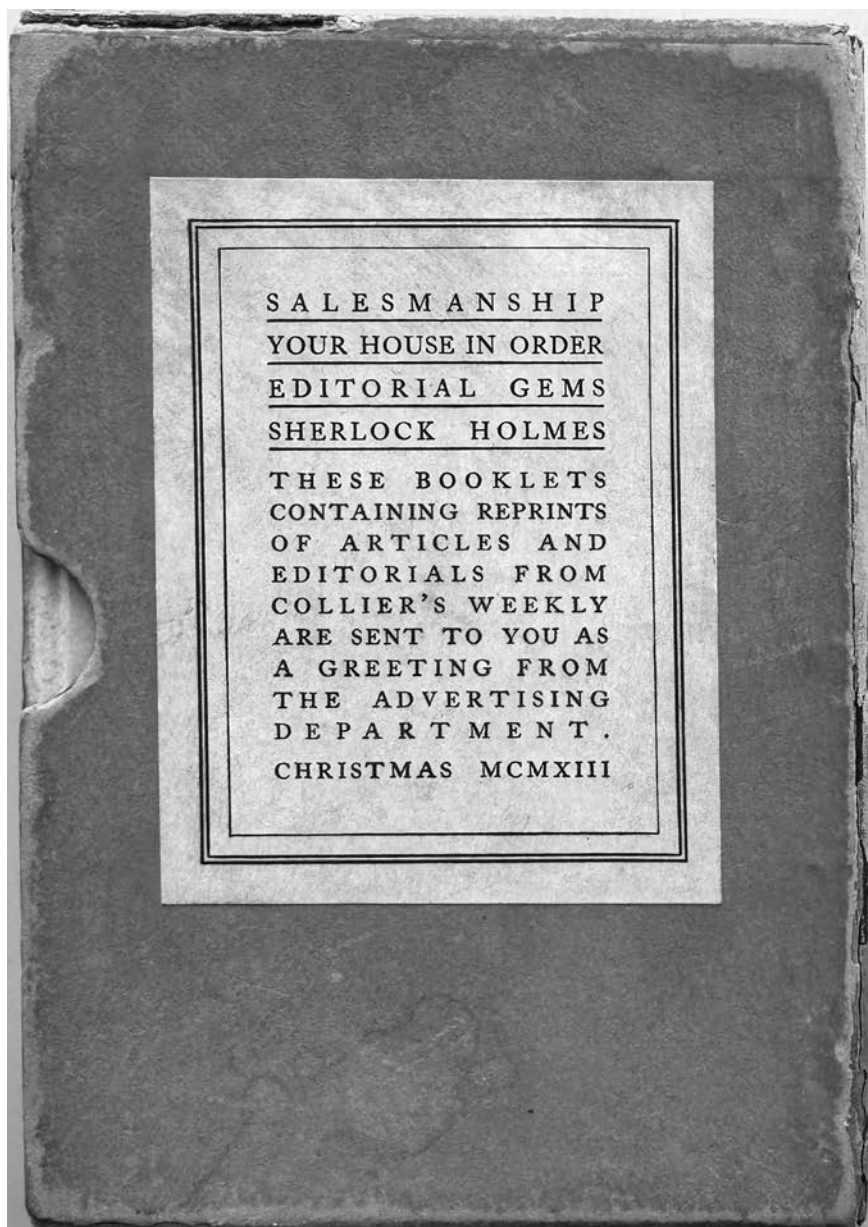
Smaller than mass-market paperbacks, the booklets measure about 5.75 x 4.1 inches. They are bound in gray paper over boards with a vellum spine, although a copy of "Your House in Order" held by Glen Miranker uses tan-colored paper. The booklet title appears in gilt on the front cover, and on the spine in black ink on a white label. Spine labels read upwards from the bottom. Cover and spine titles match the titles on the slipcase label.

Booklet length ranges from 36 to 45 pages. While the booklets clearly make up a set, including volume numbers on their title pages, their front matter reveals minor style and wording variations. The title page for each booklet identifies the publisher as the "Advertising Department *Collier's Weekly*," and provides the following information:

Vol. I: Salesmanship: Rule-of-Thumb Science by William Maxwell.
Vol. II: Your House in Order by Peter Clark Macfarlane.
Vol. III: Editorial Gems from *Collier's*.
Vol. IV: The Adventure of the Dying Detective by Sir A. Conan Doyle.

Each booklet includes a presentation page with similar wording. For Volume I, it reads:

These articles by William Maxwell are reprinted from the July 12 & July 19, 1913, issues of *Collier's The National Weekly* & are presented to you in this form with the compliments of the Advertising Department.
Christmas MCMXIII. P.F. Collier & Son, Inc.



Slipcase with label for the *Collier's* four-booklet Christmas 1913 advertising promotion.
Courtesy of Glen Miranker.

THE ADVENTURE OF
THE DYING DETEC-
TIVE · A NEW SHER-
LOCK HOLMES STORY
BY SIR A. CONAN
DOYLE · REPRINTED
FROM THE NOVEM-
BER 22, 1913, ISSUE
OF COLLIER'S THE
NATIONAL WEEKLY
IS PRESENTED TO
YOU WITH THE
COMPLIMENTS OF
THE ADVERTISING
DEPARTMENT.
CHRISTMAS MCMXIII
P · F · COLLIER & SON · INC.

A. B. F. Hammer

Advertising Manager

Presentation page of the *Collier's* Christmas 1913 booklet edition of "The Dying Detective."
Courtesy of Ross Davies.

The comparable page in the Holmes volume reads as follows:

The Adventure of the Dying Detective. A New Sherlock Holmes Story by Sir A. Conan Doyle. Reprinted from the November 22, 1913, issue of *Collier's The National Weekly* is presented to you with the compliments of the Advertising Department. Christmas MCMXIII. P.F. Collier & Son, Inc.

All the presentation pages include the facsimile signature of A.C.G. Hammesfahr, the *Collier's* Advertising Manager. Hammesfahr started in their advertising department in the early 1900s and became its Western Manager around 1907. The firm promoted him to the overall Advertising Manager position in 1912, and then to General Manager of *Collier's* in 1916. He resigned from the company in 1919.



A.C.G. Hammesfahr,
in *Associated Advertising*
(Feb. 1915), p. 40.

Two of the booklets include illustrations. The first volume, *Salesmanship*, carries one illustration by W.J. Enright from the associated July 12 issue of *Collier's*. It faces the opening text of the article. The Holmes booklet also contains one illustration facing the story's opening page. See the next section for more about it.

The phrase "with the compliments of the Advertising Department" on each presentation page shows that this set was a gift rather than something sold to the public. The slipcase label mentions "sent to you as a greeting." It suggests they mailed most or all of the sets rather than having a salesperson give them to the recipients personally.

The slipcase label and presentation pages list a general publication date of "Christmas MCMXIII." They also describe the content as "reprints." Given the November 22 magazine date for "The Dying Detective," the firm probably mailed the booklets in early December.

DYING FOR DATA, DATA, DATA!

The cover, spine, running heads, and title page for each of the first three volumes reflect a standard booklet title. Volume 4 takes a different approach. Instead of "The Adventure of the Dying Detective," the cover, spine, and running heads use "Sherlock Holmes."

This is not purely a length issue. A shortened "The Dying Detective" would fit on the cover and spine, and in the running heads. Instead, *Collier's* chose to identify the character rather than the story.

This focus on the iconic brand of “Sherlock Holmes” provides a stronger promotional pitch to ad buyers. That would be true for any Holmes story, but it is even more applicable for this tale. Its title has both the general negative connotation of “dying” and a suggestion that it could be the last appearance of Holmes. Neither advances the purpose of getting people to think about placing ads in future issues.

After leading with the Holmes brand on the booklet cover, the firm split the difference on the presentation page by mentioning both Holmes and the story title. The presentation page exactly matches the phrasing on both the magazine’s cover and the story’s opening page in that issue:

The Adventure of the Dying Detective
A New Sherlock Holmes Story
By Sir A. Conan Doyle.

The booklet also emphasized the Holmes brand by including a well-known Frederic Dorr Steele illustration. While Steele provided five illustrations in total for the magazine release of “The Dying Detective,” the advertising department did not include any of them. Instead, it chose a variation of Steele’s 1903 cover for “The Norwood Builder.” The firm previously used that cover illustration in 1903 advertising for the series and in volume one of *Conan Doyle’s Best Books*.

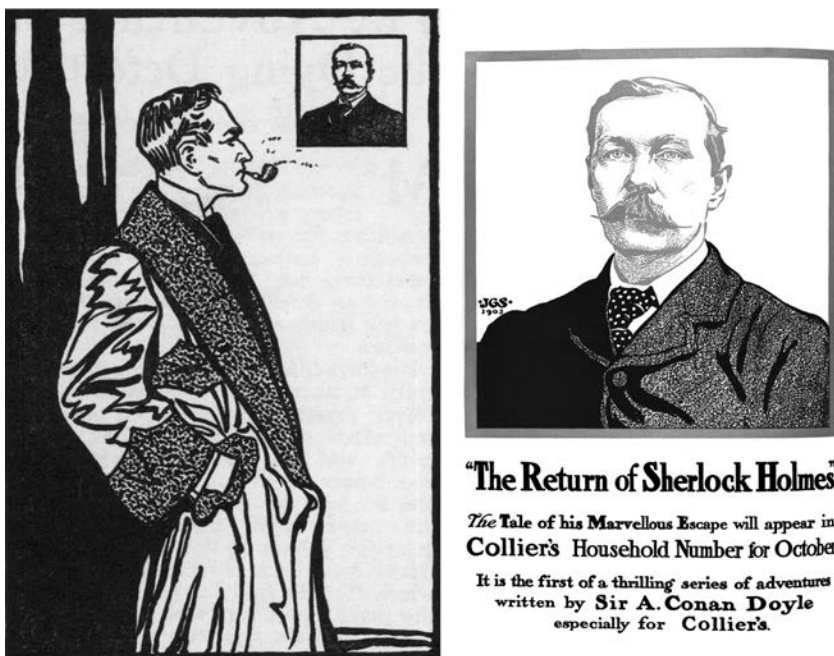
The 1903 illustration featured Holmes in his dressing gown looking at a handprint on a wall. This 1913 version replaced the handprint with a thumbnail portrait of Conan Doyle. The portrait almost certainly came from a drawing by “JGS” in *Collier’s* September 12, 1903 issue that was part of a full-page ad for the upcoming “Return of Sherlock Holmes.”

As is common with Holmes stories, the text of “The Dying Detective” varies slightly between the English and American magazines. However, there are no significant textual variations between *Collier’s Weekly* and the advertising department booklet. Compositors either typeset the magazine and the booklet from the same source, or set one from the other.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

For better readability, I standardized capitalization and italics when transcribing labels and text from various booklet pages. The originals could be in all caps or use differing font styles. See the facsimile (and related photos in this article) for the original usage.

This paper corrects a few minor errors and omissions about “The Dying Detective” in the revised Green and Gibson *Bibliography of A. Conan Doyle* (2000). For the first serial appearance in *Collier’s Weekly*, the *Bibliography* lists



Left: Illustration in the *Collier's* Christmas 1913 booklet edition of "The Dying Detective."
Right: *Collier's* 1903 advertisement for "The Return of Sherlock Holmes."

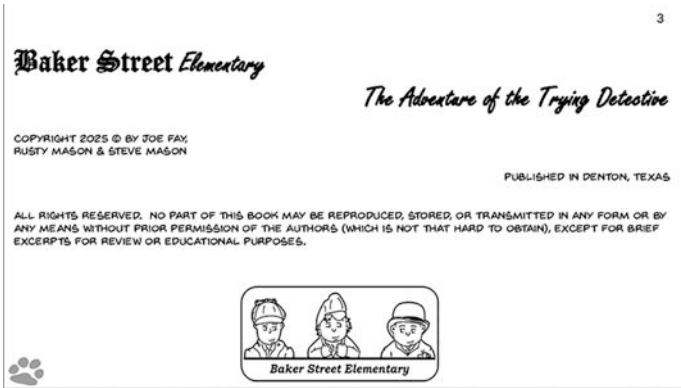
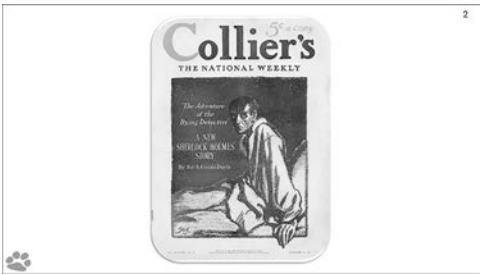
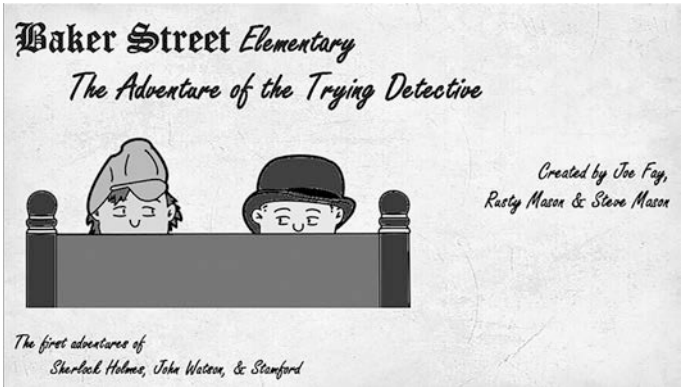
only three Steele illustrations instead of the actual four, and does not mention the fifth (cover) illustration. It only cites the *Detroit Free Press* appearance for the newspaper reprints, and the author's name for *Your House in Order* is actually spelled "Peter Clark Macfarlane."

A version of this paper without photos is included in the booklet edition of "The Dying Detective" that accompanies the 2025 *Baker Street Almanac*. My *Best of Sherlock Holmes* website includes news and details on other Conan Doyle and Sherlockian rarities at <<https://www.bestofsherlock.com>>. Contact me via my website if you have questions or corrections.

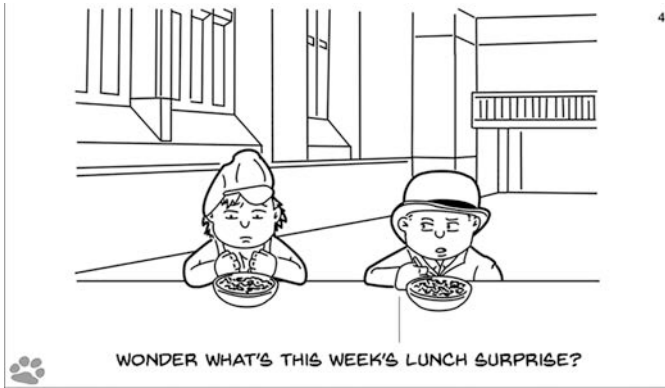
Thanks to Glen Miranker and Ross Davies for providing photos of the booklets and answering my numerous questions.

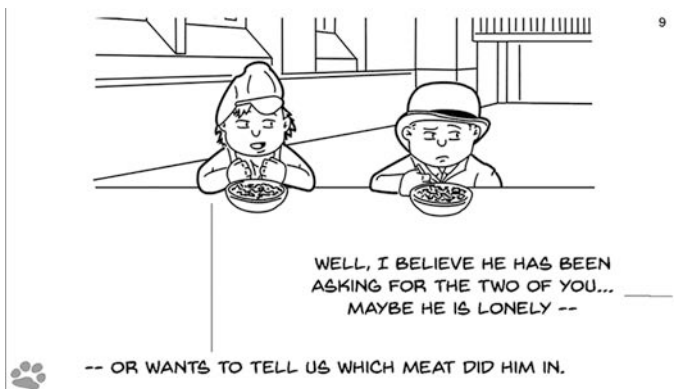
BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY

*Stephen Mason, Rusty Mason, and Joe Fay**



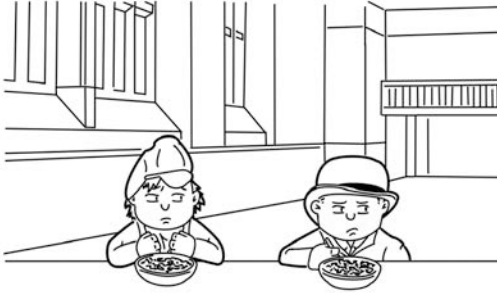
* To learn more about these three extraordinary comic talents and their work, visit www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html. Copyright 2025 Stephen Mason, Rusty Mason, and Joe Fay.







13

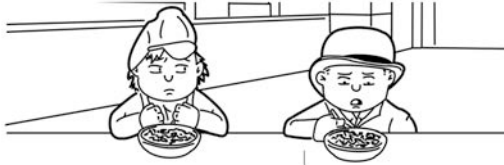


HIS PARENTS ARE NOT REACHABLE, AS THEY
ARE OUT ON HOLIDAY... HE HAS MADE IT CLEAR
HE DOES NOT WANT TO SEE A DOCTOR.



14

I FEAR HE IS NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD
IF HE CONTINUES TO STARVE HIMSELF, AS
YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF.



I DO UNDERSTAND HIS RELUCTANCE TO EAT OR DRINK.



15

THE VIRUS SENT EVERYTHING HE TOOK IN STRAIGHT
THROUGH... BEFORE HIS FAST... IF YOU GET MY MEANING...
HE REFUSES TO CONSTANTLY SIT ON THE CHAMBER POT.



DEATH MIGHT BE A SAVIOUR AT THIS POINT.



16

LET'S SEE WATSON'S
BEDSIDE MANNER
AT WORK...

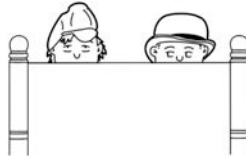


17

SHERLOCK, YOU LOOK TERRIBLE!

TRY SAYING SOMETHING NICE.

YOUR FACE HAS BECOME A
LOVELY SHADE OF GREEN.



18

WELL, WE SEEM TO HAVE FALLEN UPON EVIL DAYS.



NOT NECESSARILY ALL OF US.



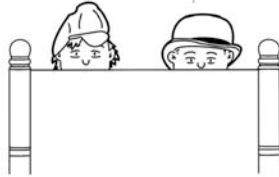
19

JUST STAY AT THE END OF THE BED... IF YOU TRY TO
APPROACH ME, I SHALL ORDER YOU OUT OF THE ROOM!



20

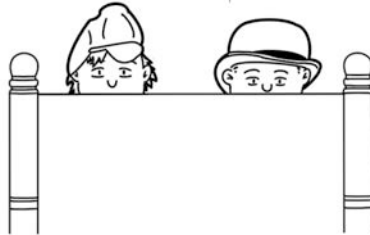
NOT SURE YOU'RE IN ANY SHAPE TO DO
ANY ORDERING... BUT WHY THE DISTANCE?



BECAUSE IT IS MY DESIRE... IS THAT NOT ENOUGH?

21

SEEMS A LITTLE
SHAKY TO ME, ALSO.

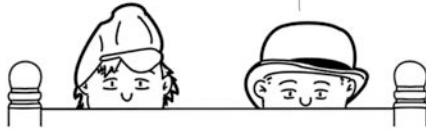


HONESTLY, NO.

22

IS THERE AN EXPLANATION OF WHY I CAN
ONLY SEE THE TOPS OF YOUR HEADS?

BUDGET CUTS IN THE ART DEPARTMENT.



23

WE CAME AT YOUR REQUEST, BUT ALSO TO
SEE IF THERE IS ANY WAY WE CAN HELP.

OR NOT.



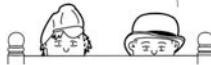
EXACTLY... YOU WILL HELP BEST BY DOING WHAT YOU ARE TOLD.



24

YOU SOUND LIKE MY EDITOR.

WE'LL DO WHAT YOU ASK,
HOLMES, WITHIN REASON.



I HOPE YOU ARE NOT ANGRY WITH ME.



25

WHY SHOULD WE BE ANGRY, JUST BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD TO SLEEP ON THE FLOOR THE LAST THREE NIGHTS WITH FOUR GUYS WHO ALL SNORE AND PASS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GAS.



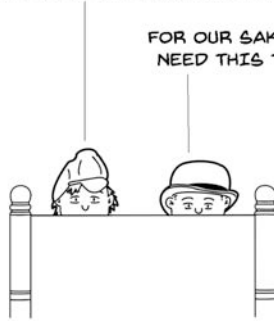
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, WATSON, TO MAKE SURE BOTH OF YOU STAY SAFE.



26

I WON'T EVEN MENTION THE CONDITION OF THE THUNDER POTS IN THE OTHER ROOM.

FOR OUR SAKE? NOT SURE I NEED THIS TYPE OF CARE.



27

I KNOW WHAT AILS ME... AS YOU ARE AWARE, I HAVE A CERTAIN AFFINITY TO CHOCOLATE... YOU MAY SAY I HAVE BEOME A CONNOISSEUR.



CHOCOLATE IS MADE FROM COCOA, WHICH ORIGINATES FROM CACAO SEEDS, WHICH ARE FERMENTED TO REMOVE THE BITTER TASTE OF HIGH LEVELS OF TANNIN.

28

THERE ARE THREE MAIN VARIETIES OF CACAO BEANS USED IN THIS PRODUCTION... CRIOLLO, FORASTERO, AND TRINITARTIO.



THE FERMENTATION PROCESS CREATES LARGE LEVELS OF BACTERIA... THE COCOA MUST BE COOKED TO KILL THE BACTERIA.

29

THERE IS A SMALL POPULATION THAT BELIEVE EATING THE RAW, UNCOOKED COCOA IS HEALTHY FOR YOU.



THE BACTERIA, THOUGH, CAUSES A HOST OF NONBENEFICIAL SYMPTOMS, ONE OF THEM... DIARRHEA.

30

ONCE THE BACTERIA IS IN YOUR BODY, IT IS A LONG PROCESS TO REMOVE IT.



31

MANY SIMPLY HAVE TO LIVE WITH IT FOR THE
REST OF THEIR LIVES, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY
MEANS SPENDING A LOT OF TIME 'ON THE POT.'



32

WOW, I COULD CLEAN UP JUST
SELLING YOU 'CHAMBER POT PAPER.'

WHAT'S THAT?

OH, JUST AN IDEA TO BECOME
RICH IN THE FUTURE.



33

SCIENTISTS ARE STILL UNCERTAIN IF IT IS HORRIBLY CONTAGIOUS
OR NOT, PARTICULARLY BY TOUCH, WATSON... THAT'S IT, BY
TOUCH... KEEP YOUR DISTANCE, AND ALL WILL BE WELL.



34

I'VE NEVER BEEN A TOUCHY-FEELY TYPE
OF PERSON, SO NO WORRIES HERE.

HOLMES, DO YOU BELIEVE SUCH
A CONSIDERATION WEIGHS WITH
ME FOR AN INSTANT?



35

YOU ARE MY BEST FRIEND, AND I WANT TO MINISTER TO YOU.

THEN AGAIN, THE WAY YOU LOOK, MAYBE
WE SHOULD CALL IN A MINISTER.



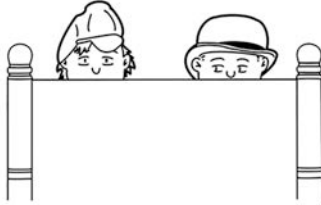
36

STAMFORD, DID YOU JUST CHANGE
YOUR VOICE TO SOUND LIKE WATSON?



37

HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME?
YOU CAN'T SEE MY MOUTH MOVING.



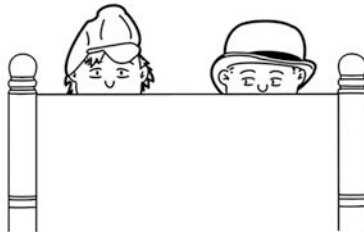
38

I CAN SEE THE TAIL LEADING TO YOUR CAPTIONS.



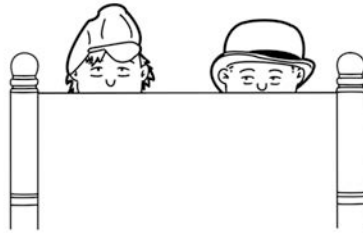
39

HUH? TAIL?



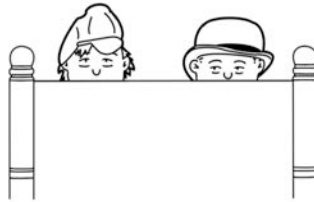
40

OH... WELL, I'LL BE!



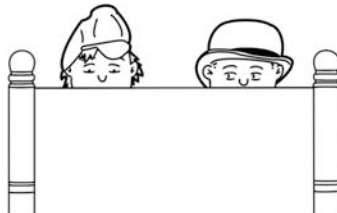
41

HMMM... I'VE GOT AN IDEA.

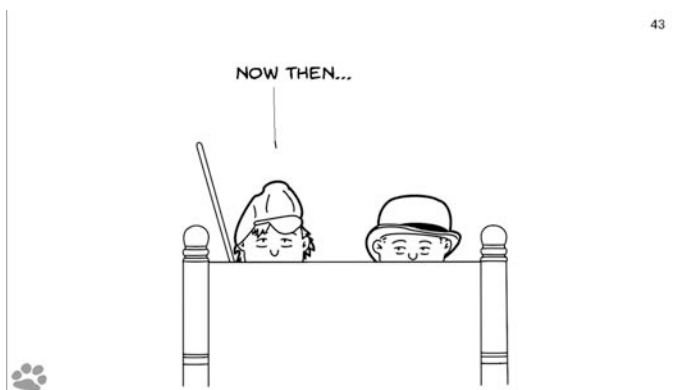


42

I KNOW I SAW A STICK AROUND HERE... AH, THERE IT IS.



43



44

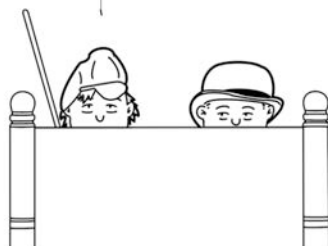


45



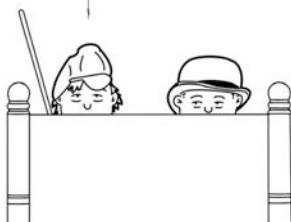
46

NOW THEN, LET'S REDO THIS.



47

THEN AGAIN, THE WAY YOU LOOK, MAYBE
WE SHOULD CALL IN A MINISTER.



48

THEN AGAIN, THE WAY YOU LOOK, MAYBE WE
SHOULD CALL IN A MINISTER.



49

SEE, JOHN SAID IT.



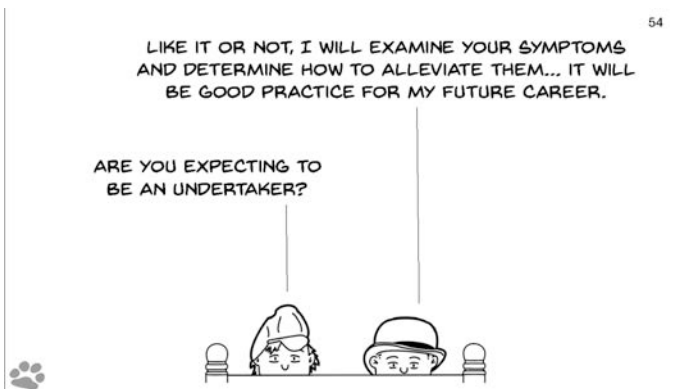
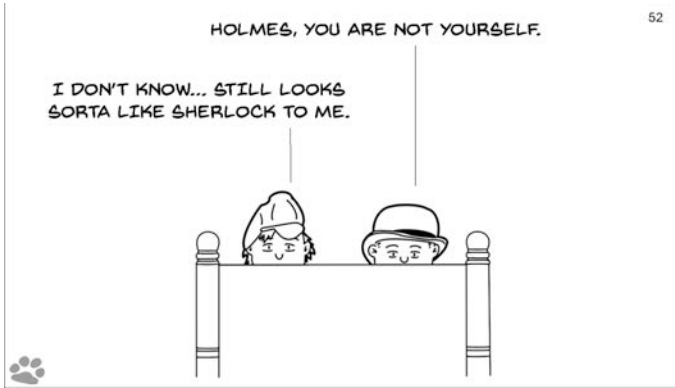
50



51

WELL, MOVING ON... IF YOU STAY THERE, I WILL TALK... IF
YOU APPROACH CLOSER, YOU MUST LEAVE THE ROOM!





IF I AM TO HAVE A STUDENT PLAYING DOCTOR, LET ME
AT LEAST HAVE SOMEONE IN WHICH I HAVE CONFIDENCE.

55



THEN YOU HAVE NONE IN ME?



THAT'S PRETTY HARSH.

56

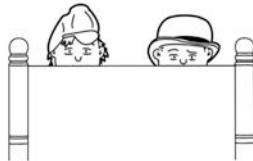


WATSON UNDERSTANDS, IN OUR FRIENDSHIP CERTAINLY... BUT
FACTS ARE FACTS, HIS STUDIES TO THIS POINT ARE LIMITED
AND LEAVE HIM WITH ONLY MEDIOCRE QUALIFICATIONS.



I DIDN'T KNOW JOHN HAD ANY QUALIFICATIONS AT THIS AGE.

57

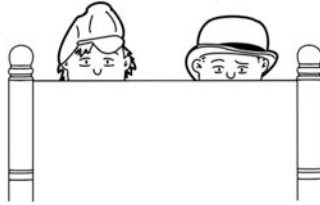


IT IS PAINFUL TO HAVE TO SAY THESE THINGS,
BUT WATSON LEAVES ME NO CHOICE.



58

SUCH A REMARK IS UNWORTHY OF YOU HOLMES... BUT IF YOU HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN ME, I WILL NOT INTRUDE MY SERVICES.



59

BUT SOMEONE YOU MUST HAVE, AND THAT IS FINAL... IF YOU THINK I AM NOT GOING TO STAND HERE AND SEE YOU WASTE AWAY WITHOUT EITHER HELPING OR BRINGING ANYONE ELSE TO HELP YOU, THEN YOU HAVE MISTAKEN YOUR FRIEND.



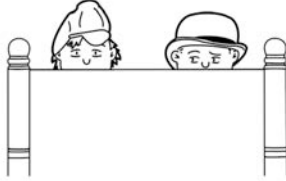
60

I KNOW YOU TWO MEAN WELL! BUT SHALL I HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR IGNORANCE? WHAT DO YOU KNOW, PRAY TELL, OF TAPANULI FEVER?.



61

AGAIN, WITH THE PRAYING?



OR THE BLACK FORMOSA CORRUPTION?



62

SERIOUSLY? WE'RE TALKING CHOCOLATE... NOT SURGERY! NO, I HAVE NEVER HEARD OF EITHER.



THERE ARE MANY PROBLEMS OF DISEASE, MANY STRANGE PATHOLOGICAL POSSIBILITIES IN THE EAST.



63

I'VE HEARD THE EAST END OF LONDON IS A LITTLE IFFY, BUT I THOUGHT THE CACAO BEANS CAME FROM SOUTH AMERICA?



DON'T CONFUSE A GOOD TIRADE WITH DETAILS... I HAVE LEARNED MUCH DURING SOME RECENT RESEARCHES... IT WAS IN THE COURSE OF THEM I HAVE CONTRACTED THIS COMPLAINT.



64

I THOUGHT IT WAS FROM JUST EATING SOME BAD CHOCOLATE?



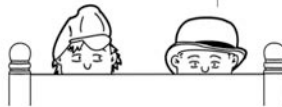
THAT TOO... THE POINT IS, YOU CAN DO NOTHING.



65

POSSIBLY NOT... BUT I KNOW MARY SUTHERLAND, WHO HELPED IN THE CASE I CHRONICLED AS 'A CASE OF IDENTITY'.

ACTUALLY, YOU CALLED IT 'IPSEITY' ... SOMETHING ABOUT 'COPYRIGHTS,' WHATEVER THAT IS.



66

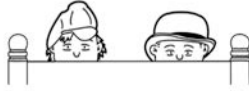
TRUE... ANYWAY, HER FAMILY MEMBERS, 'CADBURY,' ARE THE GREATEST LIVING AUTHORITIES ON CHOCOLATE IN LONDON... I AM GOING TO FETCH HER.



YOU WILL NOT LEAVE THIS ROOM UNTIL I WILL DIRECT YOU OTHERWISE.



UHHH... HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO STOP US? YOU DON'T
APPEAR TO BE WELL ENOUGH TO EVEN LEAVE THE BED.



IF YOU ATTEMPT TO LEAVE, I WILL INDEED GET OUT OF MY
BED... I AM NOT MASTER OF MY OWN BOWELS... I CANNOT
GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF YOUR PERSONAL EFFECTS.



THIS IS INSANITY, HOLMES.



I'VE GOT YOU, MY FRIEND... BUT I'LL HUMOUR YOU... IT'S 4
O'CLOCK... AT 6, YOU CAN LEAVE... ONLY 2 HOURS... I
PROMISE YOU CAN GO AT 6... ARE YOU CONTENT TO WAIT?



WE SEEM TO HAVE NO CHOICE.



NONE IN THE WORLD... YOU WILL KEEP YOUR DISTANCE... I DO
ASK THAT YOU SEEK HELP... NOT FROM THE GIRL YOU
MENTIONED, BUT FROM THE ONE I CHOOSE.



70

BY ALL MEANS.



THE FIRST 3 SENSIBLE WORDS YOU HAVE
UTTERED SINCE YOU ENTERED THIS ROOM.



71

LIKE YOU'RE A GREAT JUDGE OF SENSIBILITY RIGHT NOW.

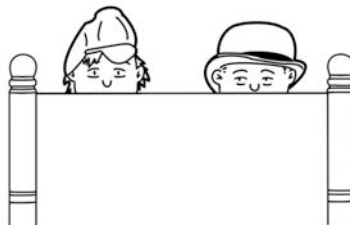


YOU MAY HUMOUR YOURSELF WITH YOUR STUDIES FOR THE
NEXT 2 HOURS... OR WORK ON YOUR VENTRILOQUISM!



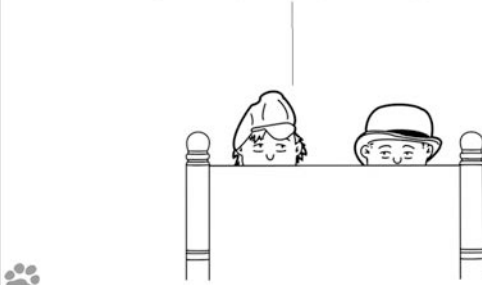
72

BUT MASTER STAMFORD IS AN EXPERT... VEN.. TRE.. LOW... QUEST.



73

THE LINE IS BACK... HMMM... WHERE IS THAT STICK?



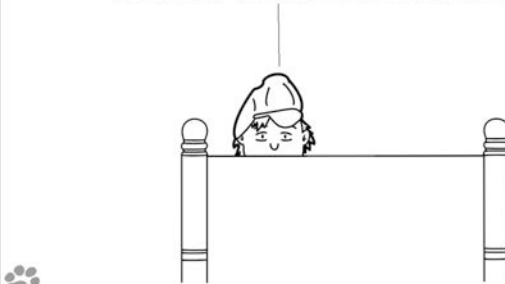
74

STAMFORD... I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT TODAY... ON
SECOND THOUGHT... HOW ABOUT YOU TWO GET THE
WOODEN BOX IN THE COVER AND STAND ON THAT...
MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT WILL STOP YOUR ATTEMPTS.



75

AH... I'M ENJOYING THIS... MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A
YOUNG'UN... WELL, NOT FULLY... ONE SEC...



76

WELL... THIS IS NOT AT ALL WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE...
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING... I KIND OF JUST FEEL LIKE A
GENERIC 'KID IN A HAT...' IS THIS WHY WE HAVE THE RULE
THAT ALL THE YOUNG'UNS CAN'T HAVE MATCHING HATS?



77

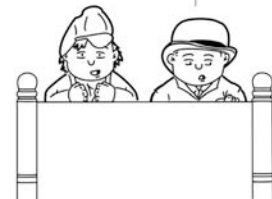
I AM SOMEWHAT EXHAUSTED... I WONDER HOW A BATTERY
FEELS WHEN IT POURS ELECTRICITY INTO A NON-CONDUCTOR.



78

NOT VERY POSITIVE, I ASSUME.

WHAT IS IN THE SMALL IVORY
BOX ON YOUR NIGHTSTAND?



79

PUT IT DOWN THIS INSTANT, WATSON! I HATE TO HAVE MY THINGS TOUCHED... YOU FIDGET ME BEYOND ENDURANCE... YOU COULD DRIVE A PATIENT INTO AN ASYLUM... LET ME HAVE MY REST!



80

NOW, WATSON, HAVE YOU ANY CHANGE IN YOUR POCKET?



81

I HAVE SEVERAL BUTTONS... LARGE AND SMALL.



PLEASE PUT AN EQUAL AMOUNT LARGE AND SMALL BUTTONS IN YOUR TROUSER POCKETS... IT WILL BALANCE YOU SO MUCH BETTER LIKE THAT.



82

I WOULD SUGGEST SOMETHING ELSE IN
THIS ROOM IS VERY OUT OF BALANCE.

... OR THE WICK IS
COMPLETELY BURNT OUT.



83

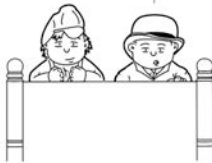
PLEASE LIGHT ONE CANDLE NOW... NO MORE, NO
LESS... GOOD JOB... DO NOT DRAW THE BLIND.

YOU TWO CAN GO AND FETCH MASTER CULVERTON
SMITH FOR ME... HE TAKES A LATER DINNER, SO YOU
SHALL FIND HIM IN THE DINING HALL.



84

I NEVER HEARD HIS NAME.



PROBABLY NOT, BUT HE IS WELL-VERSED IN THE CONDITION, AS
HIM FAMILY OWNS MANY CACAO FARMS IN SOUTH AMERICA.



85

I KNOW HIS FAMILY HAS DEALT WITH THIS CONDITION THROUGH THE YEARS... IF YOU COULD PERSUADE HIM TO COME AND GIVE US THE BENEFIT OF HIS FAMILY'S UNIQUE EXPERIENCE OF THIS CONDITION, I CANNOT DOUBT HE COULD HELP ME.



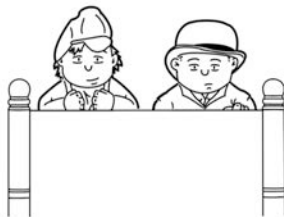
86

YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING WORSE AS THE HOURS WEAR ON.



YOU WILL TELL HIM EXACTLY HOW YOU HAVE LEFT ME... A VERY SICK STUDENT... SICK AND DELIRIOUS.

87



INDEED, I CANNOT THINK WHY THE WHOLE BED OF THE OCEAN IS NOT ONE SOLID MASS OF OYSTERS, SO PROLIFIC THE CREATURES SEEM.

MAYBE THEY HAVE NOT LEARNED TO
USE THEIR PEARLS OF WISDOM YET.



NEVERTHELESS, I AM WANDERING... STRANGE HOW THE BRAIN
CONTROLS THE BRAIN... WHAT WAS I SAYING WATSON?



YOU WERE SAYING HOW TRYING YOU CAN BE AT
TIMES... AND MY DIRECTIONS FOR MASTER SMITH?



AH YES, MY ABILITY TO STAY IN SCHOOL DEPENDS UPON IT...
PLEAD WITH HIM... THERE IS NO GOOD FEELING BETWEEN US.



HIS COUSIN... I HAD SUSPICIONS OF FOUL PLAY, AND I
ALLOWED HIM TO SEE IT... THE BOY LEFT SCHOOL
THROUGH AN EMBARRASSING SITUATION... MASTER
SMITH HAS A GRUDGE AGAINST ME.

YOU WILL SOFTEN HIM WATSON... BEG HIM, PRAY HIM,
LEAVE IT ALONE STAMFORD! GET HIM HERE BY ANY
MEANS... HE CAN SAVE ME... ONLY HE.



91

WE WILL BRING HIM HERE... IF WE HAVE TO CARRY HIM DOWN.



YOU WILL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT...
YOU WILL PERSUADE HIM TO COME.



92

THEN YOU TWO WILL RETURN IN FRONT OF HIM... TELL HIM TO
FINISH HIS DINNER, AND THEN PRESENT HIMSELF HERE.

DON'T FORGET... YOU WON'T FAIL ME... YOU NEVER DO... NO
DOUBT THERE ARE NATURAL ENEMIES WHICH LIMIT THE
INCREASE OF THE CREATURES.



93

UH-OH! THE MOUSE HAS FALLEN OFF THE WHEEL AGAIN.



WE HAVE DONE OUR PART... SHALL THE WORLD
THEN BE OVERRUN BY OYSTERS? NO, NO, HORRIBLE!
YOU'LL CONVEY ALL THAT IS IN YOUR MIND.



94

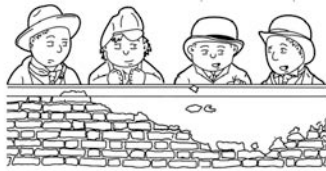
ON THE WAY TO
THE DINING
HALL...



95

HOW IS MASTER HOLMES?

HE IS VERY ILL, LESTRADE... HOW
GOES THE 'PREFECT' WORK?



96

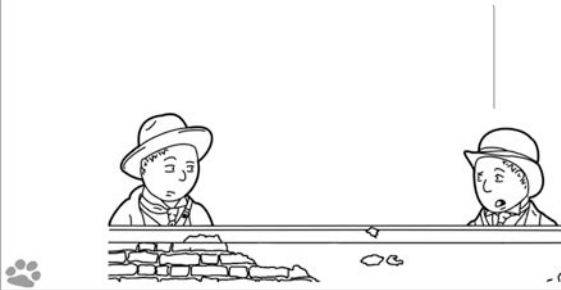
KEEPS GREGSON AND I VERY BUSY, FINISHING UP
AFTER HOLMES COMPLETES AN INVESTIGATION.



I WOULD LOVE TO STAY, BUT WE ARE ON AN
IMPORTANT MISSION... WE WILL SEE LATER.



SERIOUSLY, 3 PANELS IN THE ENTIRE ADVENTURE? THIS IS ALL WE RATE? WE MIGHT AS WELL RENT OURSELVES OUT TO ANOTHER COMIC STRIP.



...and now a word from our sponsor...

BACK TO WHERE
THIS ALL
STARTED...



HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY DINNER PERIOD?
MY ONE TIME A DAY FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION.

100

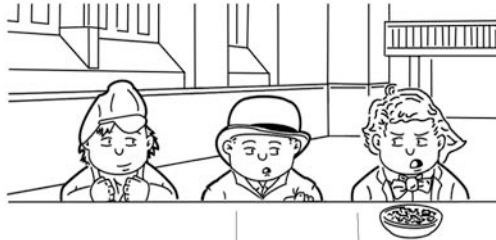


I AM SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION, BUT THE MATTER
CANNOT BE DELAYED... MASTER HOLMES --



-- HAVE YOU COME
FROM HOLMES?

101



WE JUST LEFT HIM.



WHAT ABOUT
HOLMES? HOW IS HE?

102



DESPERATELY ILL... THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE.





COULD NOT JUST ONE OF YOU
HAVE COME ON HIS BEHALF?

I THINK STAMFORD MUST GET PAID BY THE SCENE.



I AM SORRY TO HEAR THE NEWS... I ONLY KNOW MASTER
HOLMES THROUGH SOME BUSINESS DEALINGS WHICH WE HAD,
BUT I HAVE RESPECT FOR THIS TALENTS AND HIS CHARACTER.



HE IS AN AMATEUR OF CRIME, AS I AM OF CHOCOLATE...
FOR HIM, THE VILLAIN... FOR ME, THE COCAO BEAN.



YES, IT WAS ON ACCOUNT OF YOUR SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE HOLMES
DESIRED TO SEE YOU... HE HAS A HIGH OPINION OF YOU AND
BELIEVES YOU TO BE THE ONE STUDENT WHO COULD HELP HIM.



WHY? WHY SHOULD MASTER HOLMES THINK I
COULD HELP HIM IN THIS TROUBLE?

106



BECAUSE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF A PECULIAR
CONDITION CAUSED BY UNCOOKED COCAO BEANS.



WHY SHOULD HE THINK THIS CONDITION HE HAS
CONTRACTED HAS TO DO WITH COCAO BEANS?

107



IT INVOLVES SOME INVESTIGATIVE INQUIRY
HAVING TO DO WITH MISSING SCHOOL SUPPLIES.



108

I BELIEVE COCAO BEANS ARE SOMEHOW
RELATED, BUT HOLMES DID NOT TELL US HOW.



109

OH, THAT'S IT, IS IT? I TRUST THE MATTER IS NOT SO GRAVE, AS YOU SUPPOSE... HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN ILL?

ABOUT 3 DAYS.



110



IS HE DELIRIOUS?

IF YOU COUNT WEIRD RAMBLINGS
ABOUT OYSTERS, YES, HE IS.



111

TUT! TUT! THIS SOUNDS SERIOUS... IT WOULD BE INHUMANE
TO ANSWER HIS CALL... I WILL COME WITH YOU AT ONCE.

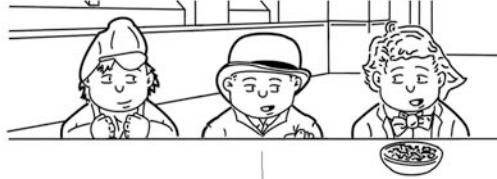


NO, PLEASE FETCH YOUR DINNER, AND THEN PROCEED TO
HOLMES' ROOM... WE MUST MAKE A RUN TO THE LOCAL CHEMIST.



112

VERY GOOD... I WILL GO ALONE... YOU CAN RELY UPON
ME BEING THERE WITHIN HALF AN HOUR AT MOST.



HOLMES WILL BE MOST HONOURED AND THANKFUL.



113



YOUR FRIEND DOESN'T
SAY MUCH, DOES HE?

IF WE PAID HIM BY THE WORD, WE
PROBABLY WOULDN'T GET HIM TO SHUT UP.



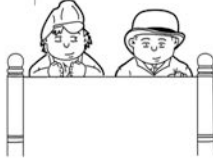
114

LET'S SEE HOW
THE PATIENT
IS FARING...



115

WELL, HE APPEARS TO BE STILL
BREATHING... THAT'S A GOOD SIGN.

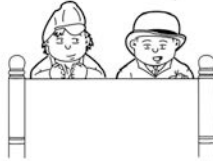


DID YOU SEE CULVERTON SMITH?



116

YES, HE IS COMING.

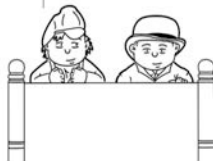


ADMIRABLE... YOU TWO ARE THE BEST OF MESSENGERS,
EVEN IF YOU APPEAR TO BE UNBALANCED AGAIN...
WATSON, WEREN'T YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE BEFORE?



117

HE WISHED TO RETURN WITH US.



THAT WOULD NEVER DO... IT WOULD BE OBVIOUSLY
IMPOSSIBLE... DID HE ASK WHAT AILED ME?



118

I DID TELL HIM ABOUT THE POTENTIAL COCAO CONNECTION.

*I BET HE GETS BETTER MEALS
THAN WE DO... SPOILED RICH KID.*



EXCELLENT... WELL, YOU HAVE DONE ALL THAT GOOD FRIENDS
COULD... YOU MUST NOW DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCENE.



119

HE GETS LEFTOVERS, JUST AS WE DO... I MUST WAIT
AND HEAR MASTER SMITH'S OPINION, HOLMES..



OF COURSE, YOU MUST... BUT I HAVE REASONS TO
SUPPOSE YOUR OPINION WOULD BE MORE FRANK,
AND VALUABLE, IF HE IMAGINES WE ARE ALONE.



120

THERE IS JUST ROOM BEHIND THE
HEAD OF MY BED FOR THE TWO OF YOU.



HOLMES!!! I PROTEST!



121

I FEAR THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE... THE ROOM DOES NOT LEND ITSELF TO CONCEALMENT... WHICH IS AS WELL, AS IT THE LESS LIKELY TO AROUSE SUSPICION.



WE COULD HIDE UNDER OUR OWN BEDS!!



122

EXACTLY WHERE HE WOULD LOOK FIRST... THAT'S HIS KNOCK ON THE DOOR... HUSH! QUICK, BEHIND MY BED!

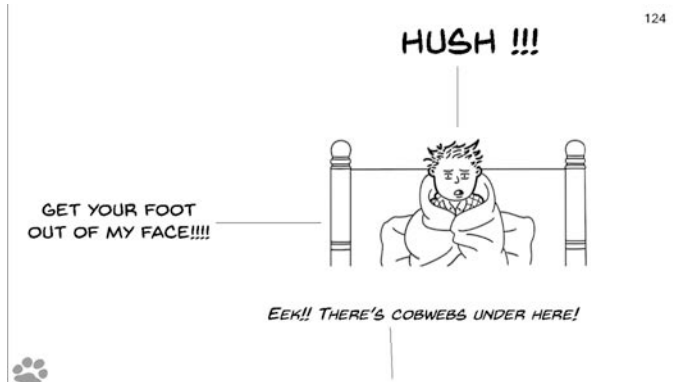


123

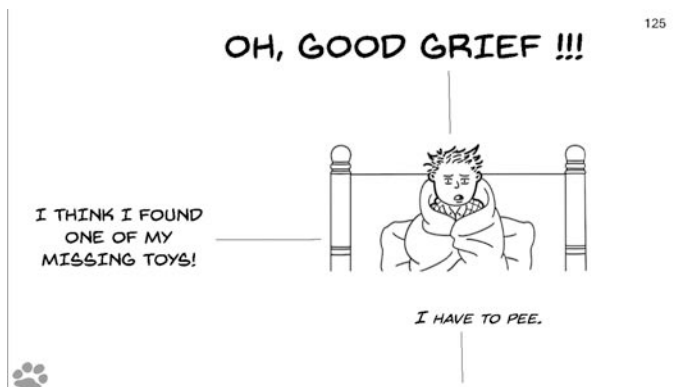
DON'T BUDGE, WHATEVER YOU HEAR! DON'T MOVE! JUST LISTEN WITH ALL YOUR EARS.



124



125

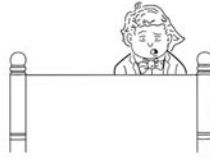


126



127

HOLMES... CAN YOU HEAR ME, HOLMES?



IS THAT YOU, MASTER SMITH! I HARDLY
DARED HOPE YOU WOULD COME.



128

I IMAGINE NOT... AND YET, YOU SEE... I AM HERE...
COALS OF FIRE, HOLMES... COALS OF FIRE!



IT IS GOOD OF YOU... VERY NOBLE OF YOU TO BE
HERE... I APPRECIATE YOUR SPECIAL KNOWLEDGE.



129

YOU DO? YOU ARE PROBABLY THE ONLY STUDENT IN THIS SCHOOL
WHO DOES... DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU?



THE SAME.



130

AH, YOU RECOGNIZE THE SYMPTOMS?



ONLY TOO WELL.



131

WELL, I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED... I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED
IF IT WERE THE SAME... POOR VICTOR WAS A SHELL OF HIMSELF
BY THE FOURTH DAY... A STRONG HEALTHY YOUNG FELLOW.



132

IT WAS CERTAINLY AS YOU SAID, VERY SURPRISING HE
SHOULD HAVE CONTRACTED AN OUT OF THE WAY SOUTH
AMERICAN CONDITION IN THE HEART OF LONDON... A
CONDITION OF WHICH I HAVE MADE A VERY SPECIAL STUDY.



133

SINGULAR COINCIDENCE, HOLMES... VERY SMART
OF YOU TO NOTICE IT, BUT RATHER UNCHARITABLE
TO SUGGEST IT WAS CAUSE AND EFFECT.



I KNEW YOU DID IT... AUUGHH... WOULD YOU QUIT
MOVING BACK AND FORTH? I AM DIZZY ENOUGH!



134

OH, YOU DID, DID YOU? WELL, YOU COULDN'T PROVE IT ANYHOW.



BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOURSELF SPREADING REPORTS
ABOUT ME LIKE THAT, AND THEN CRAWLING TO ME FOR HELP
THE MOMENT YOU ARE IN TROUBLE?



135

WHAT SORT OF GAME IS THAT... EHHH?



DO WHAT YOU CAN FOR ME... LET BYGONES BE
BYGONES... I'LL PUT THE WORDS OUT OF MY
HEAD... I SWEAR! CURE ME AND I'LL FORGET IT.



136

FORGET WHAT?



WELL, ABOUT VICTOR SAVAGE'S CONDITION... YOU AS GOOD AS ADMITTED JUST NOW YOU HAD DONE IT... I'LL FORGET IT.



137

YOU CAN FORGET IT, OR REMEMBER IT, JUST AS YOU LIKE...
I DON'T SEE YOU IN THE WITNESS BOX ANYTIME SOON!



IT MATTERS NOTHING TO ME YOU SHOULD KNOW
HOW MY COUSIN LEFT THIS SCHOOL LAST TERM.



138

IT'S NOT HIM WE ARE TALKING ABOUT... IT'S YOU!



YES, YES --



139

-- THE FELLOWS WHO CAME FOR ME... I FORGET THEIR NAMES...
IS THAT YOU SNICKERING?... SAID YOU OBTAINED THIS CONDITION
WHILE POKING AROUND THE BACK ALLEY OF THE SCHOOL.



INTERESTING... I DON'T BELIEVE THEY MENTIONED AN ALLEY
TO YOU... NEVER MIND... I COULD ONLY ACCOUNT FOR IT SO.



140

YOU ARE PROUD OF YOUR BRAINS, HOLMES, ARE YOU
NOT? THINK YOURSELF SMART... YOU CAME ACROSS
SOMEONE WHO WAS SMARTER THIS TIME --



141

WHO THE DEVIL ARE YOU... CAN'T YOU
SEE WE ARE IN THE MIDDLE OF --?



PARDON ME, MASTER HOLMES, BUT MASTER
COLLIER SENT ME TO PICK UP THE PROOFS
OF THE STORY FOR HIS NEXT JOURNAL.



142

DON'T IGNORE ME, YOU LITTLE --



AH, YES, I WENT OVER "THE RED-FRECKLED LEAGUE," AND IT IS READY FOR THE NEXT JOURNAL, MASTER ROSS.



143

NOT YOU TOO, SHERLOCK.



THEY ARE IN THE CRATES YOU ARE CURRENTLY STANDING ON.



144

HEY, STOP!

WHY MANY THANKS, MASTER HOLMES... PLEASE EXCUSE ME, SIR.



145

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD!



146

SORRY FOR THE DISTRACTION, SMITH... PLEASE CONTINUE.

WHAT? YES, YES... NOW CAST YOUR MIND
BACK, HOLMES... CAN YOU THINK OF NO OTHER
WAY YOU COULD HAVE GOT THIS THING?



I CAN'T THINK! MY MIND IS GONE...
FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, HELP ME!

147

YES, I WILL HELP YOU... I'LL HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND
WHERE YOU ARE, AND HOW YOU GOT THERE... I'D LIKE YOU
TO KNOW BEFORE YOU MUST LEAVE THIS SCHOOL IN SHAME.



PLEASE GIVE ME SOMETHING TO EASE MY PAIN!

148

THERE'S THAT SNICKERING AGAIN... PAINFUL, IS IT?



149

THE LABOURERS USED TO DO SOME SQUEALING WHEN
THE CONDITION WAS AT ITS WORST... NO SNICKERING
THOUGH... TAKES YOU AS A CRAMP, I FANCY.



YES, YES, IT IS A CRAMP.



150

WELL, YOU CAN HEAR WHAT I SAY ANYHOW... LISTEN NOW...
CAN YOU REMEMBER ANY UNUSUAL INCIDENT IN YOUR LIFE
JUST ABOUT THE TIME YOUR SYMPTOMS BEGAN?



NO, NO, NOTHING... I'M TOO ILL TO THINK!



151

WELL, THEN... I'LL HELP YOU... DID ONE OF YOUR LITTLE HELPERS, THE YOUNG'UNS, HAPPEN TO GIVE YOU A SMALL GIFT?



A GIFT? I'M FAINTING... I CAN'T CONTINUE THIS.



152

LISTEN HOLMES! YOU MUST HEAR ME... YOU SHALL HEAR ME... DO YOU REMEMBER A BOX, AN IVORY BOX? IT CAME ON WEDNESDAY... YOU OPENED IT... DO YOU REMEMBER?



YES... IT WAS FROM MY MOTHER... I OPENED IT... THERE WAS CHOCOLATE... MY FAVORITE CANDY... IT WAS A CARE PACKAGE FROM MY PARENTS.



153

IT WAS NO CARE PACKAGE... YOU FOOL... YOU WOULD HAVE IT, AND YOU HAVE GOT IT! WHO ASKED YOU TO CROSS MY PATH? IF YOU HAD LET ME ALONE, I WOULD NOT HAVE HURT YOU!.



BUT IT WAS PLAIN CHOCOLATE... I DON'T UNDERSTAND.



154

IT'S EASY... I HAVE MADE A STUDY OF THE CACAO BEAN... I HAVE DISCOVERED A PROCESS TO CREATE THE SWEET CHOCOLATE WITHOUT COOKING THE BEANS, THUS ALLOWING THE BACTERIA TO THRIVE.



155

YOU HAVE THE TRUTH NOW, HOLMES, AND YOU CAN LEAVE THE SCHOOL WITH THE KNOWLEDGE I CAUSED YOUR CONDITION... YOU KNEW TOO MUCH OF THE FATE OF POOR VICTOR.



156

THE SAME CHOCOLATE, WITH THE BACTERIA INTACT, CAUSED VICTOR TO HAVE SUCH A CHRONIC CASE OF DIARRHEA, HE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE WITHOUT A CLUE OF WHAT CAUSED IT.



SIMPLY INGENIOUS AND FIENDISH AT THE SAME TIME.

I WILL SIT WITH YOU AND WATCH YOU SLOWLY
WASTE AWAY WITH THE SAME CHRONIC CONDITION.

157



BY TOMORROW, I BELIEVE THE SCHOOL WILL DETERMINE THE
ONLY COURSE IS TO REMOVE YOU TO A HOSPITAL.



AND WONDERFULLY, NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU
SAY, DUE TO THE DELIRIUM CAUSED BY THE DEHYDRATION.

158



WHAT IS THAT? YOU WANT ME TO LIGHT THE
OTHER CANDLES NEAR THE WINDOW?



YES, I WILL DO THAT, THAT I MAY SEE YOU BETTER... IS THERE
ANY OTHER LITTLE SERVICE I CAN DO FOR YOU, MY FRIEND?

159



I WOULD FAVOUR A PIECE OF
CHOCOLATE FROM THE IVORY BOX.



160

OH, I DON'T THINK YOU NEED ANYMORE... IT
HAS ALREADY BEEN DOING ITS DEED.



161

OH, I BELIEVE I CAN CHANCE IT... THE BEST OF SUCCESSFULLY
ACTING A PART IS TO BE IT... I GIVE YOU MY WORD FOR THREE
DAYS I HAVE TASTED NEITHER FOOD OR DRINK.



MMM... IT IS THE CHOCOLATE WHICH I FIND MOST
IRKSOME... THANKS SO MUCH FOR LIGHTING THE CANDLES.

162

THINGS SEEM MUCH BRIGHTER WITH THE CANDLES LIT...
HELLO LESTRADE... ALL IS IN ORDER AND HERE IS YOUR BOY.



163

ON BEHALF OF THE HEADMASTER, MISTER MORIARTY, I TAKE
YOU INTO CUSTODY FOR THE ASSAULT OF ONE VICTOR SAVAGE..



AND YOU MIGHT ADD THE ATTEMPTED
ASSAULT ON ONE SHERLOCK HOLMES.



164

TO SAVE AN INVALID TROUBLE, MASTER SMITH WAS
GOOD ENOUGH TO GIVE OUR SIGNAL BY LIGHTING
THE ADDITIONAL CANDLES... BY THE WAY, YOUR
PRISONER HAS A SMALL BOX IN HIS RIGHT TROUSER
POCKET WHICH HE REMOVED OFF MY TABLE.



165

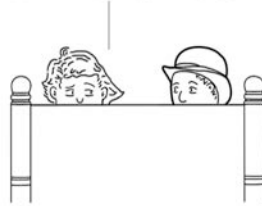
IT WOULD BE WELL TO REMOVE... BUT TAKE CARE... THANK
YOU! IT MAY PLAY ITS PART IN HIS SCHOOL REMOVAL.



YOU WILL BE THE ONE TAKEN FROM THIS SCHOOL...
HE ASKED ME TO COME HERE TO CURE HIS
CONDITION... I WAS SORRY FOR HIM AND I CAME.

166

NOW HE WILL PRETEND, NO DOUBT, I HAVE SAID
SOMETHING WHICH HE MAY INVENT, WHICH WILL
CORROBRATE HIS INSANE SUSPICIONS.



YOU CAN LIE AS YOU LIKE, HOLMES... MY
WORD IS ALWAYS AS GOOD AS YOURS.

167



GOOD HEAVENS... I HAD TOTALLY FORGOTTEN THEM... MY DEAR
WATSON, STAMFORD... I OWE YOU A THOUSAND APOLOGIES... I
NEED NOT INTRODUCE YOU TO MASTER SMITH, SINCE YOU MET
EARLIER THIS EVENING... YOU TWO LOOK A LITTLE PEAKED.

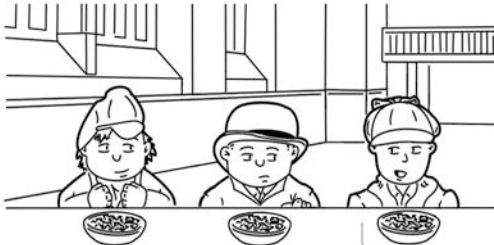


YOU MIGHT HAVE WARNED US YOU STORED
YOUR CHAMBER POT BEHIND THE HEADBOARD!

168



ONE MORE
TRIP TO THE
DINING HALL...



I NEVER NEEDED SUSTENANCE MORE... AS YOU KNOW,
MY HABITS ARE IRREGULAR, AND SUCH A FEAT
MEANS LESS TO ME THAN TO MOST PEOPLE.



IT WAS NICE OF MRS. HUDSON TO
MAKE US A MIDNIGHT SNACK.



IT LOOKS JUST LIKE LUNCH AND SUPPER DID.



172

IT WAS VERY ESSENTIAL I SHOULD IMPRESS MRS. HUDSON WITH THE REALITY OF MY CONDITION, SINCE SHE WAS TO CONVEY IT TO YOU TWO, AND YOU IN TURN, TO SMITH.



CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LUNCH, DINNER, AND SUPPER TO ME?



173



HOLD THAT QUESTION UNTIL OUR NEXT ADVENTURE.

THEN, WHY DID MASTER SMITH ATTACK HIS COUSIN, VICTOR?



MASTER SAVAGE, AN HONOURABLE STUDENT, HAD LEARNED OF MASTER SMITH'S NATURE, AND THAT SMITH WAS STEALING SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND SELLING THEM ON A BLACK MARKET.¹⁷⁴



IS THE BLACK MARKET WORSE THAN THE GRAY MARKET? I KNOW, NEXT ADVENTURE.



175

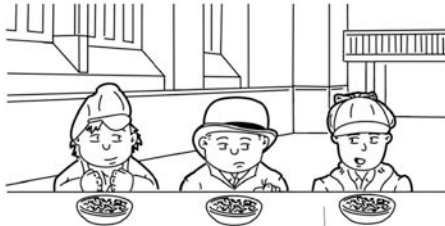
HIS ONLY CHOICE WAS TO ELIMINATE VICTOR FROM OUR SCHOOL... THUS HIS CREATION OF THE SPECIAL CHOCOLATES.



I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHY YOU COULD NOT LET ME IN ON YOUR SCHEME.



176



YOU NEED NOT BE OFFENDED, WATSON... YOU REALIZE IF YOU HAD SHARED MY SECRET, YOU WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMPRESS SMITH WITH THE URGENT NECESSITY OF HIS PRESENCE.



177

KNOWING HIS VINDICTIVE NATURE, I WAS PERFECTLY CERTAIN HE WOULD COME TO LOOK UPON HIS HANDIWORK.



BUT YOUR APPEARANCE, HOLMES... YOUR GHASTLY FACE?



178



THREE DAYS OF ABSOLUTE FAST DOES NOT IMPROVE ONE'S BEAUTY... FOR THE REST, THERE IS NOTHING A SPONGE DID NOT CURE... BELLADONNA IN ONE'S EYES, ROUGE OVER THE CHEEK-BONES, AND BEESWAX AROUND THE LIPS.



179

DISCUSSING BUTTONS, OYSTERS, AND OTHER EXTRANEIOUS SUBJECTS DIDN'T HURT IN CONVINCING US EITHER.



I AM NOT SURE WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT... OYSTERS?



180

SERIOUSLY... YOU TALKED LIKE A CRAZY PERSON... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DON'T REMEMBER YOUR RANTS.



JUST KIDDING... I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WOULD BELIEVE ME.



181



UM... STAMFORD, I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING ON
YOUR VENTRILOQUIISM... BUT I HAVE NOTICED YOU
HAVE NOT MOVED AT ALL, NOT EVEN TO BLINK.



182



OH, THAT IS BECAUSE
I AM NOT REAL.

OH, YOU'RE NOT REAL... OKAY, THAT EXPLAINS -- WAIT... WHAT?



183



ONE SECOND...

MASTER DAVID HARNOIS?



184



UM... WHERE IS STAMFORD...
WHAT IS GOING ON?

OH, MASTER SHERLOCK ASKED ME TO REPLACE
STAMFORD, SINCE HE WAS COSTING TOO MUCH...
MORE BUDGET CUTS AS WE MENTIONED EARLIER.



185



HOLMES?

HE IS RIGHT... STAMFORD'S VENTRILOQUIST SKIT
COST TOO MUCH... HOWEVER, THAT GAVE ME AN IDEA
TO REPLACE HIM WITH MASTER HARNOIS HERE.



186

RIGHT... ANYWAYS, WHY WOULD YOU NOT LET ME NEAR
YOU, SINCE THERE WAS IN TRUTH NO INFECTION?



DO YOU HAVE TO ASK, MY DEAR WATSON?





187

DO YOU IMAGINE THAT I HAVE NO RESPECT FOR YOUR BLOSSOMING MEDICAL TALENTS? ... AT THE END OF A BED, I COULD DECEIVE YOU... IF I FAILED TO DO SO, WHO WOULD BRING MY SMITH WITHIN MY GRASP?



HOW DID YOU KNOW THE CHOCOLATE WAS TAINTED?

188



MY PARENTS WOULD NEVER SEND CHOCOLATE TO ME THROUGH THE POST, AS MY MOTHER BELIEVES I AM ALREADY SPOILED.



ANY OTHER POINT I MAY CLEAR UP FOR YOU?

189



I AM AFRAID TO ASK, BUT IF YOU WERE NOT EATING ANYTHING FOR 3 DAYS, HOW DID YOU PRODUCE SUCH AN ENORMOUS VOLUME IN THE CHAMBER POT SEVERAL TIMES A DAY?





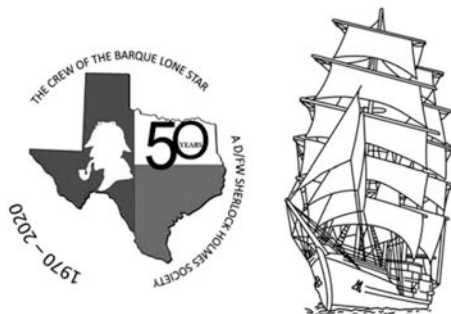
190

THIS DOES NOT PAINT A PRETTY PICTURE, BUT EACH MORNING BEFORE STUDENTS AROSE... I TRAVELED THE HALLWAY COLLECTING THE REMNANTS OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING'S DINNER OR SUPPER.



191

NOW PLEASE, LET ME FINISH THIS VERY LATE SUPPER, SO MY STOMACH WILL STOP GROWLING, AND LATER I CAN FILL MY OWN CHAMBER POT.



192

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SHERLOCKIAN RECIPES

Editor's note: This feature spotlights two recipes annually, one from Holmes's era, and one a creation inspired by the Canon. This year's selections are Mrs. Beeton's Apple Trifle by Karen Ellery, and A Pip of an Orange Cake by yours truly. If you have a dish you'd like considered for a future issue of the *Almanac*, get in touch with me at 18Goldini95@gmail.com.

— Terry Hunt

JUST A TRIFLE MORE: MAKING MRS. BEETON'S APPLE TRIFLE

*Karen Ellery**

I love apples. I love them fresh, sauced, baked, dried, distilled, and/or fermented. I even have been known to Wassail. And I am in good company, as apples have long been a British favourite fruit. They were especially beloved of Victorians. “Apples have grown in Britain since the Romans brought them here, but it was the Age of Empire, and the Victorian passion for gardening on the scale afforded by large fortunes, that was most responsible for the blossoming of British apple culture. Plant collectors brought back fruits from all over the world, and breeders, both commercial, and those knowledgeable head-gardeners employed by the wealthy, experimented with new crosses ...”¹ In an effort to combat the popularity of cheap apples from France and the United States, almost 3,000 acres of new British orchards were planted each year during the 1880s and ‘90s.

Thrifty Victorian housekeepers and cooks appreciated the potential of apples in their dishes. With a range of flavours and sweetness, apples were affordable, versatile, and were the only fresh fruit that could — when carefully stored — last through the winter months until other fruit was available again. For these reasons, I wanted to find a recipe that incorporated apples as a primary ingredient, and was happy to discover this one in *The Book of Household Management* (1861), edited by Isabella Beeton. (It also helped that it was gluten-free and within my limited skill range as a cook.)

* Karen Ellery is founder of Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane, co-creator of Loving Cup Teas, and recipient of the Norwegian Explorers' Sigerson Award for Poetry.

¹ *The British Apple and Its Orchard Heritage*, www.CrumbsOnTheTable.co.uk.



Ingredients.

Apple Trifle (A Supper Dish.)

1404. Ingredients. — 10 good-sized apples, the rind of $\frac{1}{2}$ lemon, 6 oz. of pounded sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of milk, $\frac{1}{2}$ pint of cream, 2 eggs, whipped cream.

Mode. — Peel, core, and cut the apples into thin slices, and put them into a saucepan with 2 tablespoonfuls of water, the sugar, and minced lemon-rind. Boil all together until quite tender, and pulp the apples through a sieve;

if they should not be quite sweet enough, add a little more sugar, and put them at the bottom of the dish to form a thick layer. Stir together the milk, cream, and eggs, with a little sugar, over the fire, and let the mixture thicken, but do not allow it to reach the boiling-point. When thick, take it off the fire; let it cool a little, then pour it over the apples. Whip some cream with sugar, lemon-peel, &c., the same as for other trifles; heap it high over the custard, and the dish is ready for table. It may be garnished as fancy dictates, with strips of bright apple jelly, slices of citron, &c.

Time. — From 30 to 40 minutes to stew the apples; 10 minutes to stir the custard over the fire.

Average cost, 1s. 6d.

Sufficient for a moderate-sized trifle.

Seasonable from July to March.

Modern Trifling I: The Apples of Your Eye

There are still a lot of apple varieties to be found even in your average supermarket, everything from tasteless Red Delicious to modern Minnesota marvels such as Haralson, Honeycrisp, and First Kiss. However, for cooking it's hard to beat that sharp, tart standard, Granny Smith. I suspect modern Grannies are a bit bigger than many Victorian cooking apples, especially ones that have been stored for several months. However, I took Mrs. B at her word and peeled, cored, and sliced ten apples. It took me over an hour, though I confess to being a slow pre-cook. Let me save you some time and say that I am *firmly* of the belief that four — at *most* five — apples will be plenty for this recipe. My ten apples made two trifles, with apple layers almost an inch thick, and I still had leftover apples.

Mrs. B suggests that you slice them thin, cook “until quite tender, and pulp the apples through a sieve.” I deduced that this would leave me with something similar to applesauce and thought I'd prefer it with a bit more texture. Hence, my slices were thicker, and rather than pulping through a sieve (or using a food mill or even a food processor), I used an immersion blender and left the mixture a bit chunky. Mrs. B also calls for “minced lemon rind,” but for ease and flavour, I used a microplane and zested a lemon. I cooked it all down with only 4 tablespoons of water (I doubled it due to the number of apple slices) and 6oz ($\frac{3}{4}$ C) of granulated sugar for about 30 minutes, but I was cooking as I was slicing. This added textural variety because, while most of the apples were thoroughly cooked and soft, some still had a bit of crispness. If you pre-slice all your apples it will probably take less time and end up a more consistent product. I did not increase the sugar because I prefer my desserts less sweet.



Prepped apples.

Here's a tip: If you are a slow food-prepper like me and dislike your apples turning brown as you work on peeling and slicing them, you can toss them in lemon juice or soda water, and they will stay nice. I used a can of unsweetened seltzer, and it worked quite well.

It would be easy to adjust this recipe with more or less sugar, additional or alternate fruits (cranberries!), or additives like cinnamon, cardamom, or even a little whiskey or calvados. Just don't make it too liquid or you'll have difficulty with the layering.

Once you have your apples cooked, spoon a nice thick layer into your trifle bowl (clear glass is fun if you have it); refrigerate; and move on to the custard layer.

Modern Trifling II: Custard, or How to Temper Your Eggspectations

Did you know that there are several different types of custards, and that each has its own techniques for success? Good for you! I didn't until I start-

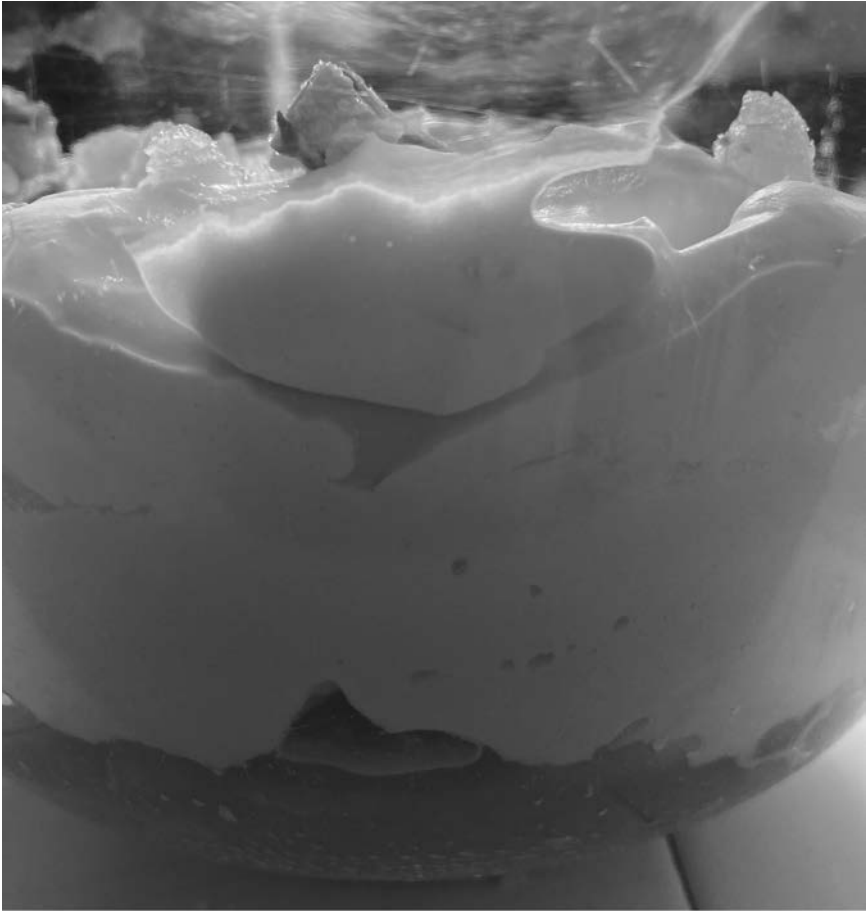
ed researching this recipe. This would be classified as a *stirred* custard, as it is prepared on the stove, never boiled, and the only thickening agent is eggs. I learned more than I thought I would ever need to know about custards from this magnificently helpful Food52 website.² Among other things, it taught me that sugar is hygroscopic, meaning that it will absorb moisture from ingredients around it. So, even though you *should* make a liaison, i.e., mix your sugar with your egg before you temper the mixture (we're getting there), don't do it *too soon*, or your eggs will dry up and get clumpy. The liaison shouldn't sit for more than a few minutes before you temper it.

About tempering: eggs cook quickly, and they are likely to get lumpy as they do, i.e. curdle. Tempering is a method of gradually adding two mixtures together to help prevent this. "... slowly add the hot liquid to the eggs in a slow, steady stream while whisking constantly to combine the two. This allows you to bring the eggs to a higher temperature in a more controlled way, which means you're less likely to coagulate those proteins. Once you've warmed up the egg mixture with a portion of the hot milk (about 1/3, but no need to be precise), you can slowly pour this mixture back into the pot (again, whisking constantly) and continue with the recipe." And that is what I tried to do.

Dear Readers, I failed. Twice. I have since asked a *much* better cook to check my work. She prepared the recipe herself and it turned out well. She thought at first that the issue must have been with the way I tempered the mixture, as that is what is most likely to cause curdling. However, after I walked her all through all I did, carefully following the steps I listed above, she agreed with me that my tempering didn't seem likely to have been the problem. Instead, she suggested that, as she only cooked the custard a few minutes after tempering (whereas I cooked mine almost ten minutes), I probably cooked it too long. I had been looking for more obvious signs of thickening, and when that didn't happen, I kept waiting, finally turning up the heat a tiny bit, at which point my custard curdled. Twice. She said her custard did thicken more after cooking, so my suggestion is to have modest expectations of your nappe consistency and don't let it cook longer than, say, three-four minutes post-tempering. Many thanks to Sarah Davis for her work and good advice.

So, back to MY custards: they were still perfectly tasty; my husband and I devoured the lumpier first trifle, and the second, finer version was given to friends who found it delicious and not noticeably lumpy at all. Your mileage

² Erin Jeanne McDowell, *How to Make Any Kind of Custard (& Avoid Any Dastardly Clumps or Curdling)* (Oct. 12, 2016), <https://food52.com/story/18149-how-to-make-any-kind-of-custard-avoid-any-dastardly-clumps-or-curdling>.



Finished.

may vary, especially if you know your custards. Regardless of the outcome, the last step of this stage is to layer your custard thickly over your apple compote, then cover with a piece of cling film to prevent it forming a skin. Refrigerate and move on to the cream.

Modern Trifling III: Whip it good!

You're going to want more whipped cream than I had, and I whipped up almost a quart. Make more than you think you'll need (by, at the very least, a pint) and it will probably be about right.



Karen.

A Victorian housekeeper or cook would not have had a modern electric mixer, much less a tub of Cool Whip. With luck there would have been an energetic kitchen assistant with a vigorous arm and a bowl of ice in which to nestle an inner bowl of heavy whipping cream as it was beaten into a

frothy delight. For us modern cooks, chilling your implements is a useful trick in whipping cream. I kept the bowl and beater in the freezer and the cream in the refrigerator until I was ready to begin. I used the highest speed on my late 1980s Kitchen Center mixer and turned the bowl anti-spin-wise to get the best depth of cream I could through the beater. Once I saw soft peaks, I added a teaspoon of calvados to flavour it. You can use sugar and/or a little vanilla; however, I don't like my desserts super sweet, so I didn't add sugar. I kept whipping until I saw a good strong peak (don't look for a hard peak; you can overbeat cream.), and then I knew it was ready.

I removed the cling film from my cooled custard, then layered on the whipped cream thickly. So pretty! You could even be super fancy and pipe the cream onto it from a piping bag, but I felt sufficiently virtuous having got this far, so I settled for a gentle spooning. Mrs. B suggests garnishing "with strips of bright apple jelly, slices of citron, &c." I couldn't find any strips of apple jelly, bright or stupid, but I had candied ginger, candied lemon peel, and dried apple which I chopped up, and it made a pretty and tasty sprinkle for the top.

Modern Trifling: A Sweet Conclusion

I think this would have been an excellent recipe for a Victorian/Edwardian housekeeper or cook. The ingredients are simple and would have been readily available and inexpensive. Both the apple preparation and the whipped cream are quite easy, if a little time consuming, and the custard would probably have been business-as-usual for someone who prepared meals regularly. While our modern thoughts may go more immediately to strawberries and cream, apples and cream would have been much more accessible for British cooks of that period, and a good way to use up older fruit and provide a rich-yet-easy "pudding" for the evening meal. I hope you'll try it sometime. I think you'll like it.

A PIP OF AN ORANGE CAKE

*Terry Hunt**

It seemed a natural to create a cake saluting "The Five Orange Pips." Appropriately, this dessert includes five layers of orange flavor.

* Harrison "Terry" Hunt, BSI (The Something Hunt) took up cooking and baking in retirement, and is pleased to have been named Long Island *Newsday's* Cook of the Week. Copyright in orange cake section 2025 Harrison Hunt.



Cake ingredients.

Ingredients:

8-inch nonstick springform pan
¾ cup salted butter, softened (plus more to grease the pan)
2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted, plus more to prepare the pan
1½ tsp baking powder
1¼ cups sugar in the raw
1 medium navel orange
½ tsp orange extract
3 large eggs at room temperature
½ cup whole milk
1 jar blood orange marmalade (or not-too-chunky orange marmalade)
1½ cups plus 2 tbsp confectioner's sugar, lumps broken up
¼ cup orange juice
¼ tsp orange extract
1 cup whipping cream
2 tbsp granulated sugar
dash of triple sec



Orange cake marmalade.

The batter is adapted, with the kind permission of Nevada Berg, from her excellent Norwegian Apple Cake recipe, which can be found in her *North Wild Kitchen* cookbook or online.³

Pre-heat the oven to 350 degrees.

Grease the pan with butter and dust with flour.

³ <https://northwildkitchen.com/eplekake-apple-cake/>.



Cake.

Sift 2 cups all-purpose flour into a medium bowl, whisk in the baking powder, and set aside.

In a mixer, beat the sugar and butter for several minutes, scraping down the bowl occasionally, until the mixture is light and creamy. Add the zest of one navel orange and $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp orange extract and briefly mix in to incorporate. Beat in the eggs, one at a time. Blend in the flour mixture, and then slowly blend in the milk.

Transfer the batter to the pan, and bake at 350 degrees for an hour to an hour and 15 minutes, until a wooden skewer comes out clean.

Let the cake cool, then remove the springform pan and transfer the cake to a plate. When fully cool, slice it in half horizontally and spread a layer of marmalade on the bottom section.

Reassemble the cake.

While the cake is cooling, put the confectioner's sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup orange juice and $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp orange extract into the bowl of a stand mixer and mix until it is a fairly thick glaze. When the cake is reassembled, spoon the glaze over the top.

Before serving, whip a cup of heavy cream with 2 tbsp of granulated sugar and a dash of good triple sec. Serve a dollop of whipped cream with each slice.

My past contributions to the section have been historical dishes; this new creation is a departure for me, born of necessity when the wonderful local baker who had planned to submit her recipe for an orange cake had a change of plans after a fire near her business shut it down due to smoke damage. I am happy to report that Lauren has just reopened, and we may yet have a contribution from her.



Cake slice.

“THE BRIEF”

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

Ross E. Davies*

The *Green Bag* has long had an interest in connections between itself and Arthur Conan Doyle (and especially his finest creation, Sherlock Holmes) — thus the Sherlock-themed editions of the *Green Bag Almanac & Reader* in 2015 and 2016 and the subsequent launch of a spin-off, the *Baker Street Almanac*, in 2018.

The first manifestation in the *Green Bag*’s own pages of that Doylean-Sherlockian interest was a short remark in its September 1892 editorial review of the most recent issue of *Harper’s Magazine*: “The fiction of the number is well represented in a novelette by A. Conan Doyle, entitled ‘Lot No. 249,’ illustrated by W.T. Smedley.”¹

And the first reference to Sherlock Holmes in the *Green Bag* occurred in the February 1894 issue, in an article titled “The Ardlamont Case”:

An array of distinguished expert witnesses, including Dr. Henry O. Littlejohn, the veteran surgeon to the police in Edinburgh and the hero of a hundred contests in medico-legal *causes célèbres*, Mr. Patrick Heron Watson, perhaps the most distinguished surgeon in Scotland and formerly the officer in charge of the hospital for wounded soldiers during the Crimean war, and Mr. Joseph Bell, the “Sherlock Holmes” of Canon [*sic*] Doyle’s charming romances, deponed^[2] that the gunshot which killed Hambrough, and which admittedly struck him on the side of the head from behind forwards, must have been fired at a distance of some feet from his head. This view was based on the facts that the charge had not entered his skull with the exception of a few bullets whose presence showed that it had begun to spread, that the cartridge wad was lying a little way from the corpse, that there was no trace of scorching, and that certain pellet marks were to be found in a rowan tree, at whose base the dead lieutenant was discovered lying in such a position as to indicate that the fatal shot had been fired by some one standing behind a bush some yards away.³

* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

¹ Editorial Department: Reviews, 4 *Green Bag* 454 (1892).

² “Depone ... To declare upon oath; to testify, bear testimony.” 3 *Oxford English Dictionary* 212 (1st ed. 1897).

³ *Old World Trials III: The Ardlamont Case*, 6 *Green Bag* 69, 70 (1894); see also 5 *Green Bag* 571 (1893).

Discussion in the *Green Bag* of Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories themselves did not appear until later that year, in a not-entirely-complimentary review. The then-editor of the *Green Bag*, Irving Browne, surveyed recent detective fiction by several authors. Browne signaled his lack of respect for the popular literary genre right at the start:

Detective stories have always been great favorites among the legal profession, probably because they are frequently amusing studies of evidence and keep the guessing faculty in exercise. They may be regarded as the "dime novels" of the lawyer. ... The very recent ones of Conan Doyle, — "Memoirs and Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" — are always ingenious even when absurd, and they are too frequently absurd. But the lawyer in vacation likes anything out of the ordinary beat, even if absurd, and will find himself reading the two volumes through with avidity, although he may pooh-pooh at every other page. Just now our purpose is to point out several bad slips in two of the most horrible and preposterous. ... "The Yellow Face" ... and ... "The Speckled Band" ... "Parables do not go on all four," but detective stories ought to do so.⁴

Enough of that for now.

Whatever Browne's own feelings were about detective fiction in general or Doyle's works in particular, his editorial judgment and that of his successors seems to have indicated that continuing coverage of Doyle and Holmes was sound policy, because the coverage did in fact continue.⁵ After all, the

⁴ Irving Browne, *The Lawyer's Easy Chair*, 6 *Green Bag* 433, 434 (1894).

⁵ 5 *Green Bag* 149, 207, 252, 295, 342 (1893) (more *Harper's* coverage); 7 *Green Bag* 44 (1895) (review of *McClure's Magazine*); id. at 102 (more *McClure's* coverage, including: "A new Jungle story by Kipling, and a thrilling battle story by Conan Doyle, show these authors at their best."); id. at 206 (more *McClure's* coverage, including: "Such names as Wm. E. Gladstone, A. Conan Doyle, and Stanley J. Weyman are sufficient to establish the reputation of any publication, and when to these are joined many other celebrities, one may be sure of finding a tempting feast provided for him."); id. at 487 (1895) ("FICTION and travel are the strong points of the September COSMOPOLITAN, which, by the way, illustrates better than any previous number the perfection of its plant for printing a magazine of the highest class. Conan Doyle, H.H. Boyesen, and Clark Russell are among the story-tellers."); 8 *Green Bag* 40 (1896) (review of *Scribner's Magazine*, including: "A thrilling detective story by C.E. Carryll, ... perhaps equaling Sherlock Holmes' best work, illustrated."); 9 *Green Bag* 47 (1897) (more *McClure's* coverage); id. at 370 & 371 (more *McClure's* coverage, including: "Other features of this number are ... an adventurous tale by Conan Doyle, dealing with those picturesque kings of the high seas who lived, like several distinguished playwrights, by taking their own where they found it ..."); id. at 416 (more *McClure's* coverage); J.B. Mackenzie, *Sherlock Holmes' Plots and Strategy*, 14 *Green Bag* 407 (1902) (reprinted in 2015 *Green Bag Almanac & Reader* 350); Bernard C. Steiner, *Names of Literary Compositions*, 16 *Green Bag* 643, 649 & n.2 (1904) (discussing and citing litigation related to the "Sherlock Holmes, Detective" play, including *Frohman v. Peyton*, 68 N.Y. Supp. 849 (N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1901)); K.G. Bellairs, *The Legal Side of Joseph W. Folk*,

Green Bag was, as its own title page said in those days, "An Entertaining Magazine for Lawyers," and detective stories "have always been," as Browne himself put it, "great favorites among the legal profession."⁶ *Give the readers what they want* is usually a pretty sound rule for an editor or publisher.

But as best I can tell, no one other than the *Green Bag* put the *Green Bag* in the same company with Doyle or Holmes until 1902, when a couple of Harvard law students started what would turn out to be an obscure and short-lived (1902 to 1905) annual law journal. *The Brief* was not the first law journal with that name, nor would it be the last,⁷ but it surely was and remains the funniest, and most puzzling.

The obvious silliness included page-numbering. For example, in its inaugural issue in 1902, the first two pages of *The Brief* were unnumbered, as was the last page (the twelfth). The intervening pages (the third through the eleventh) were all numbered "444" — which made citation difficult. The silliness in that issue also included Sherlock Holmes. On its tenth page (the eighth of the 444s), *The Brief's* review of the *Harvard Law Review* began as follows:

17 *Green Bag* 65, 66 (1905) (profile of Missouri lawyer who investigated a case based on a "very slight clue for even a Sherlock Holmes to follow up"); Hugh Bancroft, *The Tucker Trial*, 17 *Green Bag* 143 (1905) ("The story, as disclosed by the evidence, of the tragedy and of the incidents that led to the detection, apprehension and trial of the suspected murderer, rivals the extraordinary creations of the mind of Conan Doyle."); Donald R. Richberg, *Sherlock Holmes, Witness: The Famous Detective Testifies*, 19 *Green Bag* 471 (1907) (reprinted in 2015 *Green Bag Almanac & Reader* 415); A.G. Zimmerman, *That Florafountain Murder Case* 23 *Green Bag* 119, 122 (1911) (in a "story founded substantially on fact," told by a judge from Madison, Wisconsin, "After some astute and most commendable detective and investigating service that would have done honor to Sherlock Holmes, the resourceful [Mississippi] state's attorney located, in the provincial bastille at Medicine Hat, a man under the apparently assumed name of Pierre Slickem, whose description tallied in every particular with that of the missing Pete Slidem."); 25 *Green Bag* 24, 25 (1913) (review of Arthur Train's *Courts, Criminals and the Camorra*, including: "There is also much entertaining reading in the chapters on detectives in which the author demolishes the ideals of the devotees of Dr. Conan Doyle and shows us the modern detective as a business man with unlimited telephone service."); id. at 338 (review of Doyle's *The Case of Oscar Slater*, including: "Sir Arthur states and carefully reviews the evidence as if he were counsel for the defense, but his fairness and impartiality are visible at every turn."); id. at 445 (reviewing another book about the Slater case, and observing that the case, "though it attracted attention in Scotland because of its sensationalism, would perhaps not be so memorable if Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had not aroused public interest in it and given it a notoriety that has made it almost as well known as the Beck case.").

⁶ They still are. Indeed, a few slivers of the Holmes stories have to some extent become part of the law. Ira Brad Matetsky's "Sherlock Holmes and Law" column — which appears every year in the *Baker Street Almanac*, including this volume — routinely includes examples of this phenomenon. See also, e.g., Anita S. Krishnakumar, *The Sherlock Holmes Canon*, 84 *Geo. Wash. L. Rev.* 1 (2016).

⁷ See, e.g., *The Brief: A Legal Review of Reviews* (1894-1895); *The Brief: A Legal Miscellany* (1887-1978); *The Brief: A Publication of the American Bar Association* (1971-present).

Not since Epictetus wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" have we met a dramatic poem which entranced us with its lyric charm as has this little bijou. ...

And on the facing page (the eleventh, also a 444), the *Green Bag* had its turn:

Quaere. — Has summer-y procedure anything to do with seisin?
O *The Green Bag* 00.

Pure nonsense. All of it. Epictetus was not a poet, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* was not a poem, and no issue of the *Harvard Law Review* was ever dainty enough to be any sort of bijou. The pronunciation punnery of the *Green Bag* reference was awful and empty of substantive significance (which actually makes it good, a pun artist might say), and the citation was a mockery of the form. And so on and so on.

The response of the *Green Bag* itself to *The Brief* and all its folderol was nearly perfect. The editorial section of the June 1902 issue of the *Green Bag* began with an appreciation of *The Brief* (which had a publication date of May):

[O]ne of the most lasting things in the law is its humor; the legal joke is coeval with the law. Even the law-student jests; as witness *The Brief*, the work of certain students in the Harvard Law School. We commend this clever bit of legal jesting to the attention of those of our profession — and there are many — in whom "the law's grave study" has not killed the sense of humor. And as this ephemeral publication — whose first number may be its last — is already out of print, we feel in duty bound to quote the following selections from its learned pages, premising only that the title-page bearing the warning that *The Brief* is "copiedwrong," with "all rights reversed."⁸

This was followed by a couple of pages transcribed from *The Brief*, including the "summer-y procedure ... seisin" line with the goofy pseudo-citation to the *Green Bag* — which gave that citation a weird kind of legitimacy, since the periodical to which it referred (the *Green Bag*) had reprinted it as part of an endorsement of the periodical that had originally fabricated and published it (*The Brief*). Nonsense, double dipped.⁹

⁸ 14 *Green Bag* 297 (1902).

⁹ *Id.* at 297-99.

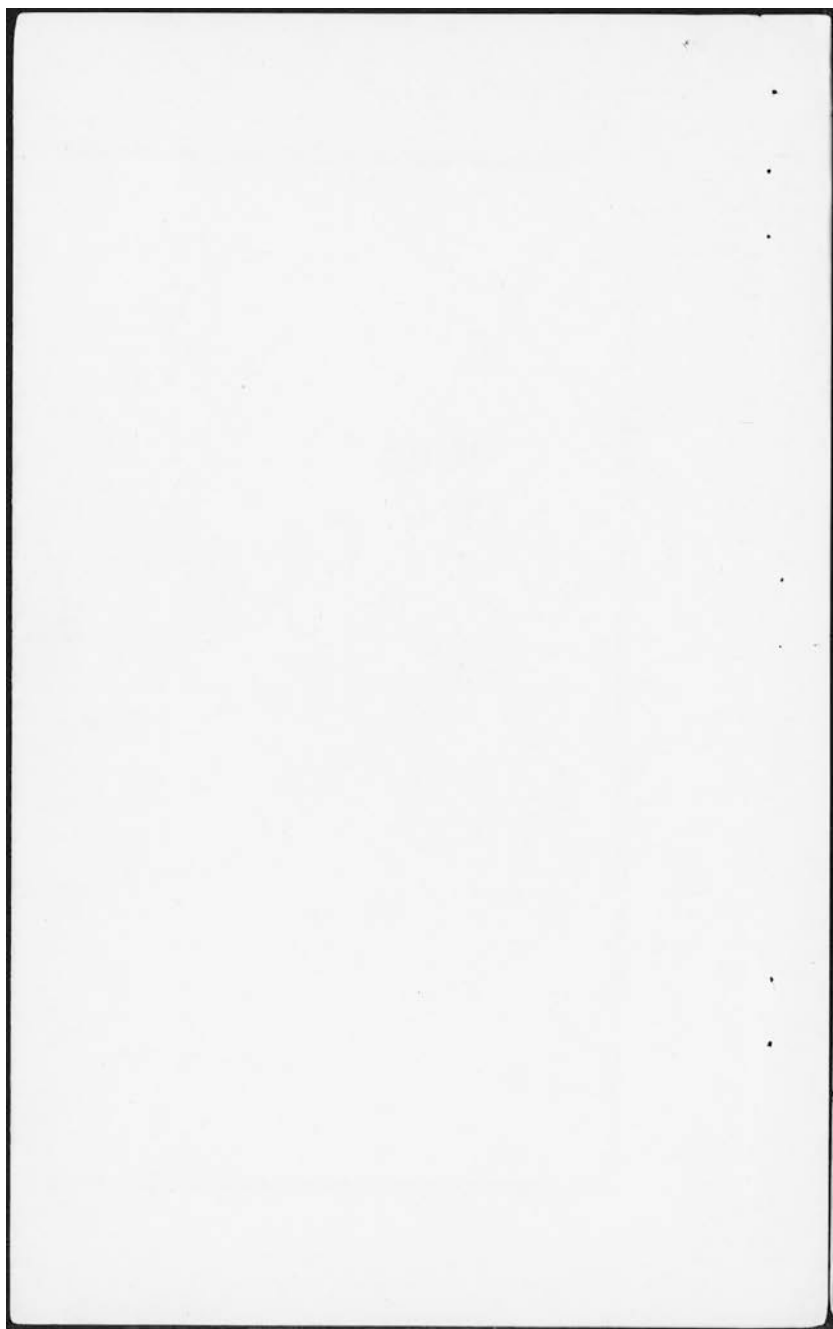
Alas, the *Green Bag* did not republish *The Brief's* reference to *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. And I know of no evidence that Arthur Conan Doyle had any reaction to any of this, or that he even knew anything about it. (Coincidentally and confusingly, he was connected to a different law journal with the same name, but that is a different story more fitting for another occasion.)

The 1903, 1904, and 1905 issues of *The Brief* (and rest of that first issue) are well-stocked with additional obvious, not-so-obvious, subtle, and pure-insider satire and silliness, some tasteful, some tasteless, and some perhaps made by the passage of time too alien for modern comprehension.

All twelve pages of that first issue are reproduced in facsimile on the pages following this one. Best wishes for success making sense of them. Look for more facsimiles of *The Brief*, and more commentary on them, in upcoming issues of other publications: *The Journal of Law*, the *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*, and the *Green Bag* itself.



"THE BRIEF": A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



SOME INSULAR QUESTIONS.

THE recent unprecedented territorial expansion of the United States has given rise to questions so obvious that the necessity for our here discussing them may not at first sight appear to one unfamiliar with the complex organization of our juridical hierarchy (or the reverse, according to the view taken by the learned judge in the case of *Smelovsky v. Onomatopœia*,¹ recently decided by a divided court before the Players' Bench on an appeal from the Referee's decision); but of this more anon.

And the confusion² of the law on this point has made it imperative if not advisable. *Ut dormentes canibus mendaciant*³ (let sleeping dogs lie). Now to turn to the burning question of the water cure.⁴

Lord Ellenborough, in discussing this, said: "The defendant, as we understand the procedure under the Code, was first filled with water,⁵ and then pressed upon the stomach *vi et armis* (usually a musket). The burden thus having been cast upon the defendant was equitably distributed by the Revised Laws of Hydrostatics..... The presence of minnows in the water used is absolutely irrelevant, for *de minimis non curat lex*. Further than this we do not care to go."

But it is submitted (a) that water is not an intoxicant⁶; (b) that this was a case for maritime law anyway⁷; (IV) that he was nothing Moro less than a Filipino; (h) that Curfew shall not ring to-night. And so the law stands to-day. For in

¹ 2 Harrigan & Hart 47.

² A word has been omitted here.

³ Maxims of Hafiz p. 48.

⁴ The reference to the water ordeal may be found in the Pipe Rolls, whatever they are.

⁵ Cf. *Governor of North Carolina v. Governor of South Carolina*.

⁶ *Quære* why not — Ed.

⁷ J. Wirth on Schooners 29.

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the whole mass of conflicting judicial testimony we have not been able to find a single case of even doubtful autopsy,⁸ may not even a dictum or a hot dogma, where such has been the case.

Per contra, with the possible exception of some badly considered but extremely able decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, the Vice-Chancellor of Oklahoma is unanimous in deciding that whatever may be the result, the answer can go but one way.

To sum up: Nothing has been urged in favor of this view which cannot, with equal propriety, be urged against it, or left unurged, or urged *bis et idem*, unless it be clearly *ultra vires*. And here⁹ we are content to leave the matter.¹⁰

THE PERSONNEL OF THE SIAMESE BENCH OF SUPREME JUDICATURE.

The Chief Justice of the Supreme Bench is a red-headed pirate who always went armed to the teeth until he lost them. He is now armed to the gums. He wears red mittens gummed to his arms. His decisions have never been questioned. He has never made any.

The other eight justices are three persons named Killyloo. The first is leonine but inadequate. His diction is delphic but ambiguous, at times even amphibious. He is also ambidextrous, being unable to write with either hand.

His younger brother Jimmy weighs twenty pounds less, which detracts from the weight of his decisions. He is a brilliant example of what is known as judicial levity.

The other three members of the bench are twins, each of the

⁸ You mean authenticipatority and then you're wrong.—Ed.

⁹ *Supra* p. 000 l. 0.

¹⁰ If you want more, go back (a) and begin again.—Ed.

(a) I The Brief 1.

two older being twins with the youngest, on the principle that twins that are twins to the same twin are twins to each other or anything else.

A PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

It is proposed to amend the Constitution of the United States so as to crowd upon every male citizen of the age of twenty-one the degree of J. D., without regard to race, creed, color, or previous condition of servitude.

The latter phrase has been found to work so well in every conceivable position that we cannot too highly recommend it.

The details of the scheme are as follows:

- I. All persons in the United States are to be divided into twelve groups according to the Bertillon system which has been so successful in the German Reichstadt.
- II. These groups are to choose dictators, thus doing away with any semblance of plutocracy and insuring a truly representative government.
- III. The degree of J. D. (*Japanese Dancer*) if adopted here will be immediately refused by all the leading universities of Matabeleland.

There being no particular arguments on either side of this most meritorious and undeserving scheme, all men should without delay sign the blue-book which has been hung in the steam-ing-room forinst the stairs.

But beyond all these overwhelming reasons, the gaunt spectre of public policy stands aloof.

The ever-present, recurring repetition of the question bursts forth in wild and riotous dissonance: Shall it or shall it not? And it is only in the good sense of the American people that a satisfactory answer can be found.

EXAMINATION RULES.

1. Only inkless ink-wells allowed.
2. Please wipe your feet on the examination book before delivering at the desk.
3. Questions without answers will be regarded as failures.
4. You need not answer any questions put to you but anything you say will be counted against you.
5. Students intending to sleep during the examination will please leave a call at the desk for one o'clock.

CONTRACTS AND CRAZY CONTRACTS.

1. Pedro, a push-cart peddler, made an oral contract for the purchase of a banana with Florida Fearne. Owing to a cessation of revolutions in South America fruit rose rapidly in price. After doing half the work Parsons stopped because he obtained a more advantageous contract with John the Orangeman. Shortly afterwards Dart died, neither he nor Adams having discovered the mistake. When Sixto Lopez learns the facts, can the Bank recover on a *quantum meruit*.

2. A statute provides that a bushel of coal shall mean forty miles. Dane, a coal-stealer under a charter party took down in a cargo belonging to East. The coal decayed rapidly owing to act of neither party. Thus it happened that Parsons paid one and one-half times as much as an accurate measurement would have required.

Under this state of facts what is Fearne's common-law liability to Parsons or to Tidd or to East or to anyone else you can think of?

Would it have made any difference if Dane had been a sutler? a cutler? a butler? a danseuse?

3. Rewrite everything you have written, leaving out the mistakes.

4. If I paint my neighbor's house a disagreeable color, under the impression that I have no right so to do, and he licks the

paint off and dies, can I recover anything from the heirs on a quantum valebant? Could I if he knew it was paint? if he knew it was paint, but thought it was green? or neither? or both?

5 }
6 } Rearrange the facts in the foregoing questions in any way
7 } you please so long as you don't know the answers, and then
8 } answer them the same as before.
9 }

10. You won't have time for this anyway.

EDITORIAL.

In beginning a new volume the present board feels it advisable to apologize for the slackness of previous boards in having published no numbers at all. But of this more anon. The need of such a periodical ("period" meaning "full-stop") is perfectly apparent to the editors.

Further than this we do not care to go. We would point with pride to our interchangeable cross-reference system exemplified in numbering the pages.

"Brevitas spiritus jocularitatis"

as good old Tully used to say.

LECTURE NOTES.

Mr. Gasser, will you state the next case? Oh! is this Equity? I thought it was Trusts. I beg your pardon. Well, it's very little difference (voice from back of room "Three cheers for the difference!") Thank you. I beg your pardon. Yes, it is a hard case, but equitable—distinctly equitable. A monstrous decision at common law. Do you agree, Mr. Berry? You don't? Do I catch your point? Yes, you're right. I withdraw my hasty opinion. If any gentleman is awake, will he please state the next case? One moment please, there is an

obvious misprint on page 432. I mean the second page 432. "Is it" should be "it is."

As I said I never could appreciate the sanctity which some people attach to the tenets of the common law.

The Court of Chancery (the class rises and bows low) in the exercise of its powers of sound equitable discretion (the class stands on one foot) will decree specific performance of an absolutely non-nugatory contract (the class kneels) provided, and provided only, that by so doing it will not in any way, shape or manner interfere with the paramount rights of that great and noble figure—the *bona fide* purchaser for value. (The class falls prostrate and kisses the floor in token of worship and humility).

Will someone — ? I beg your pardon. I didn't realize that we had covered nearly three pages. Next time we will continue on these proof-sheets. (Keen searcher after information starts rag-chewing competition).

(Oblivion).

RECENT CASES.

AGENCY. POWER COUPLED WITH AN INTEREST — REVOCATION. — An intestate wishing to probate his will deputed one to do so for him. He then died and afterwards ratified the agency. *Hell!*^(a) The pardon came too late. *Rameses v. Anargyros* 6 Hg. 41. This case goes none too far. It is obvious that a fraudulent moribund cannot claim the benefit of his non competency *mentis*. An act cannot be at once retroactive and perspective.

CONTRACTS. — IMPLIED CONDITION SUBSEQUENT — PUBLIC POLICY. — Plaintiff sued on an insurance contract never made. One of the conditions was that unpaid premiums should lapse.

(a) Misprint. — Ed.

Several had in fact lapsed when defendant company died. *Hello*,^(b) that the condition not having been complied with, it was up to the jury to construe the contract in accordance^(c) with its terms. *Gaston v. Alphonse* 2 Sunday Law Journal 999½.

The essence of the contract is the meeting of minds. If they meet from opposite directions a head-on collision will result. If differently, otherwise. Which accounts for the tooth on the walrus.

TORTS.—TRESPASS IN EXCELSIS.—JUSTIFIABLE FORCE.—A man in a balloon, having money to throw to the birds, proceeded to do so. A man shooting from below hit a golden eagle belonging to the United States Government and mutilated it. The aeronaut was thus prevented from sailing around the Eiffel Tower and winning a prize of 10,000 francs. With this sum he would have made a million dollars (perhaps) in the Chicago Wheat Pit. He sued the gun-maker for statutory replevin. *Held*,^(d) that the gun maker was not liable on the ground of *de gustibus nil nisi bonum*. *Mee v. Hym* 14 Bucket 1.

In accord *Ex parte Cake* VI Birthday Book Hen. IX. c. 33. A man's right in his land extends *usque ad caelum*. Further than this we do not care to go.

BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

CASES ON THE LAWS OF BRIDGE WHIST. A treaty of the general principle of Revokes, Honours and Bankruptcy. 1st edition. By Sir Jack Hamlin, Bart. Mac Swillen and Co. (Rome, Watertown and Ogdensburg, 1903.) pp. cxviii, 17, elephant folio.

The new edition of this charming little book is not materially changed from the third edition which was published in 1492.

(b) See note (a) *supra* — Eddy.

(c) See note 2 *supra* — Edward.

(d) See note (b) *supra*.

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The most considerable alterations are in the width of the margins and the diversity of the typographical errors.

The historical matter has been rewritten with acknowledgment to Professor Allright "who has put the whole subject on the hog."

It is a matter for regret, though not for criticism, that the book is as long as it is.

HARVARD LAW REVIEW.

Not since Epictetus wrote "The Hound of the Baskervilles" have we met a dramatic poem which entranced us with its lyric charm as has this little bijou.

Weak in character drawing and in construction, but strong in the places where it ought to be weak, it holds our attention from its start to our finish by a sort of wireless hypnosis.

The character of Professor Done is particularly well drawn, and as we remarked above (e)

The luscious fragrance of such lines as the following calls to our mind the tender memories of anemones dead and gone:

"In the former a bill was filed to commit two defendants for having published a libel."

"Neither position is tenable."

And so, although realizing the too brutal realism of the incidents, and the squeamish old-maidism and reticence of the plot, we are forced to confess that for a sweet picture of domestic bliss, one might search in vain for a better or worse example.

Further than this we do not care to go.

(e) See *supra* passage quoted under last review: "who" to "hog."

OUR EXCHANGES.

COKE.—Of what act is a bad shot in England guilty?

LITTLETON.—Miss-pheasants.

6 Harv. Law Rev. 90004.

LORD MANSFIELD.—For a well-balanced man, Loughborough seems to smell out an awful lot of trouble.

MARSHALL, C. J.—That's due to his scenter of gravity.

Cro. Eliz. 91.

"Perjury"—anything done by a jury.

70 Yale L. J. 1.

Quaere.—Is a parrot that calls you vile names a personal chattel?

3 Blackstone's Com. 41144.

The best beast of a college shall not be taken for a haricot vert.

Pothier, Civ. Law III.

The C. J.—Why doesn't the Dean of the Columbia Law School teach Evidence?

The P. J.—Because he's Keener on Quasi-Contracts.

Y. B. III Hen. I. 2.

Quaere.—Has summer-y procedure anything to do with seisin?

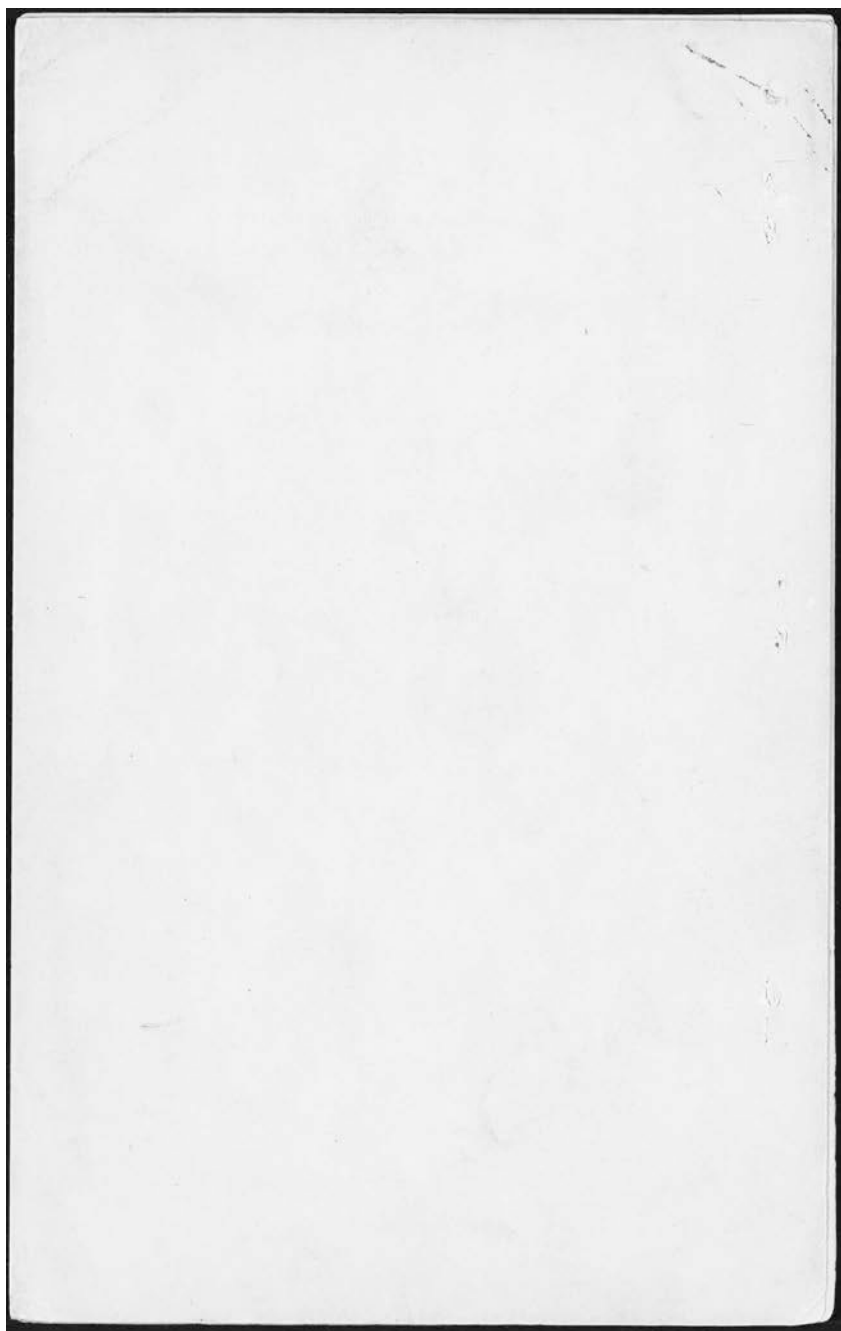
O The Green Bag 00.

STUDENT.—Professor, has the Statute of Quia Emptores anything to do with party walls?

PROFESSOR.—No, my dear friend, you are laboring under a misapprehension. Pardon me for my brusqueness.

The Brief Vol. I No. 2.

"THE BRIEF": A BRIEF INTRODUCTION





EPHEMERAL TREASURES, DURABLE MEMORIES

EPHEMERAL TREASURES, DURABLE MEMORIES

Ross E. Davies*

In the 2024 *Baker Street Almanac* we completed our republication of the backlist of holiday cards by Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty of Appledore Towers. (The McCaffertys began their card series back in 2014 and they'd never missed a year.) We concluded our associated commentary aspirationally: "Next year we will return to our regular card-sharing, with, we hope, a new card from the McCaffertys."

And we are here now to fulfill that plan, and that hope, and more.

This year we are showing off four lovely, holiday-cheery cards from some of our favorite correspondents. They appear in this order:

1. *But I swear I am breaking in only to leave their books, 'British Birds', and Catullus', and 'The Holy War', perfect gifts to fill the the gap on that second shelf.* — from Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty.

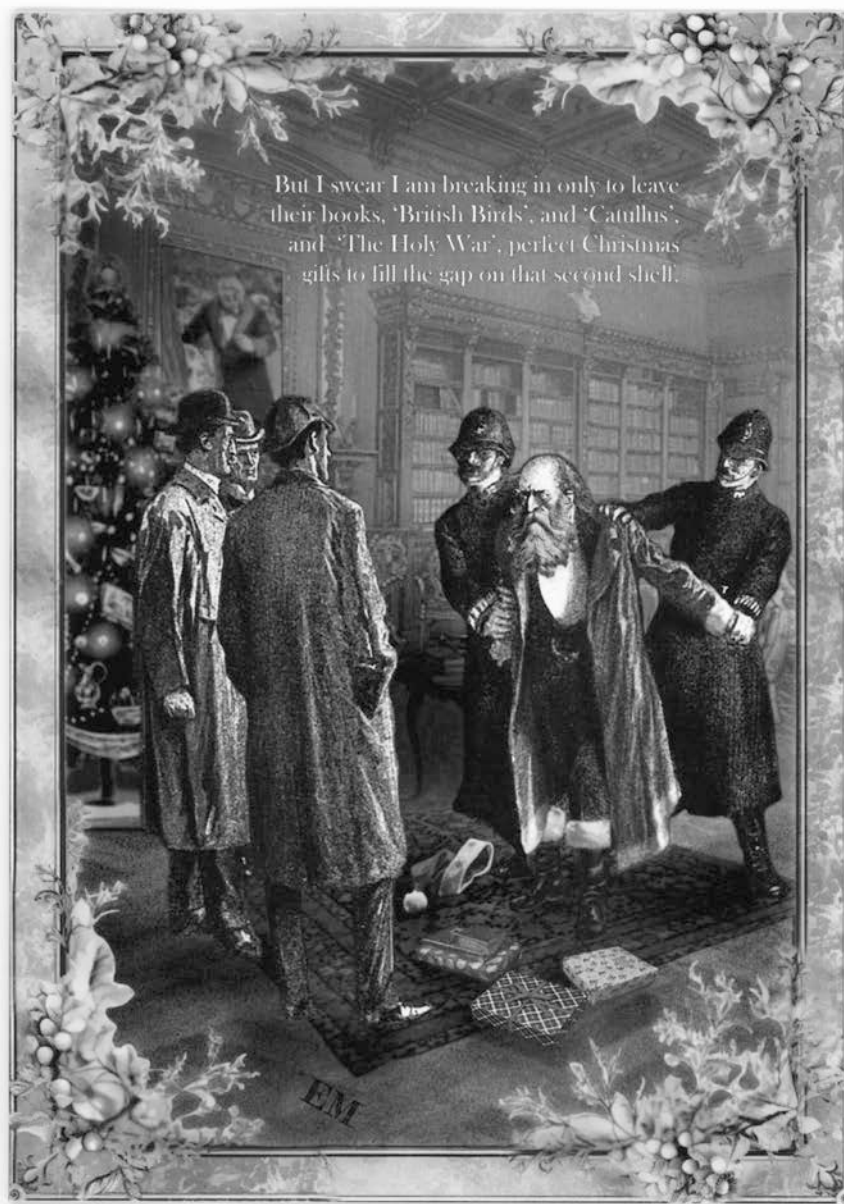
2. *As we came round the top of the stairs we had run up against Sir Henry Baskerville himself. "Coal," he cried. "A lump of coal!"* — from Burt and Kathi Wolder.

3. *The Compliments of the Season!* — from Jean Upton and Roger Johnson. Please note that the portrayal of Sherlock and a snowman soaring arm-in-arm is an original work by Jean — "inspired by the late Raymond Briggs' famous character 'The Snowman'" — and that this is the moment when we most deeply regret that we lack the resources to reproduce holiday cards in all their original colorfulness. Jean's art is even more beautiful that way.

And we close 2024 with this simultaneously disappointing, amusing, and promising telegram sent to the Mycroft Holmes Society in Syracuse, NY:

4. *Regret absence — matters of gravest import necessitate remaining in England. Dr Watson also must remain. We are resuming practice. The game is afoot. Holmes* — from Joe and Elaine Coppola.

* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor. Each card-creator holds copyright to their respective card.





Ross

Please remember it's a tough time of year for Father Christmas.
He works when others are celebrating.
He has a year's worth of work to do in a night.
So please make him welcome to leave the presents
and don't have him detained by the bobbies.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the cunning, cunning fiends

With every Good Wish
for Christmas
Love from us both

Laure & Jonathan

The
Empty Heads





AS WE CAME ROUND THE TOP OF THE STAIRS WE
HAD RUN UP AGAINST SIR HENRY BASKERVILLE
HIMSELF. "COAL," HE CRIED. "A LUMP OF COAL!"

“Holmes felt an immediate kinship with the young baronet,
as his early years had met with similar disappointments.”

— First draft of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Dear Ross —

WISHING YOU

*The Compliments
of the Season*

AND

*A Healthy and
Happy New Year*

Here's hoping 2025 will
be a good year for you
and your family — see
you soon —

Bret

Original illustration by Sidney Paget for
The Hound of the Baskervilles



"If we could fly out of that window hand in hand, hover over this great city, gently remove the roofs, and peep in at the queer things which are going on, the strange coincidences, the plannings, the cross-purposes, the wonderful chains of events, working through generations, and leading to the most outre results, it would make all fiction with its conventionalities and foreseen conclusions most stale and unprofitable."

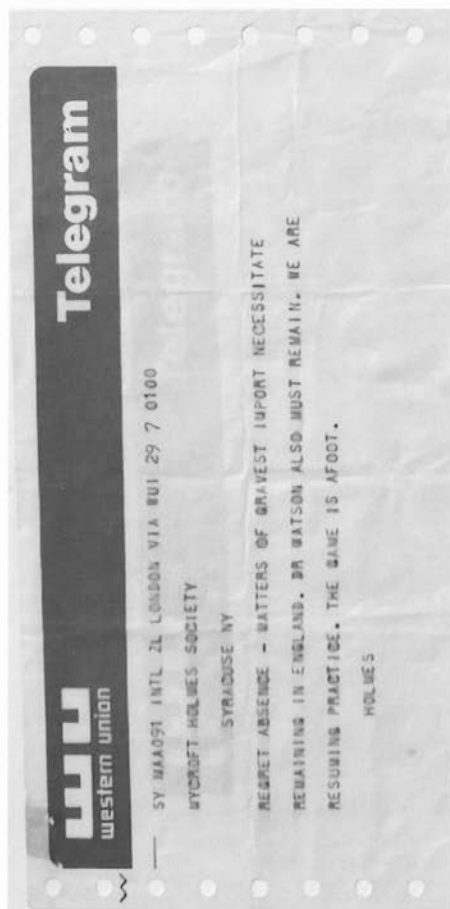
(Holmes to Watson in "A Case of Identity")

The Compliments of the Season!

Jean's illustration is inspired by the late Raymond Briggs' famous character "The Snowman".

Jean Upton, ASH, BSI & Roger Johnson, BSI, ASH
Mole End, 41 Sandford Road, Chelmsford CM2 6DE, UK

Compliments of the Season



Joe and Elaine Coppola

2024

THE EDINBURGH EDITION OF THE WORKS OF ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE



Arthur Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and educated at the city's university. His work, which has always been popular, frequently adapted in different forms, and endlessly imitated, is increasingly taught in schools and colleges. Edinburgh University Press, which publishes many leading Scottish authors, is producing a scholarly edition of Conan Doyle, under the general editorship of Douglas Kerr, with a team of scholarly editors from England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and the United States. Twenty-two volumes are envisaged, some of them bundling together two or more of Conan Doyle's books. The first, *Memories and Adventures*, was published in 2021 (and won the ACD Society award for scholarly writing).

Each volume, besides an authoritative text, includes a substantial introduction, a bibliographical essay on the text, a textual apparatus with collation of all important variations (for example, manuscript and serial versions), and expert explanatory notes. Producing these volumes is not a rapid process, and editors usually have to do this work alongside their academic or other business. So far, five volumes have appeared. Two more are scheduled for 2025.

We hope these volumes will be of interest not only to schools and colleges, but to enthusiasts with a serious interest in deepening their knowledge of this important and much-loved author. The collectable volumes are handsomely produced, but not cheap! Some readers will prefer to wait for the more easily affordable e-book (ePub) version, published 2 years after each hardback volume. Watch this space: <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/catalogsearch/result?q=edinburgh+edition+of+the+works+of+arthur+Conan+Doyle+>

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