

# BAKER STREET ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE  
OF A  
TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

2026



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 will always hurt.

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## 2026

IN THE FORM OF A FORMIDABLE SCRAP-BOOK OF 2025,  
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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# HAVING SECURED THE FUTURE ...

NEWS OF — AS WELL AS IN — THE BAKER STREET ALMANAC

Ross E. Davies\*

This is our ninth *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.<sup>1</sup>

## A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE BAKER STREET ALMANAC

Next year’s *Baker Street Almanac* will be my last as general editor. After that, Pamela J. (PJ) Sullivan will take over. The first manifestation of the editorial transition appears in this year’s edition: “The Society Pages” in this volume (beginning on page 9, right after this introduction, and running to page 233) are entirely the product of PJ’s excellent editorial work — acquisitions, edits, designs, layouts, and so on. An even larger share of the 2027 *BSA* will be her responsibility. Thereafter — and, I hope, for a long, long time — the whole *BSA* will be captained by PJ.

An enduring, fundamental, brutal truth of all publishing is that real editorial control over a publication is in the hands of the owner of that publication. So, the *Green Bag* (owner and publisher of the *BSA* since its launch in 2018) will be transferring ownership of the *BSA* to PJ in time for her to have real editorial control beginning with the 2028 *BSA*.

Subscribers will experience the change in *BSA* ownership and leadership in two ways.

First, and most importantly, the change at the top of the masthead will bring changes in editorial vision and style. It is not my place to forecast specifics (or generalities, for that matter). But I will say I am quite confident that readers of — and contributors to — the *BSA* will be pleased.

Second, and importantly only as a dull practical matter, starting with the 2028 edition subscribers will stop paying the *Green Bag* and start paying PJ (or her publishing company) for their copies of the *BSA*. They will also start visiting her website for whatever new *BSA* content she chooses to put online. (The *Green Bag* will maintain its 2018-to-2027 online *BSA* content, and will provide a link from its *BSA* pages to PJ’s.)

---

\* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

<sup>1</sup> Here: [www.greenbag.org](http://www.greenbag.org). Or here: [papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=3364282](https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3364282).

Stay tuned for more good news in next year's *BSA* about the changing of the guard. And in the meantime, feel free to enjoy — with appropriate skepticism and pinches of salt — whatever the rumor mills may grind out.

## FRESH DEVELOPMENTS

Every year, the *BSA* manages to include 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):

- PJ Sullivan presents “The Society Pages” — a retitled, reorganized, and enhanced-in-many-ways collection of reports on the activities of Sherlockian scions and societies around the world. PJ has added special reports from groups that celebrated big anniversaries in the year just passed, richly increased the quantity and variety of illustrations, and greatly improved the internal consistency of the text.
- Clifford S. Goldfarb writes about an adventure of the Baker Street Irregulars in the world of tax. He manages to deliver a fascinating, thought-provoking, and occasionally even amusing story on what some might mistakenly assume to be an unavoidably dry topic.
- With her new report on 221B Con (assisted by Rudy Altergott and Erica Fair), in addition to her usual report on the BSI Weekend, Madeline Quiñones extends her reach as an unsurpassed reporter on major Sherlockian gatherings.

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!<sup>2</sup>

## 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. We did not hear much about imperfections in the 2025 *Baker Street Almanac*. But Susan Davies, a sharp-eyed sibling of a *BSA* editor, did ask whether the “is is” in the big block quote on pge 441 is one “is” too many. She is correct, of course. If you catch an error — large or small — in any *Baker Street Almanac* please do let us know (email [editors@greenbag.org](mailto:editors@greenbag.org)).

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<sup>2</sup> And we are looking forward to more developments next year, including an annual review of the year in Sherlockian science and medicine by Matt Hall, a new feature by Bruce Harris and Terry Hunt, a new annotated edition of “The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge” edited by Ira Brad Matetsky (see page 404), and the return of Sue and Ben Vizoskie’s photo essay.

## PETER BLAU AND SCUTTLEBUTT

Year after year, Peter Blau's *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* delivers monthly doses of more Sherlockian-Doylean news than any other source. And Peter is himself a perennially newsworthy character. But his coverage of news about himself is not as generous as his reporting about others (modesty, probably). And that is why the *BSA* occasionally has an opportunity to publish news of Peter that has not made it into the pages of *Scuttlebutt*.

This year's story is courtesy of Matt Hall, who wrote to us in November 2025 with a new angle on *Scuttlebutt* itself and Peter himself:

Chris Redmond recently asked if anyone would want his old *Scuttlebutt* newsletters for the price of postage. I said YES (turns out postage was a lot) and received these gathered and bound newsletters from 1980 till about 2010 ... . The earlier volumes are the folded newsletters out of the envelope! I took them over to Peter to see them today — he was amazed anyone had created anything like this, and he signed them for me.<sup>3</sup>

## GLEN MIRANKER AND MANUSCRIPTS

Year after year, Glen Miranker gathers Sherlockian treasures into a collection that is extraordinary not only for its scope and interest, but also for the generosity of its owner in sharing those treasures with the public.

When it comes to gathering, consider, for example, Glen's recent and literally year-after-year acquisitions of some of the crown jewels of Sherlockian literature and scholarship — Arthur Conan Doyle's original autograph manuscripts of canonical tales:

2022..... The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter  
2023..... His Last Bow  
2024..... The Sign of Four

And when it comes to sharing, consider, for example, his "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition (and associated prize-winning book<sup>4</sup>), which opened at the Grolier Club in New York City in 2022 and since then has had runs at the Lilly Library at Indiana University and at the University of Minnesota. Among the "Objects" in the exhibition are more canonical manuscripts: four from *The Return of Sherlock Holmes* ("Dancing Men," "Solitary Cyclist," "Priory School," and "Black Peter"), and pages of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

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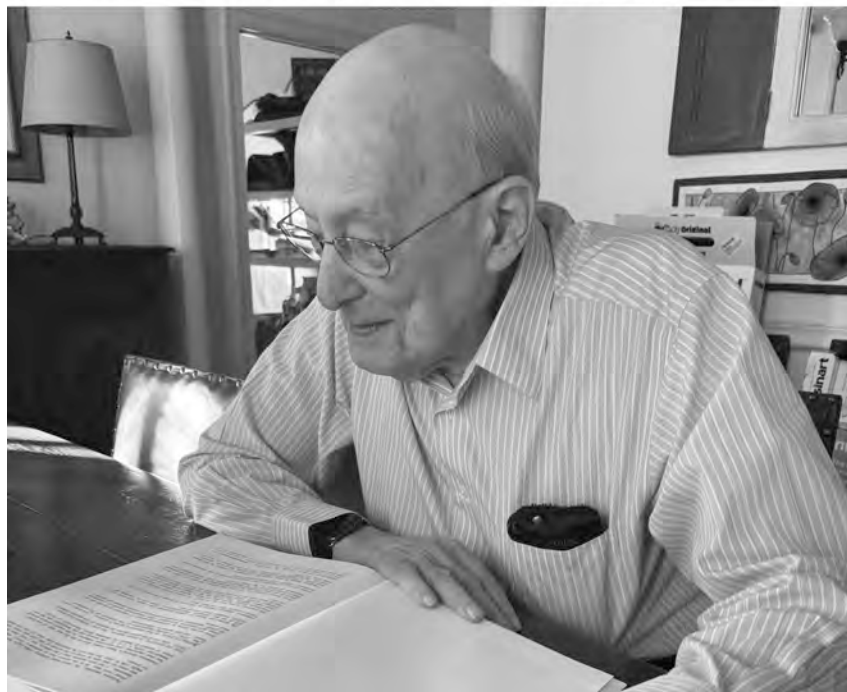
<sup>3</sup> Email from Matt Hall to Ross Davies (Nov. 5, 2025).

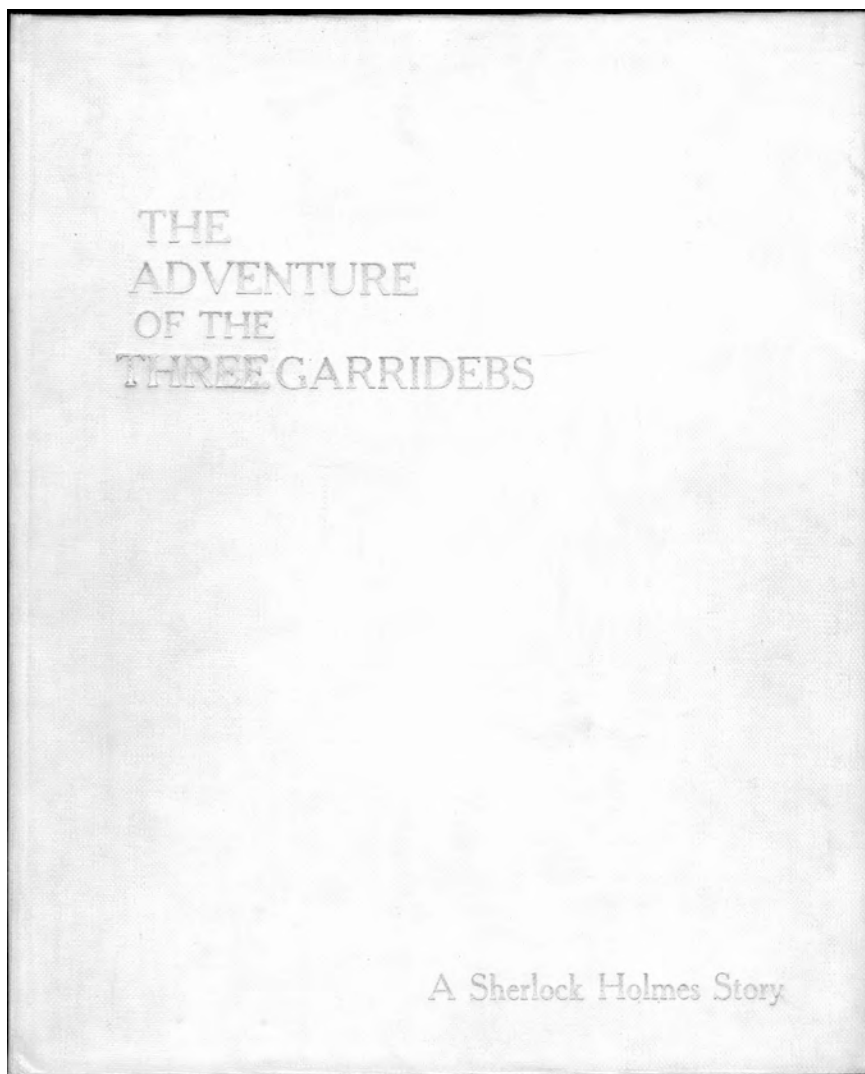
<sup>4</sup> Cathy Miranker and Glen Miranker, *Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects: From the Collection of Glen S. Miranker* (2022); Canadian Printing Awards, <https://www.printaction.com/canadian-printing-awards-2022-winners/> (Best in Show 2022).

*HAVING SECURED THE FUTURE ...*



Above and below: Peter Blau at his home in Bethesda, Maryland, with volumes of his *Scuttlebutt* that Matt Hall acquired from Chris Redmond. Photos by Matt Hall.





Glen's habit of gathering continued apace in 2025, with the acquisition of the original manuscript of "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs." So did his habit of sharing, evidenced by the images of that manuscript above and on the back cover of this volume, which he shared with the *BSA* so that we could share them with you. And he will surely give all of us a chance to see more of "The Three Garridebs" — and who knows what other Sherlockian wonders? — in the future. Thank you, Glen!



## ONE OR TWO LITTLE FANCIES

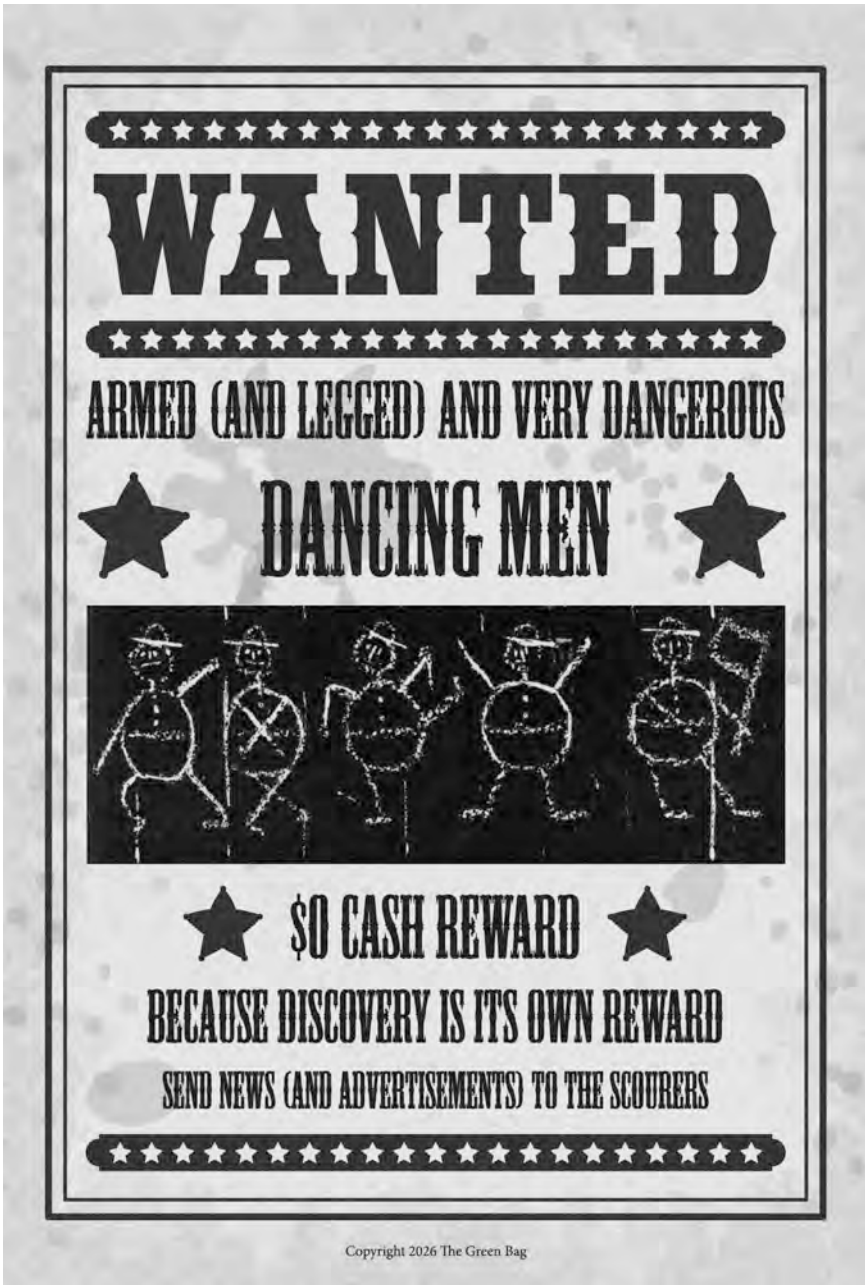
When one of our generous supporters (that is, a subscriber) pays for a *Baker Street Almanac*, they are buying a copy of the book. That is all. We do, however, like to include a little gift or two or three, when we can.

Thus, a *Baker Street Almanac* often travels (or at least exits our mailroom) in the company of other Sherlockian items — perhaps a map, or a trading card, or a coronet, or a cricket cap, or a toothbrush, or some other thing (or things). Last year we went with a postcard of a solitary Sherlockian and Doylean cyclist, and a booklet about a dying detective. This year we are returning to those wells, with two postcards — one of Holmes, Watson, and a trail of clues (see above)<sup>5</sup> and one of some dancing men (see next page)<sup>6</sup> — and a booklet (beautifully illustrated by Madeline Quiñones) about an impatient genius, his wounded friend, a large and wise but antisocial associate, and a couple of little rascals who end up with 12 pence (which add up to a shilling).<sup>7</sup> As you page through this volume, keep your eyes open.

<sup>5</sup> This will make more sense if you find the card and read the other side.

<sup>6</sup> This will make more sense if you read Victoria Wood's report on pages 220–222.

<sup>7</sup> This will make more sense if you find the booklet and read it.



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## THANKS

As ever, we thank the librarians, and also 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*).<sup>8</sup>

How valuable are Ira and Rich? Consider the 1945 Universal Pictures film *The Woman in Green*, starring Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. John Watson. In the closing credits, Henry Daniell is listed as playing the part of “Moriarity” — the spelling of the actor’s last name is correct, but the spelling of the villain’s name is not. Thanks to Arianna Fox for pointing this out in the “Sherlock Holmes on Screens” Facebook group, and to Eddie Selover for commenting that,

The same mistake occurs in *The Secret Weapon*. Seems Universal didn’t employ the best proofreaders.

We do not *employ* the best proofreaders, because we cannot afford their hourly rates. But the best proofreaders still do our proofreading anyway, because they are willing to deploy their skills for free — “pro bono publico,” as we lawyers put it (since we cannot bring ourselves to simply say in plain English, “for the public good”). We will forever be grateful for their generosity.

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  
April 30, 2026

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<sup>8</sup> Cf. *Davies v. Mann*, 152 Eng. Rep. 588 (1882).

# THE SOCIETY PAGES

## Scions, Societies, And Assemblages

### Around the World<sup>1</sup>

WILLKOMMEN! BIENVENUE! WELCOME!

**O**ur dear Almanac-ers! We are delighted to see you again, here among the stories and memories and adventures. Please, come in! Come in! – and be at home. Let us offer you camaraderie and knowledge, insight and inspiration, a spotlight and a ring-side seat.

*The Society Pages* section of the *Baker Street Almanac* exists to support one of the most admirable aspects of the Sherlockian realm: the boundless communal sharing of the social-Sherlockian experience. Within these pages we find accounts of gatherings and outings, presentations and perceptions, scholarship and silliness, offered up for the edification and enjoyment of our like-minded brethren. Not content to keep our experiences among our closest neighbors, we compile annual reports to inform and to entice into our fold kindred spirits from far afield: “Here”, we write, “is an account of all we have

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<sup>1</sup> These authors and photographers retain copyright in their contributions to *The Society Pages*: Bill Barnes, J. Andrew Basford, Anna Behrens, John Steven Berry, Johanna Draper Carlson, Linda Crohn, Christian Deloison, Laurence Deloison, Karen Ellery (for the Guttersnipes entry), Resa Haile, Matthew D. Hall, Bruce Harris, David Haugen, Mitch Higurashi, Harrison Hunt, Mark Jones, Bjarne Juul, Jerry Kegley, Mia S. Lagergaard, M.S. Lambek, Candace Lewis, Steve Mason, Michael McClure, Robert Nunn, Marsha Pollack, Troy Reynolds, Kimberlee Ann Richards, Brenda Rossini, Thierry Saint-Joanis, Jonathan Shimberg, Rooney W. Sullivan, and Janice Weiner.

done this past year. Learn what we've discussed, consider our ideas; see how much fun we are having! Come and join us; we are of the same ilk. Recount for us your adventures, and we will tell you our tales."

In this edition, we realize our goal of unifying these global accounts under our *Society Pages* banner, presenting a more accurate reflection of our community at large: one unbothered and unrestrained by geographic considerations. Will the Danish Sherlockians visit those in England? From which country did the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Community receive New Year's greetings? Read on to find out!

Read on to find also three special articles<sup>2</sup> describing significant societal milestones: two groups marking their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and one society celebrating 80 years. We have set these forth in a feature highlighting *A Big Year for Big Years!*

Join us, too, in celebrating the addition of several new societies making their first appearance in the annals of the *BSA* – and celebrating especially the expansion of community evidenced by these entries. We are particularly pleased to include our first foray into South America: a new society forming? – be sure to tell your Brazilian friends!

You will be dismayed, too, to read of the shuttering of a society after more than 50 years in existence. Faithful Readers will not want to miss their final *BSA* submission, though we have no doubt that these Ohioan Sherlockians will soon grace the pages of other societies' reports.

---

<sup>2</sup> We admire and appreciate the enthusiasm with which these special anniversary articles were written and wish to be clear that all extraneous comments, parentheticals, and footnotes within the account from our friends in Denmark (especially those closing "-ed.") are, in fact, the words of that article's author. We also wish to note that the *BSA* knows when it is being mocked.

In our last edition, we introduced a new and potentially regular item to the *Society Pages* in which we draw your attention to a selection of phrases culled from the year's reports. These are lines that caught our attention for a variety of reasons: a particularly eloquent turn of phrase, a charming sentiment, an enlightening observation, an amusing absurdity. We present these as something of a word search – our literary Where's Waldo – and hope you will enjoy finding each in its original context as you peruse these pages. Here, then, are this year's A FEW FEATURES OF INTEREST:

“...Watson served not only as dedicated scribe and biographer to the Great Detective, but also as his translator...”

“...an early and deliberate model of the Irregular Curmudgeon.”

“...erecting the world's first full-size granite tribute to Sherlock Holmes...”

“...Bean The Queen...Presbury's Monkey Mayhem...Pin the Wound on Watson...”

“...we lurk in insalubrious places like Facebook...”

“...Dr. Grimesby Roylott, that ophidian flake, who murdered his stepdaughter by using a snake...”

“...our newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, is so good...”

“...We were glad to welcome back Guest Mixologist and Superior Ginger Bill Pitcher...”

“...a book on mathematics in nature and a Leonard Nimoy autobiography.”

“...a cuddly place for devotees of Sherlock Holmes...”

“‘Why do we do this?’ ‘For the sake of the Tea.’”

As Faithful Readers know, each year the *BSA* invites Sherlockians across the globe to submit a report on their society's activities. We encourage all Sherlockian congregations, regardless of size, specialty, or *modus operandi*, to become cherished participants in the *Baker Street Almanac's Society Pages*. Herein you will find more than eighty chronicles from eleven countries. We received submissions this year from Australia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, France, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and now Brazil. The world, however, is vast, and we have still many regions unrepresented in the *Almanac*: the whole of Africa and the Middle East; Mexico and Central America; and still much of South America, Asia, Canada, and the United States.

Perhaps within your Sherlockian circle you have encountered compatriots in New Zealand, or Finland, or Jamaica. Invite them in: the *Baker Street Almanac* – and all Faithful Readers – are eager to make their acquaintance!

# A BIG YEAR FOR BIG YEARS

THE JOYOUS SERENDIPITY OF THREE SOCIETIES  
CELEBRATING SIGNIFICANTLY SIGNIFICANT  
ANNIVERSARIES

• • • •

## Eight Decades in a Furniture Warehouse: The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit at 80

BY CHRISTOPHER MUSIC, BSI

*“The year ’87 furnished us with a long series of cases of greater or less interest, of which I retain the records. Among my headings under this one twelve months I find an account...of the Amateur Mendicant Society, who held a luxurious club in the lower vault of a furniture warehouse...”*

- “The Five Orange Pips”

\*

In April 2026, the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a return to the legendary Cliff Bell’s - an iconic Art Deco jazz club steeped in Detroit history. A visit to Cliff Bell’s is like stepping back in time, making it a particularly fitting venue, as the Amateur Mendicants first gathered there in April 1946 for their inaugural dinner.

In recognition of this milestone, we thought it might be of interest to readers of *The Baker Street Almanac* to meet our founder, learn more about that first meeting in 1946, and catch a brief glimpse of Sherlockian activity in the late 1940s – during the so-called “golden age” of BSI scions.

## THE FOUNDER

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit was founded by Russell McLauchlin. Born in Detroit in 1894, McLauchlin was first introduced to Sherlock Holmes through a performance of William Gillette’s play at the Detroit Opera House. Educated at Cornell University and trained as a lawyer, he ultimately made his career in journalism and radio, serving as drama critic for *The Detroit News* when he founded the Amateur Mendicant Society in 1946. He later became a Baker Street Irregular of some renown, receiving his investiture – “The Naval Treaty” – in 1949.

The 1940s saw a major revival of interest in Sherlock Holmes. The Baker Street Irregulars were active in New York, and BSI scions were forming in cities across the country. McLauchlin was eager to establish a society in Detroit and received encouragement from fellow newspaperman Vincent Starrett, the Dean of American Sherlockians, who wrote to him:

“Your credentials look excellent from where I sit, wherefore welcome to the BSI. I do things quicklike, and by fiat... so by all means found a Detroit Chapter if you can, being careful to let in only the right people -i.e., such as are capable of contributing a bit of spurious scholarship... whether they ever do so or not.”

And so he did. And in early 1946, the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit was born – and remains active to this day.

McLauchlin was an early and deliberate model of the Irregular Curmudgeon. Yet, like many such curmudgeons, a generous heart lay beneath the crusty exterior. When he died in 1975 at the age of eighty-one, Julian Wolff described him as “a true Sherlockian of the old school and a good friend,” adding – perhaps unconsciously echoing Starrett three decades earlier – “His Irregular credentials were impeccable, and our loss is a severe one indeed.”

### EARLY DAYS

The first printed mention of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit appeared in a column by Starrett. Writing in his “Books Alive” column in the *Chicago Tribune* on March 3, 1946, he noted:

“Another ‘scion society’ of the Baker Street Irregulars is in process of leisurely formation, I learn from Detroit, where Russell McLauchlin of *The Detroit News* and Harry Wade are unembarrassed by an immediate membership of only two enthusiasts; to wit, themselves. The name of the new group is, or will be, the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit. Its major aim, of course, is the eventual acquisition of a luxurious club in the lower vault of a furniture warehouse.”

An early report by McLauchlin in *The Baker Street Journal* provides even more detail about the Society's formation. Writing shortly after its founding, he observed:

"This is the youngest of the Scion Societies, having been born in January of this year, nicely coinciding with the birthday of the Master himself. The origin of its title will be readily apparent to all students, as will its principal aim: *viz.*, the eventual acquisition of a 'luxurious club in the lower vault of a furniture warehouse.' This is perhaps more in the realm of the ideal than a matter of present practicality.

"The Mendicant Society is singular among its kindred in possessing a notable patron overseas; no less a one than Neville St. Clair, Esq., of Lee, on the border of Kent. It was faintly argued that Mr. St. Clair's connection with mendicancy verged on the professional, but these objections were withdrawn when the enormous advantage of his patronage was made clear to the obstructionists. Mr. St. Clair, the Society is happy to learn, is still in reasonable health, though his son, Mr. Murdo St. Clair, has acted as his amanuensis in all correspondence. St. Clair *fil*s is a prominent London architect—a profession clearly foreshadowed by his early interest in toy bricks.

"The Mendicant Society is still in the leisurely process of organization and has not yet held its first annual dinner. It has seven members and will probably grow slowly, as it imposes a particularly searching examination on applicants. Business is now being

conducted by Russell McLauchlin, acting Gasogene and Lascar—and you have no idea how many would-be Mendicants, qualified and otherwise, have reached him. Harry V. Wade of The Detroit News has been named permanent Tide-Waiter, on his own formidable insistence, which was reasonable enough in view of his scholarly investigations on the subject of tide-waiters generally. The acting Gasogene has designed an insigne for the Society, to be struck when funds become available. It is a miniature ha’penny, bearing the date 1887 and the profile, of course, of the Master instead of the late, dear Queen.”

## THE FIRST DINNER

To describe the details of our first dinner, it may be best to let the archives speak for themselves. Presented below is a copy of the original dinner program, followed by Russell McLauchlin’s own account of the evening’s events.

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Meeting of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit

(Baker Street Irregulars)

Friday, April 26, 1946

In the Lower Vault of a Furniture Warehouse

PROGRAM

Song – “The Road to Baker Street”

Canonical Toasts (The Woman, Mrs. Hudson, Mycroft, The Second Most Dangerous Man in London, The Second Mrs. Watson, The Game is Afoot)

Musgrave Ritual

DINNER

Business Meeting

Paper – “The Adventure of the Literary Agent” by E.A. Baumgarth

Discussions – “The Greek Interpreter”, “The Second Stain”

Paper – “The Historicity of the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit” by the Macleod of Harris

Drama – “Meeting in Baker Street” by William Gillette, enacted by Mendicants Lilly, Fisk, and McLauchlin

General Rejoicing ad Libitum

Present Mendicants

|                     |                 |                    |
|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A.V. Baillie        | Harry Bannister | H.H. Barcus        |
| Ernest O. Baumgarth | Ben Dushnik     | Nevin C. Fisk      |
| Robert G. Harris    | Paul A. Lilly   | Russell McLauchlin |
| John A. Sharman     | Hadley J. Smith | Harry Hartman      |

Absent Mendicants

|               |                     |                  |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Harry V. Wade | William E. Pimentel | Page Heldenbrand |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|

~~~~~

A round dozen Mendicants – and please tell me how a “round” dozen differs from a square or rhomboid dozen – assembled at Cliff Bell’s celebrated Park Avenue bistro, the evening of Friday April 26, for the purposes of eating and drinking and, as a necessary incident, putting the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit on a stern and rock-bound basis.

Many of these Mendicants were seeing one another for the first time and thus the greetings were not without their element of surprise. The Acting Gasogene, who subsequently became Permanent Gasogene and had been the Catalytic Agent from the beginning, made the introductions, as he had, at least, had some sort of contact by telephone or letter with all Mendicants, present and potential, and was therefore familiar with their names. This initial strangeness is emphasized because, by the end of the evening, the table was surrounded by 12 firm and permanent friends.

The assembling of the group was gradual and pleasantly accompanied by casual toasting and the absorption of particularly delicious hors d’oeuvres, prepared by an anonymous character in the kitchen who operated perfectly in the Hudsonian tradition; although it was agreed that his cuisine should not be called “a little limited.”

Presently it was time to dine. The Canonical toasts were drunk in one cocktail, that being all that came with the dinner. But it was found sufficient, especially as it was the last of a long and illustrious line of such refreshments, privately purchased. The membership sang the Official Song and this was followed by the Service of the Musgrave Ritual, delivered responsively. The questions

were put by Mendicant Barcus. Remarkable accuracy was noted and recorded.

No business was transacted during dinner, unless successful mastication and deglutition might be termed “business”. But as soon as the table was cleared by the deeply interested waitress, the Acting Gasogene called the membership to order and grave matters were considered.

The proposed Constitution and By-laws were adopted and made the organic law of the Society. Election of officers ensued, with the following result: Gasogene, Russell McLauchlin; Tantalus, Harry Bannister; Lascar, Nevin Fisk; and Tide-Waiter, Harry V. Wade. Tide-Waiter Wade was absent because of illness and sentiments of sympathy were universally expressed.

Mendicant Baumgarth then read an elaborate and exciting paper, concerned with his personal recollections of a certain Dr. Doyle, eye-specialist and psychic investigator, who is believed, early in his career to have functioned as literary agent for a medical colleague of the name of Watson.

These significant reminiscences were followed by the contribution of Mendicant Harris who, speaking from notes gave an erudite address on the historicity of the Society, tracing its activities over 900 years and placing its central seat in Clerkenwell. Mendicant Harris, it should be recorded, had gained considerable renown, even before this show of scholarship, by arriving in the Lower Vault carrying a framed portrait of General Gordon and an unframed one

of Henry Ward Beecher, which were, of course, prominently displayed.

Following these learned contributions, Mendicants Lilly, Fisk, and McLauchlin withdrew to prepare for the evening's dramatic phase, which was an enactment of the scene preceding the Curtain of Act II, of William Gillette's quasi-Canonical play. This was entitled "Meeting in Baker Street." Lilly was the Master, McLauchlin was the Professor, and Fisk was Billy.

The spirit of Victorian theatre was duplicated with accuracy by the presence of a fine actor in the stellar role and two dreadful actors in his support. But Lilly had, the evening before, taken pains to put Fisk and McLauchlin through such a severe course of direction that they, at least, knew what they were supposed to do and were letter-perfect in their lines. Even so, there was a considerable artistic gulf between Lilly and his associates.

His entrance was spectacular. He was costumed in an Inverness cape and deerstalker cap. As he was removing these, preparatory to donning his dressing-gown, a stranger appeared on the stairway – not as part of the script – and paused halfway down, to survey Lilly in considerable surprise. At that moment, Fisk emitted his off-stage shout of "Look out, sir! Look out!" The stranger gave a horrified look around and fled pell-mell up the stairs; a perfect introduction to a tense and thrilling episode. This was the final event of the evening.

But certain details should not go unrecorded. Everybody agreed that no such elevating conversation had been enjoyed

before. All the highest hopes of the organizers were realized. The level of scholarship was lofty. The Canonical enthusiasm, so greatly desired, was unflinching. The fellowship seemed to be complete.

Greetings were read, during the meeting, from Christopher Morley, Edgar W. Smith, Vincent Starrett and C.R. Andrew. The Mendicants exchanged telegrams with The Speckled Band of Boston; holding their meeting, by the happiest of coincidences, on the same evening. The Band's message was sent by the Cheetah, James Keddie, Jr, and read: "Good Luck to your first meeting. While you are luxuriating in your warehouse, we are uncoiling in our lair."

Just before adjournment, the Gasogene obtained the Mendicants' unanimous consent to propose to the national membership a contest sponsored by the AMS; a board of judges to be selected and an award given for the best original pastiche entitled "The Adventure of the Amateur Mendicant Society." The Gasogene has already conferred on this subject with the editor of the Baker Street Journal and details should be perfected before long.

Thus came into being the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit; one of the most youthful of BSI Scions, but already an ardent one and full of health. Your Gasogene is happy to make this report and to express his belief that longevity and mounting enthusiasm, together with the maintenance of the highest standard, are the least things to be prophesied for the group.

## THE FORTIES

This inaugural dinner of the Amateur Mendicant Society was the first of what would be many regular meetings of the AMS in the 1940s and beyond (though the only time we would meet at Cliff Bell's until 80 years later). Gasogene Russell McLauchlin would go on to host memorable annual dinners and 'rump sessions' in various locations such as the Detroit Institute of Arts, The Sapphire Room at the Wardell-Sheraton Hotel, and the Olde Wayne Club.

However, it was the Stockholm Restaurant (later home to the Playboy Club of Detroit!) that would become a new home base. The Second Annual Meeting of the AMS was held there in 1947 – the highlight (out of many) being the premier of *Mrs. Hudson Speaks* – written by Russell McLaughlin and recorded by the actress ZaSu Pitts for the occasion. Another meeting at the Stockholm was memorable for hosting the first major television broadcast of an original Sherlock Holmes tale – *Tea Time at Baker Street* – written by Russell McLauchlin and produced by WWJ-TV in Detroit.

Many famous (infamous?) Baker Street Irregulars would also be introduced to Sherlockian sodality during this period. Irregulars such as Robert G. Harris ("The Creeping Man"), Bill Rabe ("Colonel Warburton's Madness"), and John McCabe ("Those Chaldean Roots of the Great Celtic Speech") all began their Sherlockian involvement as members of the Amateur Mendicant Society in the 1940s.

A NOTE FROM EDGAR SMITH

Now that the Amateur Mendicant Society was meeting in Detroit, it was a pleasant thing for BSI Commissionaire – and General Motors Vice President – Edgar Smith to have GM business taking him to company headquarters there occasionally. He was finding Russell McLauchlin's scion society pure pleasure. The unfortunate thing is that even the sunny Edgar Smith felt forced to compare the BSI dinners unfavorably with the Mendicants' – indicating that for all that Christopher Morley's reaction to the 1947 BSI dinner was a function of his disgruntled mood, he was not alone in feeling the strain of growing numbers and uproar at the annual dinners.

March 17, 1947

Dear Porky (Christopher Morley):

I have to report my attendance last Friday evening at the dinner of the Amateur Mendicants in Detroit – easily, under Russell McLauchlin's guidance, the most erudite of the Scions. There were seventeen present, and the opportunities for earnest and completely satisfying discussion were in sharp contrast to those presented at the same melees our B.S.I. overgatherings have become. Let this be noted for our future thought. Incidentally, there were two cocktails, two highballs, excellent food – and all for the sum of one guinea at the old exchange.

The enclosed inscribed program is sent you with the compliments of Gasogene McLauchlin – who is, I must say, a true Sherlockian scholar and Watsonian gentleman.

Salutations!

Edgar W. Smith

## AN INVITATION

While I've referred to this early period in the Amateur Mendicant Society's history as a 'Golden Age' – I actually think the true Golden Age of our society is today. Our current membership – led by recent Gasogenes Roy Pilot, John Kramb, and Scott Monty – have successfully maintained a respect for our rich history, fostered strong friendships, and encouraged scholarship, all while having fun! And we invite all Sherlockians to join us at a future meeting to join in this fun, as we look forward to the next 80 years of Mendicant history.

## NOTES

Those interested in more detail of the early decades of the AMS can refer to *From the Lower Vault: A History of the Amateur Mendicant Society 1946–1964*, by Christopher Music. That book (and this article) relies on the irregular scholarship that preceded it – in selections from the *Baker Street Journal* and especially the BSI Archival History Series edited by Jon Lellenberg.

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## HISTORY OF THE RED CIRCLE

BY CARLA KAESSINGER COUPE<sup>i</sup>

The Red Circle was founded in 1950 by high-school student Karen Kruse, along with Patricia Parkman, Dorothy Bissonette, and Svend Petersen. The first annual dinner was held on November 16, 1951. Attendees included the founders, Edgar W. Smith, James Montgomery, and Elmer Davis, Paul Scott Rankine of Reuters, Walter Trohan of the *Chicago Tribune*, Felix Morley (a brother of Christopher Morley), and Paul Gore-Booth, then stationed at the British Embassy. The group met regularly throughout 1952 and 1953 and then fell into dormancy when many of the organizers moved away.

Peter E. Blau revived The Red Circle in 1970 and regular meetings resumed. Today, Peter Blau serves as the society's sparking plug, but Karen Kruse Anderson remains its first and only "Match."

In 1974, Jon L. Lellenberg established The Red Circle Players to enact Miles Kington's "The Case of the Danish Prince." Theater parties attended William Gillette's *Sherlock Holmes*, *Cats*, *Sherlock's Last Case*, the Firesign Theatre's version of *The Giant Rat of Sumatra*, and *Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Purloined Patience*, as well as many film evenings. The Red Circle members maintained a full social calendar throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

On November 20, 2000, The Red Circle of Washington celebrated its 50th anniversary at the National Press Club, where Francine Morris Swift presented her history of The Red Circle's first 50 years, and Jon Lellenberg shared his paper on six of the early members, "Giants in the Earth." Our founder Karen Kruse Anderson traveled from California to join members for a nostalgic and fun-filled (not to mention pun-filled) dinner. Presided over by

Peter E. Blau, the dinner's line-up of distinguished speakers included Karen Anderson, Jon Lellenberg, Sarah Rosenbaum, Mike Whelan, Beau Briggs, and Nora Myers. The evening capped an eventful 50 years of The Red Circle's dedication to The Master and his chronicler and set the tone for another 25 years of scholarship, camaraderie, and fun.

Continuing strong through the new millennium, The Red Circle held quarterly meetings at the august National Press Club, an historic venue where pundits and journalists gather. In 2013, our meetings moved to the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, where they remained until 2019, when renovations to the Hyatt necessitated a move a few blocks away to the always-welcoming Alfio's la Trattoria.

In 2010, The Red Circle gained an online presence with a new website [[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)], administered by Alan Rettig and Bob Howard. Not simply a place for meeting announcements, the website is an invaluable resource for both The Red Circle and general Sherlockian news, reports and videos of past meetings, copies of papers presented, photos, the continually updated collection of issues of *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, and links to other sites of interest to our community.

Our speakers continue to be a varied lot. Among those who have graced the podium over the past 25 years include notable Sherlockians such as Evelyn Herzog, Dan Stashower, Bev Wolov, Andy Solberg, Bob Katz, Ray Betzner, Lyndsay Faye, Glen Miranker, Curtis Armstrong, and Dan Andriacco. We've also enjoyed talks by Maureen Bottrell on forensic geology, James Grady, who discussed his book *Six Days of the Condor* (retitled *Three Days of the Condor* for the movie), and FBI Special Agent Charlie Rooney, speaking about The Red Circle's real-world namesake.

Despite the COVID lockdown beginning in 2020, The Red Circle continued to meet via Zoom, taking advantage of the fact that we could easily (and cheaply) enjoy speakers from afar. Laurie King and Nicholas Meyer called in from California, Nick Utechin and Catherine Cooke represented the UK, and Mattias Boström joined The Red Circle from Sweden. Peggy Perdue in Canada, Jerry Margolin in Oregon, and Eva Igglund and Bryan Stone (Switzerland) and Guy Marriott (UK) round out the distant speakers enjoyed during the lockdown. Alan Rettig deserves kudos for emceeing and producing the Zoom meetings.

The speaker recordings were so popular that we've continued them thanks to Matt Hall's talents behind the camera. Links to all the meeting videos can be found at The Red Circle's website [[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)] and on The Sherlock Channel [[www.youtube.com/@thesherlockchannel2596](http://www.youtube.com/@thesherlockchannel2596)], our new YouTube channel established in time to celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In addition to quarterly meetings, The Red Circle members have celebrated the Master with a picnic at Glen Echo Park, enjoyed R. Hamilton Wright's play *Sherlock Holmes and the American Problem* at the Arts Barn in Gaithersburg, viewed the manuscript of *The Valley of Fear* at the Folger Library, and gathered for the world premiere production of Ken Ludwig's *Death on the Nile* at Arena Stage.

The Red Circle's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration took place at the American Film Institute in conjunction with the first US screening of the "Silent Sherlock" trio of restored Sherlock Holmes films. Approximately 180 people, many of them The Red Circle members (including some from Chicago and New York), gathered in the AFI's beautiful Art Deco main theatre. Todd Hitchcock, the director of the AFI Silver Theatre, welcomed the crowd and

explained that these three shorts were part of a series of 45 Sherlock Holmes shorts and two feature films, all starring Eille Norwood. He also introduced Ben Model, who, as traditional with silent movies, would play an organ accompaniment throughout. In all of the films, the time-period has been updated to the then-present, and motor cars replace horse-drawn carriages. Fashions are au courant for the early 1920s, as is the interior décor.

First we saw “A Scandal in Bohemia,” from 1921, which followed, more-or-less (rather less than more), the canonical story. The second film was “The Golden Pince-Nez,” produced in 1922. In this short the original story is followed more closely. The third and final short was the one that strayed farthest from canon: “The Final Problem,” also released in 1922.

The movies were great fun to watch, and Ben Model’s accompaniment added much to the experience. He received a round of applause for his playing before we made our way out of the theatre and across the street to J. Hollinger’s Waterman’s Chophouse, where around 60 members enjoyed a delicious and convivial dinner.

Thanks to the efforts of Tom Fahres and Alan Rettig, members and friends can proudly display The Red Circle swag. Our pins grace many a Sherlockian lapel, and if you’re reluctant to use your silver-plated coffee or tea set every day, The Red Circle mugs are the perfect size for your morning cuppa.

Over the years, the BSI has awarded the title “The Red Circle” to three notable Sherlockians: James Montgomery, of “We Never Mention Aunt Clara” fame; his son, Bruce Montgomery, who countered his father’s song with “We Always Mention Aunt Clara”; and currently it is the investiture name of Laurie R. King, author of the popular Mary Russell book series.

The Red Circle has stood upon the terrace for many members and friends over the past 25 years, notably for Karen Kruse Anderson in 2018, The Red Circle's founder and one and only "Match." Her husband, Poul Anderson, noted science fiction writer who attended the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner, died in 2001. Other members who have contributed to The Red Circle, now gone beyond the Reichenbach, include Wayne B. Swift and his wife Francine Morris Swift, past BSI Wiggins Michael Whelan, Jon Lellenberg, Norman M. Davis, Bob Verrey, and Gertrude H. Mahoney, who once displayed the courage under fire expected of a member. When she surprised a burglar in the kitchen of her son's house in Washington he fled. She rushed to the door to see which way he went, and he shot at her, grazing her arm. "But it's only a flesh wound," she explained to the paramedics who were insisting that she go to the hospital, "and I've never had a chance to watch the police investigate a crime scene."

As 2025 begins to wane, The Red Circle of Washington continues to uphold our modest claim that we are the most inclusive and (perhaps) least scholarly Sherlockian society in existence. We are proud to be a strong presence in the Sherlockian world and look forward to celebrating another 25 years of Sherlockian friendship and scholarship at The Red Circle's centenary in 2050.



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<sup>i</sup> Much of the early history in this article is taken from Francine Morris Swift’s “A History of the Red Circle (Part 1),” prepared for The Red Circle’s 50th anniversary dinner at the National Press Club, November 20, 2000. The complete article is available at The Red Circle’s website.

# 75 YEARS WITH THE SHERLOCK HOLMES KLUBBEN I DANMARK

BY M.S. LAMBEK<sup>1</sup>

For this year's *Baker Street Almanac*, it was kindly suggested to limit our entry to 1000 words: and what a great idea that was! Words can be short, like long or, or, or mum, or long like longwinded or facetiousness or antidisestablishmentarianism. There can be wit in brevity (it is said), and it is always fun to try to work within certain limitations that could result in new creative and hitherto-unthought-of solutions. So, without further ado, as we're already 79 words into it and counting (now 86), we'd better get on with it. (*Could these words of introduction please not be included? —ed.*)



Superabundance is also one of the longer words, and readers of last year's *Almanac* might recall the lack of superabundance of Sherlockian activities in the Danish Baker Street Irregulars during 2024, owing to the fact

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<sup>1</sup> The Scatmester of the *Danish Baker Street Irregulars*, who is of the strong opinion that footnotes really ought to be excluded from 1000-words limits.

that they (we)<sup>2</sup> were all too busy preparing the activities of their (our) Anniversary Weekend to be held the following year.

AND NOW IS THAT YEAR: 2025:

seventy-five years after A.D. Henriksen founded his (our) (the)

*Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark!*

THE ANNUAL MEETING

*(And headings? Surely, they don't count either? —ed.)*

And what a superb abundance it was: the *Klubben* had planned for the traditional Annual Meeting in January 2025 to be officially postponed (and thus held in the privacy of members' own homes according to their individual tastes), for preparations were in place to turn our AM into an AW: an entire Anniversary Weekend!

THE ENTIRE ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND (IN DENMARK)

First, a Movie Night was organized for Friday May 30 at the *Danish Film Institute*: Members Monggaard & Lauridsen were to introduce some rare, old Danish wordless films (three short silent movies © *Nordisk Film* ca. 1910), followed by an entire talkie (*Silver Blaze* ca. 1937), concluded by more chat, drinks, and (impromptu) dinner.

Some words are glorious and glamorous; and so were the entire feeling of such a fantastic-and-once-in-a-lifetime (*one word!*) evening we had planned for the great Gala Dinner proper on Saturday May 31! After an

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<sup>2</sup> (What about words in brackets? —ed.)

official General Meeting swiftly out of the way (Board re-elected, &c.), our *Diamond Jubilee Party* could take over, at the great *Masonic Lodge* in Copenhagen (thanks to Brother Claus Rosenkilde):

The festivities were to be opened by the *Musgrave Ritual* led by May Christiansen (words of the old Danish translation); then Talks had been prepared by: President M.S. Lagergaard (Welcome to the *Klubben*), Scatmester M.S. Lambek (*Who* are the *Klubben*?), Member Jakob Levinson (Who came to Baker Street?), and Editor Svend Ranild (Who acted in *A Study in Scarlet*?).

After a luxurious three-course-not-pipe-dinner, more or less *Conanical* Toasts were prepared: Nils Nordberg spoke words (in the present tense) on ‘*The Woman*’, Rie Rosenkilde (celebrating her own birthday) on ‘Mrs Hudson’, Chr. Monggaard on (his own new BSI Investiture) ‘Neville St Clair’, and P.P. MacFarlane (in several languages) on ‘Baker Street’. And a Canonical Quiz was planned!

Music was also arranged: first serious classical (arrangement of Karl Goldmark’s *Violin Concerto* Opus 28—*ohne Worte*—to Hon. President Byskov’s violin accompanied by Tanja Zapolsky’s piano) followed by more raucous singalong than usual (if that is possible): not only *Baker Street* (via *Mandalay*), but also a handful of other relevant, Danish songs—*mit*, admittedly, *zu viele Worte*—all accompanied by *The Sign of Four Jacks Minus One* (Lambek & Lauridsen’s guitars and Bjarne Juul’s accordion). Some *Worte* in English, some in Danish, none in German, so all could sing along!

According to plan, all forty guests (in all manner of formal attire) were to receive formal presents of mugs, badges, and a brand-new Anniversary Book (21B Danish cornerstone writings from twenty-two ancient and present

members: from old essays by founding fathers anno 1950—through words of great scholarship and (it is said) wit—to wordy articles newly written for the Book).<sup>3</sup>

And, at the end, the *Klubben* had even organized to pronounce some new Honorary Members. Thus, many old friendships were to be renewed—more new connections forged—and, we think we can conclude with the words: a splendid time was guaranteed for all!

To round everything off, it was arranged to conclude with a City Walk on Sunday June 1 (not too early): Old Copenhagen Town has few Doylean (and fewer Holmesian) connections, but L.L. Frederiksen was prepared to find them all—along with other tales of persons of great literary and cultural impact that had visited the city (before now, that is). Then drinks and words of farewell, as, alas, the Game was Adieu.

So, these relatively few words effectively sum up the abundance of jolly activities the *Klubben* had planned for their (our) 75th Anniversary Weekend in May/June 2025: and would you believe it?

THIS WE THEN DID.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark 1950-2025*, eds. Monggaard & Lambek—only Summaries in English: DESVÆRRE!

<sup>4</sup> Except for the Quiz (we ran out of time). See *Sherlockiana* 2025:2-3 (ed. Ranild) for more information—all words guaranteed in English!

*THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*



*Photos by Bjarne Juul.*



*Photos by (top and bottom) Mia Lagergaard, and (middle two) Bjarne Juul.*

THE SCIENTIFIC YEAR (ALSO IN DENMARK)

Presumably guilty of the highest number of Sherlockian-scholarly words written in Denmark, Sv. Ranild now finally got to publish his *Magnum Opus* for the Anniversary: so magnum that it spread over three volumes—all on William Gillette, *An Incomparable Actor*, and his hitherto little-known and cross-dressing role in *A Study in Scarlet* (the last word upon the subject)! Another not unimportant jubilee was celebrated when Svend even found time to publish on the Centenary of “The Three Garridebs” (and the Granada ‘interpretation’)—and of “The Illustrious Client” (and its wilde and gray connotations: Wilde’s *Dorian Gray*)! And thus, for our Journal, *Sherlockiana*, he continues even to edit other writers’ words of research.

P.S. Lauridsen continued his never-ending study of SH in DK: now with the alleged ‘immoral influence’ of cheap pulp magazines during Denmark’s wartime—and not least Holmes’ part in fighting that influence from utterly corrupting the morals of Denmark’s youth (ever on the side of the angels)! Palle also researched into the DoYLES and the Danes (for some later use, probably...)

The Jubilee aside, M.S. Lambek wrote several words on the usage of ‘lichen’ in the Canon (to try to prove if that was a favourite descriptive word of Watson’s), before listing all relevant book publications in DK throughout the year (from comics and editions of the Writings adapted for children—to totally unconnected novels that just happen to mention the Master’s Name). He also wrote quite a few words celebrating (rather selflessly, he thinks) the new BSI Investiture of a Dane.

And Chr. Monggaard, BSI, did his bit to keep Green the Master's Memory: in June, at the annual heavy metal rock music festival *Copenhell* (we do hear of Sherlock everywhere!), he won the popular-culture quiz over Team Batman. And in September, on Scott Monty & Burt Wolder's *I Hear Of Sherlock Everywhere* podcast #319, we heard of Christian brilliantly holding forth on imperative matters such as himself and his *Klubben* and his own mum (not necessarily in that order).

### THE SCIONTIFIC YEAR (DITTO)

But even more extra-anniversary activities were in store for 2025. Thus, there is word from Michael Bjærre that the local *Common Loafers of Kolding* (incl. Borberg, Byskov & Kabel) meet thrice annually not only to toast but also to discuss one text of the Sacred Writings, and last year, they reached the Canonical End with *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*; so now they have to move on to the Apocryphal Writings—before turning a new leaf over in *A Study in Scarlet!* (And also to toast.)

As many capital members were travelling abroad this autumn, the *Copenhagen Speckled Gang* Scion decided to change their traditional *VicPic* into a terrific *Mrs Hudson's Christmas Tea-Party* at Mia's place instead: replete with mince pies, a festive story (Svend's newly published translation of "Den Blå Karfunkel"), and a learned talk on a relevant gemstone (by Hon. Dane Eva). There was even time for the proposed BLUE XMAS QUIZ.

And word has it that the remaining three members (Carlsen, Juul & Lambek) of *Five Orange Pipes* still managed to meet to drink their Five Orange Toasts and smoke their Three Oily Pipes.

(Words on the anniversary of Denmark's oldest *Cimbrian* Scion that were to have followed here can be read elsewhere in the *BSA*: 330 words, to be precise, that we're losing here —ed.)

This concludes the Sherlockian Doings in Denmark in 2025.<sup>5</sup>

(Whatever shall we do next?)

## DANISH SHERLOCK OUTSIDE DENMARK

*NEXT*, however, the Danish *Sherlock Holmes Klubben* did cunningly prepare to continue their 2025 anniversary celebrations *outside* Denmark: their clever plan to hook up with the *Sherlock Holmes Society of London* when *they* held their Autumn Excursion to Old Portsmouth Town! (*And upon my word: clever, too, to write of all these events outside the ordinary Danish 1000 words entry —eh?*)

## THE LONDON WEEKDAYS (NOT IN DENMARK)

Before reaching Portsmouth, though, plans were afoot to visit to some really Capital and somewhat Canonical museums in the New Capital of Great Britain: as a group of loungers and idlers from the *Klubben* could visit London's *Wallace Collection* (to learn of the SH grandmother), its *Foundling Museum* (the original BS irregulars), and the *Old Operating Theatre* (JHW medical history):

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<sup>5</sup> If we seem to have exceeded the 1000 words limit just ever so slightly, it is only because there was so much to tell of our great, once-in-a-lifetime Jubilee, and we didn't want to leave anything or anyone out! —ed. (who assures that next year's entry will be much shorter).

And this (*from left*) Claus Rosenkilde, Åmund Grimstad, M.S. Lambek, Chr. Monggaard, Lise Kabel, Rie Rosenkilde & M.S. Lagergaard—later joined by P.S. Lauridsen and Siri Olsen—then did:



*Photo by Mia Lagergaard*

A Walk of the Marylebone Mews was expertly led by Catherine Cooke of the *SHSL* (and thanks to her: no Moran in sight, so we did find the Empty House), and a Talk on the Marylebone Residents (Holmes & Doyle) was learnedly given by Andrew Lycett—followed by late-night haunts in bookshops.

After all this culture, we felt we had to pay a visit to the *Langham Hotel* for Afternoon Tea (and pay dearly), some convivial Fish ‘n’ Pints at the *Sherlock Holmes Pub* in Northumberland Street with Calvert Markham & John Blackburn of the *SHSL*, Indian dinner at the good old, new *Criterion* with ourselves; concluding, not at the *Alpha Inn*, but the *Museum Tavern* (which is close enough). All more or less done on foot (the Tube was on strike that week): so the Game was A lot of Feet!

The party then went from London to Portsmouth’s Green—and pleasant—land via Winchester, where Ashley Mayo of the *SHSL* expertly and entertainingly guided us on a tour of the Old Capital of Great Britain: no

Holmesian connection *not* shown (even a hitherto unknown, ancient ancestor of Watson's)! So good was Ashley that he really ought to get an award sometime.

### THE PORTSMOUTH WEEKEND (DITTO)

Friday, September 12 was for meeting the other participants for Drinks, Dinner, and *Shanties* first sung by the local (and very professional) *Portsmouth Shantymen*, later by the (just raucous) Danes!

Saturday, Sept. 13 a more serious visit was arranged to the brilliant Richard Lancelyn Green *Library* (not to be confused with the *Museum*): Talks were by librarians Michael Gunton and Laura Weston (on the *ACD Collection RLG Bequest* and local community work), whilst P.S. Lauridsen found use of his own research ('The Doyles and the Danes'—with slides)! Then all manner of relevant rarities had been put on special display for us: from the UK and (more important) DK: books by several Danish *Klub* Members (at least two), an Inuit *Hound* (*Big Sled Dog Baskervillekut*—in Greenlandic), even a postcard from our founder, A.D. Henriksen! (Another postcard uncannily resembled that shown last year by Chapman, Jones & Davies.) But not Brett's pipe (that must be at the *Museum*).

Gala Night was Roast with all the Trimmings, as we listened to several relevant Talks—especially by M.S. Lagergaard (on our Anniversary!), read the splendid booklet that marked the occasion, and met several prominent Holmesians: apart from our fishing 'n' pinting buddies, Chairman Calvert & Carole Markham, we exchanged words with Mr & Mrs Tom Atkinson (great couple for organizing and getting order!), Jean Upton, Roger Johnson, Honorary Dane Alex Katz, Ashley Mayo, someone claiming

to be Paul Thomas Miller, and many more! (*If we have left someone out, it is probably because all this was possibly followed by several toasts in Big Ben's Powder-Proof Rum —ed. Powder-proof, mind.*)

Sunday, Sept. 14 (not too early), local Matt Wingett expertly guided our City Walk of Portsmouth & Southsea, which (unlike Copenhagen) fortunately feature many Holmesian and Doylean sites: the Masonic Lodge—the new building where once stood the old Bush Villas—the Blue Plaque!

Then, at the brilliant Richard Lancelyn Green *Museum* (not to be confused with the *Library*), we saw displayed not only books but all manner of ephemerae, memorabilia and collectibiliae, incl. a bust (that looked like Cumberbatch, but was Brett), but no pipe (perhaps it was at the *Library* after all)! But still: another great cultural and social gathering resulted in another splendid time being had by all — all of whom are so grateful to all the organizers who made it possible: TAK!<sup>6</sup>



Photos by M.S. Lambek

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<sup>6</sup> See *Ships, Shanties and the Shingle of Southsea* (SHSL 2025), ed. Atkinson; as well as *På tur med Sherlock Holmes Klubben* (SHKDK 2026), ed. Lagergaard, for mere information—some even in Engelsk! Or words to that effect.

## THE GAME IS ABROAD

As this part of the *BSA* entry is still concerned with Sherlockian events relating to the *outside* of the Kingdom of Denmark (excl. Kalaallit Nunaat), this is the place to take the time (and some words) just to go into a few final, illuminating, and extremely significant details of multilateral relevance about what furthermore transpired at our Jubilee—before the world went all awry:

The one *non*-Danish film to be shown at our Sherlockian Movie Night was *Silver Blaze* (1937) starring Arthur Wontner (and thus, Monggaard's opening words were free to spoil *another* Wontner film—not least as to the ultimate fate of Moriarty)! But, no part of the plan, and due to some technical oversight (or the Professor's despicable insight), what came on was an entirely different film altogether, *The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes* (1935): yes, of course—the *very same film spoiled*. (Spoiling something like the death of Moriarty did not spoil the overall enjoyment, it must be said.)



Photos by (L) M.S. Lambek and (R) Mia Lagergaard

Later, at the Anniversary Dinner itself, we must reiterate how proud we were to bestow certificates of *Honorary Membership* to every distinguished

guest from abroad: thus (*from the left*), Eva Igglund having come from Switzerland, Don Hobbs all the way from the US, Peggy Perdue MacFarlane from Canada, Alexander Katz from the US, Mia Stampe Lagergaard (*a Dane already and Presiding over the Bestowing*), and Michael Meer from Switzerland, all became Honorary Danes: VELKOMMEN!

And though the world explode (and these two survive), it is always mighty fine to be part of the everlasting camaraderie; and shall we not all forever be opposed to the disestablishment of the friendly fellowship of Sherlockians all over our little globe?

And that is—in a word—the final word.

(Not quite: we all know that a picture says more than 1000 words, but what about a logo, then? This one is also designed for our 2025 Klub Jubilee by Mark Borello.)



## AUSTRALIA

BY *BILL BARNES*

All reporting for societies in Australia is prepared by Bill Barnes, who serves as the Captain of The Sydney Passengers.

### SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF MELBOURNE

| Date  | Event                                                                                 | Location                      | Details                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6-Apr | Celebration of Sherlock Holmes' birthday & Mrs Hudson's Canonical Cooking Competition | Members' home                 | The dishes for the annual Cooking Competition were based on SPEC.                                                                                               |
| 8-Nov | Annual Dinner                                                                         | The Melbourne Club, Melbourne | Presentations by members on: "Connections Between Dr Watson and Captain Morstan"; "Gold in the Canon"; "The Musgrave Ritual - A Study in Treasure"; and a quiz. |

### SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

| Date   | Event                                     | Location      | Details                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 12-Jan | Sherlock Holmes' Birthday BBQ & SHSWA AGM | Member's home | AGM matters were dealt with efficiently and speedily. The annual "Empty House Shoot" took the form of a quiz then participants had to hit the correct answer's image on the target board. |

## *THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

|        |                                                 |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8-Mar  | Radio play: "The Adventure of the Tolling Bell" | Members' home                   | The cast and crew did a splendid job in bringing this production to life. Special mention of the sound effects.                                                                                                       |
| 17-May | Author talk                                     | Member's home                   | R.J. Williams has written three Victorian mystery novels and gave a thoroughly enjoyable talk on the seedy underbelly of London's East End, theatre life, and international intrigue.                                 |
| 27-Jul | Maiwand Luncheon                                | Mundaring Hotel, Mundaring      | The annual luncheon opened with the traditional resounding gunshot. Dr Watson's experiences at that battle and afterwards were remembered and a retrospective account of the action from a history book was read out. |
| 2-Nov  | Croquet Day                                     | Sorrento Bowling Club, Duncraig | Competition was fierce with every hoop having the importance of a Napoleonic battle. The second match after lunch proved just as combative, and a shoot-off was needed to decide the outcome.                         |
| 14-Dec | The Blue Carbuncle Luncheon                     | Members' home                   | Nothing beats convivial Sherlockian eating and drinking. A great way to end the year!                                                                                                                                 |

## THE SYDNEY PASSENGERS

[www.sherlock-holmes.au](http://www.sherlock-holmes.au)

| Date   | Event                               | Location | Details                                                                                                                           |
|--------|-------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16-Mar | "Sherlock Holmes Close-Up Zoom Act" | Online   | Magician Micah Cover presented his Sherlock Holmes-themed magic show, which he believes is the only one of its type in the world. |

## *THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

|        |                                              |        |                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|----------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 8-Jun  | "Sherlock Holmes and the Baron of Wimbledon" | Online | Orlando Pearson and cast performed his four-person play.                                                                                  |
| 31-Aug | Sherlock Homes Into the Fire                 | Online | Editor/contributor Margie Deck and nine other authors talked about their work in this two-volume collection of stories.                   |
| 7-Dec  | "The Secret Origins of Sherlock Holmes"      | Online | Daniel Friedman expounded on a number of true-life experiences Arthur Conan Doyle used in creating his famous character. A fabulous talk! |

## THE UNSCRUPULOUS RASCALS, THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

<https://adelaiderascals.com>

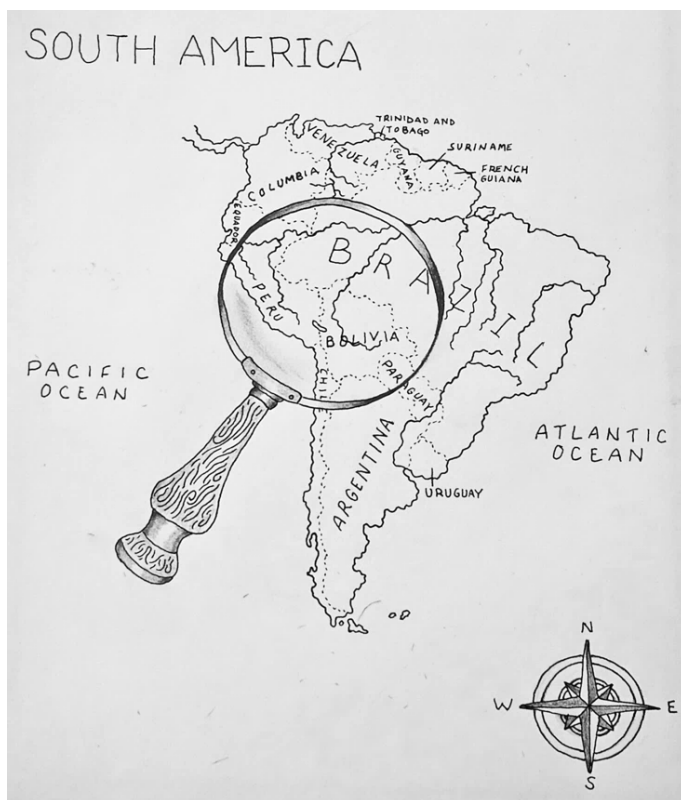
| Date   | Event                                                                     | Location                | Details                                                                                            |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16-Feb | "Shooting Sherlock: A Short History of 125 Years of Holmes in the Movies" | CWA Building, Kent Town | Presentation by member Mark Chellew; and a trivia quiz ("the quiz where everyone's a winner!")     |
| 18-May | "The Camberwell Poison Case: The True Story at Last!"                     | CWA Building, Kent Town | A well-received talk by member Bill Riach.                                                         |
| 17-Aug | "The Strange Death of Mr Buchanan: Adelaide 1839"                         | CWA Building, Kent Town | Take your place on the inquest jury, listen to the evidence, and decide for yourself; plus a quiz. |
| 16-Nov | "A History of the Detective in South Australia"                           | CWA Building, Kent Town | Great talk by Dr Barry Blundell, a retired police officer; and a quiz on SCAN.                     |

# BRAZIL

## THE HEIRS OF MARIA PINTO

BY ROSS DAVIES

Mauricio Stegemann Dieter is in the early stages of planning a Sherlockian society that will be based in Curitiba and will serve Brazilians and their friends everywhere. If you are interested in joining, please email him at [mauricio@dieter.adv.br](mailto:mauricio@dieter.adv.br).



*Drawing by Rooney W. Sullivan*

## CANADA

### THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

BY EDITH POUNDEN

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.

The society's annual Sherlock Holmes birthday dinner was held January 18th at Le Foyer Hongrois. The guest speaker was Jonathan Jarry, a science communicator at McGill University's Office for Science and Society, who presented on the dangers of pseudoscience. Various toasts and other presentations were provided by members.

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.

Discussions continued with respect to our upcoming 50th anniversary colloquium, planned for 2029. A date and title announcement are anticipated early in 2026. The colloquium planning committee consists of Rachel Alkallay, Raf Jans, Anne Millar, Edith Pounden, and Bruno Paul Stenson.

In November, the Pointe-à-Callière Museum of archaeology and history opened an immersive Sherlock Holmes exhibition that may be experienced in English or French, entitled “Sherlock Holmes: Cracking the Case” or “Sherlock Holmes, menez l'enquête”. This travelling exhibition began its life at the Oregon Museum of Science & Industry in 2013, and has made stops in Sydney, Australia and several U.S. cities. Among other highlights, the local iteration features information and keepsakes from Arthur Conan Doyle’s visits to Canada, as well as a portrait of renowned Montreal detective Silas Carpenter, who has been called “the Sherlock Holmes of Quebec.” Members of the Bimetallic Question provided advice and loaned items for the exhibition, which also featured items from the Toronto Reference Library. The exhibition will close March 8, 2026.

The present composition of the Bimetallic Question board is as follows: Anne Millar (Sovereign), Edith Pounden (Shilling), Paul Billette (Florin), Wilfrid de Freitas (Telegraph Operator), Raf Janz (Mrs. Hudson), Vivianne Lewis (Scribe).

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

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

| Sherlock Holmes stories discussed in 2025 |                         |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| February                                  | "Wisteria Lodge"        |
| April                                     | "The Gloria Scott"      |
| June                                      | "A Case of Identity"    |
| August                                    | "The Retired Colourman" |
| October                                   | "The Three Gables"      |
| December                                  | "The Yellow Face"       |

| Works discussed by the Bimetallic Question 'All of Doyle' group in 2025 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Date                                                                    | Works                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Speaker(s)   |
| March                                                                   | A Life in Letters (Ch. 1–5)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |              |
| May                                                                     | Swiss connections: "The Final Problem"; "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax"; "An Alpine Walk" (poem); "An Alpine Pass on 'Ski'" (article); "The Late Sherlock Holmes" (J.M. Barrie parody); "The Resuscitation of Sherlock Holmes" (parody credited to "J.M."); "A Pastoral Horror"; "L'Auberge" (Guy de Maupassant); <i>Winter Palace</i> (Swiss television series) |              |
| July                                                                    | "A Straggler of '15"; The Story of Waterloo (play); Henry Irving's Waterloo (J.D. King)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |
| September                                                               | The Parasite                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Anna Behrens |
| November                                                                | Near-vampire tales: "The Winning Shot"; "Uncle Jeremy's Household"; "The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |



## THE BIMETALLIC QUESTION

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

## THE BOOTMAKERS OF TORONTO

BY CHRIS REDMOND

The Bootmakers of Toronto (the Sherlock Holmes Society of Canada) were active both in person and virtually in 2025, connecting members and friends in the Toronto region, elsewhere in Canada and further afield. Continuing the structure that began during the Covid epidemic, the majority of the society's meetings are held through Zoom, while a few events each year call for in-person participation in Toronto.

During 2025 there were three face-to-face occasions, beginning with a social gathering in the familiar confines of the Duke of Kent pub on June 7. On July 20, Bootmakers paid tribute to their founding mythology as the society met at the Bata Shoe Museum in downtown Toronto for the first time in more than a decade. Barbara Rusch and Donny Zaldin spoke on "Footwear in History and the Sherlockian Canon", and participants were entertained with a radio play. Finally, the Bootmakers gathered at the Toronto Reference Library on December 6 for a full program and the legally required annual general meeting.

Meanwhile, meetings through Zoom were held on January 25 (the Sherlock Holmes Birthday celebration), February 22, April 5, September 6 and October 25. Apart from the January event, still known to some members as "the annual dinner", each of these meetings was focused on one of the sixty canonical stories. By year's end, there was just one story left to be considered before the conclusion of *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, and early in 2026 the Bootmakers will be able to say that they have gone through the entire cycle of stories four times since the society was founded in 1972.

Guest speakers this year have included such prominent Sherlockians and authors as Max Magee, Sara Lodge, Glen Miranker, Scott Monty, Will Walsh, Marina Stajic and John Babu, 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 a song from Karen Gold.

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 48, 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](http://torontobootmakers.com)) and its Facebook page, which at recent count could boast 603 members.

The society continues to have good relations with the Toronto Reference Library and with the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection there. No shoehorns representing the rank of Master Bootmaker were conferred this year.

The December business meeting approved Michael Ranieri to serve as the Bootmakers' president, or Meyers, for yet another year. The year-end report showed that the society has 196 members, a majority of them in Canada but only a minority in the Greater Toronto Area.

The Bootmakers are proud to recognize scion societies across Canada. Currently known or suspected to be active are 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 Sherlock Holmes Society of Stratford-upon-Avon, the Bimetallic Question of Montréal, and the Spence Munros of Halifax.

## THE STORMY PETRELS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

BY 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, Canada.

We meet monthly to discuss one of the stories from the canon and also hold social events. In 2025 we finished off the year with a two-session discussion of *The Valley of Fear*, and before that did stories from *His Last Bow*. Our meetings are usually in person, but during the pandemic we discovered the joys of Zooming and even now we have one or two Zoom meetings a year, at which guests from other Sherlockian societies usually attend.

Our February meeting, forced onto Zoom by a snowstorm, attracted members of the Bimetallic Question of Montreal, and it turned out we were both discussing “Wisteria Lodge” that month, the Bimetallic Question just because they felt like it, but the Stormy Petrels because we go, as far as possible, in strict publication order.

Our discussions in 2025 led us from debates over grammar to a presentation on the arms race with Germany in 1908 (background to “The Bruce-Partington Plans”). Our social outings in 2025 included a visit to longtime member Johnnie Johnston at her delightful estate in South Surrey BC in May, our annual Holmesian birthday brunch in January, and our annual

Master's Luncheon in April. We also held an August movie night and watched the very touching *Mr. Holmes* starring Ian McKellen.

In July we welcomed our Sherlockian friends from afar for a special Zoom session on "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax."

Petrels Take Flight: Our world-travelling member Peter German, late of the RCMP, made a special visit to the Speckled Band of Boston in April to present a paper called "Holmes and the Yard," which won the Speckled Band's Sherlock Holmes Bowl award for best paper, and the paper has since been published in the *Baker Street Journal*.

Petrel President Sheldon Goldfarb twice took online wing to England, first presenting a lecture in the Worldwide Doyle series on "Conan Doyle, Misquoter" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L5UMSKob0yk>) and then making an appearance on the BBC show "World Book Club" to contribute to a discussion on *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, incidentally introducing the Stormy Petrels to a wider audience (<https://www.bbc.com/audio/play/w3ct74s3>).

In 2026 the Petrels will turn to the autumnal glories of *The Case-Book*.

Website: <https://thestormypetrels.com/>

President: Sheldon Goldfarb ("The Priory Schoolmaster")

Email: [sheldongoldfarb@gmail.com](mailto:sheldongoldfarb@gmail.com)

## DENMARK<sup>1</sup>

### THE CIMBRIAN FRIENDS OF BAKER STREET

BY JENS BYSKOV JENSEN

This year marks the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street*, which was founded in 1960. At the Annual Meeting, held on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, in Aalborg, the Cimbrians gathered for a lively celebration. After a good lunch accompanied by beer and aquavit, an excursion was undertaken to places of historical interest in Aalborg and Nørresundby. The excursion ended at Nibe harbor, before returning to the awaiting annual dinner back in Aalborg.

Henry Lauritzen, BSI, who was one of the founding members of the Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street, was a handicapper at the thoroughbred racecourse in Aalborg for many years, as well as a keen Sherlockian, a cigar smoker, Dickensian, cartoonist, etc. Lauritzen instigated the Danish Silver Blaze races at the track in Aalborg in 1963, and in 1976, he instigated yet another race, the Professor Moriarty Memorial. Both races were run in Aalborg for decades. On this day, seven thoroughbred races were run at Aalborg Væddeløbsbane for three-year-olds and older horses. For the third race, there were not six Napoleons but, indeed, one horse named Napoleon with start number two, which came in third.

Marking the founding year of the society, 1960, the Cimbrians enjoyed a musical interlude, delving into the 1960 European tour of the Miles

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<sup>1</sup> For The Sherlock Homes Klubben I Danmark, please see "A Big Year for Big Years", at the front of the *Society Pages*.

Davis Quintet on vinyl. Of particular interest was the fact that the tour began with saxophonist John Coltrane. However, Coltrane quit along the way and was replaced by Sonny Stitt. The change of the quintet's overall sound is remarkable. The Cimbrians investigated recordings from the following concerts: Paris on March 21, Stockholm on March 22, Copenhagen on March 24, Zürich on April 8, Den Haag on April 9 (so far with Coltrane), and then Manchester on September 27, Paris on October 11, and Stockholm on October 11 (with Sonny Stitt).

Ending with the words of the Needle: "Here, though the world explode, these two survive, and it is always eighteen ninety-five."

## FRANCE

### LE CERCLE HOLMÉSIEEN DE PARIS

BY LAURENCE DELOISON

As France experienced a succession of short-lived governments in 2025, *Le Cercle Holmésien de Paris* remained a true “Fixed Point in a Changing Age,” maintaining its monthly meetings, which continue to take place on the second Wednesday of each month at Pub Le Galway, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant. At the end of each meeting, it is our tradition to take a now-famous group selfie. Notre-Dame Cathedral often appears in the background, and in 2025 we were delighted to witness the removal of the scaffolding following its long-awaited restoration.



*Photos by Laurence Deloison*

In January, we celebrated Sherlock Holmes's birthday with a full weekend of activities, including a visit to the Paris Police Museum, a dinner featuring a Sherlockian Secret Santa, and an escape game.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on April 27th and hosted by Hélène Vrot, our very own "Mrs Hudson." Freshly returned from the SHSL India trip, she welcomed us with delicious Indian treats while we discussed the society's future plans. We also watched *Har Har Byomkesh* (2015), an Indian Bengali mystery thriller based on the fictional detective Byomkesh Bakshi, himself inspired by Sherlock Holmes.

In August, our annual summer trip took us to Guernsey and Sark. Although there is no direct connection between Holmes and the Channel Islands, we enjoyed the distinctly British atmosphere and visited Victor Hugo's house, where the writer spent fifteen years in exile between 1855 and 1870.

On October 19th, France was shaken by a spectacular heist at the Louvre. In broad daylight, the priceless Crown Jewels were stolen from the world's most famous museum. This audacious robbery naturally caught our attention. The following weekend, we went to the scene to recreate the event in front of the window used by the thieves, dressed respectively as Sherlock Holmes and Arsène Lupin, the gentleman burglar. The scene quickly attracted the attention of tourists—and a press photographer. In the days that followed, our picture appeared in countless newspapers around the world, as far away as China. There is little doubt that had Sherlock Holmes been on the case, the jewels would already have been recovered. Let us not forget that in "The Final Problem" episode of the Granada television series, Holmes is summoned by

the French government to discreetly investigate the theft of the Mona Lisa—stolen by Moriarty himself!



*The great jewel heist at the Louvre. Photos by Christian Deloison*

## NOTABLE SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN FRANCE IN 2025

### Publications

- In May 2025, *The Sherlock Holmes Canon* was published in the prestigious *Bibliothèque de la Pléiade*. Issued by Gallimard since 1931, this renowned series is devoted to the greatest works of literature, philosophy, and thought, printed on Bible paper and enriched with extensive scholarly notes. This landmark edition establishes a new French reference and is presented as a two-volume boxed set accompanied by a collector's album.
- In December 2025, Cyril Liéron and Benoît Dahan published the third volume of their acclaimed graphic novel series "Inside the Mind of Sherlock Holmes": *Dans la tête de Sherlock Holmes – Le cauchemar du Loch Leathan*.

### Theatre

- *Sherlock Holmes contre Conan Doyle* — by Ophélie Raymond, a psychological duel between Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
- *Sherlock Holmes et le Signe des Quatre* — a family-friendly adaptation of *The Sign of the Four* by Christophe Delort.
- *Sherlock Holmes: le Chien des Baskerville* — An adaptation of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Hugues Duquesne and Olivier Mag.
- *Les Aventuriers de Minuit* — a comic crime play by Julien and Florence Lefebvre in which Conan Doyle investigates alongside Jules Verne.

Festivals & Exhibitions

- *Sherlock Holmes, Harry Dickson et compagnie* — From May 28th to June 14th, 2025, Galerie Barbier in Paris hosted an exhibition devoted to the work of illustrator Jean-Michel Nicollet, known for his crime-fiction cover art for Éditions NéO.
- *Ciné Bulles – Aigues-Mortes* — This cultural festival celebrated Sherlock Holmes on November 15th and 16th, 2025, with an exhibition, film screenings, and a murder-mystery party.

Television

- The second season of the French television series *Mademoiselle Holmes* aired in February 2025 on TF1.

SOCIÉTÉ SHERLOCK HOLMES DE FRANCE (SSHF)

BY THIERRY SAINT-JOANIS

The Société Sherlock Holmes de France (SSHF) continues to thrive as France's premier association for lovers of Sherlock Holmes and the Canon. The year 2025 confirmed the vitality and broadening reach of the club's activities, while strategic initiatives laid the groundwork for an ambitious slate of projects in 2026 — from expanded international presence to enriched digital programming.



### 2025 AT A GLANCE:

#### GROWTH, ENGAGEMENT, AND COMMUNITY

The SSHF closed 2025 with marked increases across its membership and public engagement metrics:

- **Membership and Online Presence:** The SSHF counted approximately 100 regular contributors and donors, with nearly 700 subscribed members on the official website.
- **Social Media Footprint:** The association's Facebook page surpassed 2,700 followers, primarily from France, while its international Facebook group "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" exceeded 9,000 members, drawing participants from the United States, United Kingdom, India, and beyond.

- Emerging Platforms: Despite modest activity on Instagram and X (Twitter), early efforts on YouTube ( $\approx$  400 subscribers) and Twitch (18 subscribers) foreshadow a strengthened digital outreach.

A cornerstone of the SSHF's annual rhythm remained the monthly SSHF Reading Challenge ("Défi Lecture"), in which participants explored a story from the Canon each month. In 2025, this programme deepened appreciation of tales, fostering lively discussion among both seasoned and new members.

Alongside canonical study, the SSHF offered diverse interactive events, including role-playing game sessions (with additional video production planned), regular online gatherings, and festive initiatives such as its popular SSHF Christmas Contest supported by partners like Ankama and Space Cowboys.

## CELEBRATING CANONICAL DISCOURSE AND MEMBER ACHIEVEMENT

At the 2025 Annual General Meeting, the SSHF celebrated exceptional contributions from members who enriched Holmesian scholarship and community life. Awards recognized excellence in canonical analysis, creative writing, visual and digital production, and organizational leadership — highlighting the breadth of engagement within the club.

The SSHF has appointed two new chairmen: Léandre Helbecque and Romain Boucheron, both history professors.

The SSHF also observed with respect and remembrance the passing of distinguished members Marie-Christine Lignon and Philippe Taquet (Professor Challenger), paleontologist and former director of the Paris Museum of Natural History, honoring their legacy in the broader Holmesian family.

**L'ÉQUIPE SSHF**

|                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     |                                                                         |                                                                           |                                                          |
| <b>Thierry</b><br><i>Saint-Joanis</i><br>Président<br>avec un T,<br>rédacteur en chef,<br>webmaster.<br>Journaliste d'investigation. | <b>Jean-Claude</b><br><i>Mornard</i><br>Président<br>avec un D,<br>illustrateur, cinéaste.<br>Professeur à l'Académie royale<br>des beaux-arts de Liège. | <b>Romain</b><br><i>Boucheron</i><br>Chairman,<br>secrétaire-adjoint et<br>réalisateur YouTube/Twitch<br>Professeur d'Histoire et<br>Géographie, musicien. | <b>Léandre</b><br><i>Helbecque</i><br>Chairman,<br>secrétaire et MJ.<br>Professeur d'Histoire et<br>de Géographie.                        |
|                                                   |                                                                       |                                                                         |                                                        |
| <b>Alexis</b><br><i>Barquin</i><br>Secrétaire d'honneur<br>fondateur,<br>doyen.                                                      | <b>Bernard</b><br><i>Oudin</i><br>Vice-président,<br>rédacteur.<br>Ripperlogue,<br>homme de lettres actif,<br>juriste retiré des affaires.               | <b>Thierry</b><br><i>Gilles</i><br>Directeur du<br>Grand dépôt de Paris<br>Homme d'Histoire.                                                               | <b>Jean-Pierre</b><br><i>Cagnat</i><br>Président d'honneur<br>fondateur.<br>Journaliste,<br>dessinateur de presse<br>retiré des affaires. |

## LOOKING AHEAD: SSHF'S 2026 INITIATIVES

Building on the momentum of 2025, the SSHF has unveiled an ambitious programme for 2026 that underscores both tradition and innovation:

### A NEW HOME FOR HOLMES IN PARIS

One of the most anticipated developments is the opening of the Grand Dépôt de Paris de la Franco-Midland — a physical hub in the French capital that will serve as an exhibition space, meeting point, publishing depot, and launch pad for “Sherlock in Paris” tours. This initiative aims to anchor the SSHF more visibly in French cultural life and provide an inviting gateway for visitors and members alike.

### HOLMESIAN SUMMER UNIVERSITY

For the first time, the SSHF will host a summer university in central France to coincide with the 221st day of the year (August 9), drawing enthusiasts to Saint-Sauvier in the Auvergne. Under the working name “*Holmes Sweet Holmes*”, this event will combine symposiums, workshops, exhibitions, and convivial gatherings amid the association’s collections — blending canonical celebration with community building.



## EXPANDING DIGITAL HORIZONS

The SSHF plans to accelerate its digital programming, including regular livestreams, themed debates, and a potential video magazine format. The already-popular online Reading Challenge and gaming sessions will remain cornerstones of the SSHF's remote engagement strategy.

## INTERSTELLAR COLLABORATION AND PUBLISHING VENTURES

In a nod to imaginative scope, the SSHF's 2026 plans include continued development of the USS Conan Doyle NCC-71841 project — an interstellar symbolic collaboration that reflects the society's reach beyond traditional boundaries. Moreover, the SSHF has laid groundwork for a publishing partnership with Edge Studio that will bring new role-playing material into the Holmesian fold.

In summary, on the eve of celebrating its 33rd birthday, 2025 was a year of consolidation and growth for the Société Sherlock Holmes de France, marked by higher engagement across platforms, enriched member programming, and strengthened community bonds. The society enters 2026 with strategic initiatives that broaden its cultural footprint, deepen its digital engagement, and celebrate Holmesian scholarship in France and internationally — a testament to the enduring global appeal of Arthur Conan Doyle's detective.

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## INTERSTELLAR HOMAGE:

### THE USS CONAN DOYLE NCC-71841

Among the most imaginative and symbolic achievements connected to the Société Sherlock Holmes de France in 2025 is a project that quite literally reaches for the stars.

Thanks to the initiative of Philippe Hoyaux, Magali Kaufmann, and Pascal Kovac—members of *Starfleet*, the international association of Star Trek enthusiasts and scholars—a proposal was submitted to create an official Starfleet vessel dedicated to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The idea was inspired by the many references to Sherlock Holmes that appear throughout the Star Trek universe, from Spock's logical admiration of the detective to Data's celebrated holodeck investigations aboard the Enterprise.

After more than a year of formal exchanges, procedural reviews, and collaborative effort within Starfleet's official framework, the project became a

reality. On December 7, 2025, Starfleet formally announced the commissioning of a new vessel: the USS *Conan Doyle* NCC-71841.

In Starfleet tradition, vessels bear the prefix USS (*United States Ship*) and are identified by a registry number. The designation NCC—originally standing for *Naval Construction Contract*—serves as the equivalent of a hull number, while the five digits place the ship within the nomenclature of the prestigious Galaxy-class starships.

As recognition for his role in the project, Philippe Hoyaux was appointed SSHF Ambassador to Starfleet shortly after the official christening. Within the fictional hierarchy of the vessel, he was granted the rank of Lieutenant Commander and assigned the positions of Second Officer—the ship’s scientific officer, a post famously held by Mr. Spock—and Chief Librarian.



The USS *Conan Doyle* is thus officially part of Starfleet: a first not only in Holmesian history, but arguably on an interplanetary scale.

Like the *Enterprise* of the original series, the vessel embarks on a symbolic five-year mission of exploration. As a Galaxy-class heavy cruiser, the ship boasts 42 decks and a crew complement of 1,014 members. It can reach a maximum warp speed of 9.6—approximately nine times the speed of light—for sustained periods of up to twelve hours. Its structure is divided into two separable hulls—the saucer section and the propulsion module—capable of independent operation. Its armament includes photon torpedoes and twelve phaser arrays.

Yet one feature distinguishes the USS *Conan Doyle* from all other ships in the fleet: the complete works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle form part of its onboard library in multiple languages and formats, accompanied by the pastiches of Nicholas Meyer. Literature travels with the crew as essential equipment.

“Space, the final frontier...” now includes, among its symbolic explorers, the memory of Conan Doyle and his creations. Under the banner of the Franco-Midland and the SSHF, the USS *Conan Doyle* advances toward unknown worlds, new life, and new civilizations—carrying Holmesian culture where no Holmesian society has gone before.

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SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A PUBLIC HEALTH CAUSE:  
“THE BOGUS LAUNDRY AFFAIR”

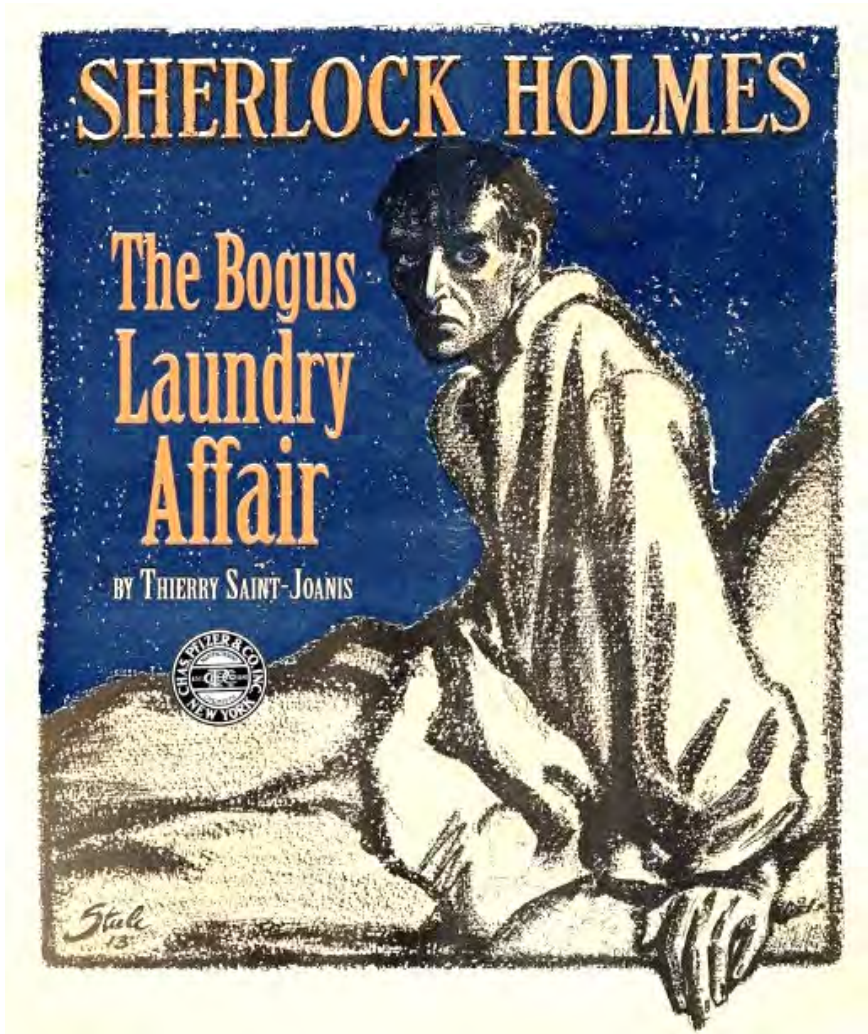
In 2025, an unexpected yet meaningful collaboration brought Sherlock Holmes into the realm of public health awareness. As part of a worldwide campaign aimed at changing perceptions of cancer and encouraging men to seek medical advice and speak openly about their illness, the American pharmaceutical company Pfizer chose to place the Great Detective at the heart of an original narrative.

The result is *The Bogus Laundry Affair*, a pastiche written in the style of Arthur Conan Doyle by Thierry Saint-Joanis, President of the Société Sherlock Holmes de France. In this unusual and moving fiction, Sherlock Holmes is confronted not with a criminal mystery, but with a deeply personal one: his own diagnosis of cancer.

The story uses the familiar voice of the Canon to address a modern and sensitive issue, inviting readers to reflect on vulnerability, courage, and the importance of seeking help—values that resonate as strongly in Baker Street as they do in contemporary life.

Scheduled for release in 2026, the pastiche will be accompanied by a series of Holmesian essays exploring the theme from literary, historical, and cultural perspectives. Among these will be a tribute to Rex Pinson, Jr. (1925–1999), known within the Baker Street Irregulars under the investiture name Inspector G. Lestrade (1973), and formerly Vice President of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals.

Through his initiative, Sherlock Holmes once again proves his capacity to transcend fiction, serving not only as a figure of entertainment and scholarship, but also as a vehicle for awareness and human connection.





**Société Sherlock Holmes de France**  
**WWW.SSHF.COM**

## GERMANY

DEUTSCHE SHERLOCK-HOLMES-GESELLSCHAFT,  
THE GERMAN SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY

*BY MARIA FLEISCHHACK*

### REGULARS'TABLE EVENTS OF THE DSHG IN 2025:

20. September and 16 November 2025 in Stuttgart: DSHG regulars' table  
"Schwabenland" (meeting of local members to socialize and discuss Sherlock  
Holmes related topics)  
31. October 2025 in Dortmund  
09. December: Regulars' table in in St. Pölten, Austria

### ANNUAL DINNER: THE BLUE CARBUNCLE DINNER:

29 November 2025 in Fulda: The Blue Carbuncle Dinner 2025 was held. It is the annual member's dinner. It was held at the MARITIM Hotel by the Schlossgarten in Fulda.

A review of the 2025 members' trip 1 to 5 May 2025 – Meiringen, Switzerland was published on the website of the DSHG: <https://sherlock-holmes-gesellschaft.de/rund-um-die-dshg/back-to-meiringen-2025/>

Visit to the performance and club stand: Sherlock Holmes solves nostalgic "New Cases" in Witten on 8 October 2025 from 8 p.m. at the Saalbau + Haus Witten was reported on here: <https://sherlock-holmes->

gesellschaft.de/veranstaltungen/sherlock-holmes-loest-nostalgische-neue-faelle-in-witten/.

Information about the play: *Sherlock Holmes: The Moriarty Case*

Theatre Baden-Baden

From 17 October 2025 to 1 February 2026, the master detective Sherlock Holmes and his faithful friend Dr John Watson fought for law and order in Baden-Baden!

Cast:

Sherlock Holmes: Max Ruhbaum

Dr Watson: Oliver Jacobs

Professor Moriarty: Sebastian Mirow

Irene Adler: Christina Thiessen

Hilda Klebb: Catharina Kottmeier

Director: Stefan Eberle

Set and costume design: Steven Koop

Fight choreography: Hakan T. Aslan

Dramaturgy: Peter Krauch

The German Sherlock Holmes Society is on Facebook and Instagram:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dtshges>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/dtshges>

Club magazine: *Baker Street Chronicle* (each issue 36-44 pages), published quarterly. Four issues were published in 2025

All information here listed was taken from the website of the German Sherlock Holmes Society and their Facebook Page.

# HUNGARY

## HUNGARIAN SHERLOCK HOLMES COMMUNITY

BY ADRIENN FRAY AND ENIKŐ VARGA

This past year was interesting for the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Community.

In January, Thierry Saint-Joanis, club president of the Société Sherlock Holmes de France, sent us the greeting card of their club on the occasion of the New Year.

Shortly after, our club president, Adrienn Fray received the Tokay Prize, awarded to her by CREE, the Franco-Midland Committee of Twelve Wise Men. Thank you for the honour.



*Photo by Adrienn Fray*

Also in January, Dan Andriacco reached out to us to ask for permission to read out the jokes on our sherlockian-sherlock.com page at the Gaslight Gala in New York. This, too, was a great honour. Soon afterwards, we switched our English page to a more modest version due to technical reasons, therefore the jokes are sadly no longer available.

In May, we held a lecture. Our club member, Dr Sándor Szomor (honorary police colonel, university lecturer in forensic law), talked with Zoltán N. Nagy. He is one of the most famous authors of crime fiction in Hungary, just like Zoltán D. Zajác, whom we hosted in October.



*Photo by Adrienn Fray*

Also in May, a long, several-year-long inheritance dispute ended, at the end of which we received the Sherlockian items of Kossuth Award-winning actor László Tóth Tahi (†2018), the first club president of our club, his club presidency starting in 2010. László appeared in several Hungarian

Sherlock Holmes productions and also dubbed Jeremy Brett in the legendary Granada series in Hungarian. His pipes, magnifying glass, and deerstalker hat, bought in London by his wife, Szilvia Kárászy (†2023), are of great value to us - as is the translation of David Stuart Davies' book *Dancing in the Moonlight: Jeremy Brett - A Celebration* made by a fan, which also includes László's handwritten lines.

In addition to smaller media outlets, larger press organisations also reported on this, such as Blikk, Origo, Nők Lapja, and Kiskegyed. In time, we would like to have a Sherlock Holmes-themed exhibition, where we could display these relics.

In April, we announced that pipe maker Max Bogdan had finished Jeremy Brett's pipe, and that Owen Davies was uploading Jeremy Brett's series to YouTube in 4K. Peter E. Blau thanked us for the news and said that he would share it in the monthly Red Circle newsletter.

In July, BBC producer Elizabeth Duffy contacted us to discuss a Sherlock Holmes program for Radio 4. In September, our question was included in the Sherlock Holmes Special broadcast that featured questions from enthusiastic Sherlockians from all over the world. Harriett Gilbert was joined by Denise Mina, bestselling crime author, and Dr Mark Jones, co-host of *The Doings of Doyle* podcast and editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. The broadcast is available on the BBC website: <https://www.bbc.com/audio/play/w3ct74s3>.

In September, we submitted a stamp theme request to the Hungarian Post Office, in which we proposed that there be a Sherlock Holmes-themed stamp, featuring our famous actor Károly Baumann, who sang Sherlock Hochmec parodies in the 1900s. In our request, we noted that stamps have

already been issued in many places featuring the great detective and that Sherlock Holmes is connected to the post office in many ways: letters sent to 221B Baker Street, the magnifying glass, and the fact that Holmes's investigations often begin with a mysterious letter. Our request was accepted by the Stamp Issue Advisory Committee of the Hungarian Post and will be submitted to the Minister of Culture as a part of the 2027 stamp issue proposals. Whether the Sherlock Holmes stamp succeeds or not, at least we tried. We are glad that the Stamp Issue Advisory Committee of the Hungarian Post recognised the potential in the matter.

September also brought tragic news. Szukits Kiadó, the only publisher of the canon in our country, has ended book distribution as they now specialise in selling comics. In our country, Szukits Kiadó published all of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories three times, in small numbers, and since the last publication in 2016, the Canon has been in short supply. In Hungary, the stories are protected by translators' rights for 70 years, so distributing them, such as uploading them online or reading them out loud in libraries, is not allowed. This is a huge problem, since the Canon is the starting point for getting to know our favourite detective. The Bootmakers of Toronto kindly drew attention to our difficult situation on their Facebook page, for which we are very grateful. Steve Emecz, head of MX Publishing, also offered his assistance. We are considering translating the Canon into Hungarian again, but it would certainly be a heroic job.

Since December 2025, the play *Sherlock Holmes and Moriarty* by Ken Ludwig has been on stage at Thália Theatre in Budapest. We are very happy about this, as unfortunately, very few Sherlock Holmes plays are performed in our country - the last performance being Ken Ludwig's *Baskerville: A Sherlock*

*Holmes Mystery* in Nyíregyháza in 2017. Thália Theatre and an escape room in Budapest organised an online prize draw, in which five winners were offered five tickets each to the Sherlock Holmes-themed escape room and two complimentary tickets to the play. We shared the prize draw, and to our delight, one of the prizes was won by our dear reader, Vivien.

Last but not least, Enikő Varga joined us in 2025, becoming our club's English translator. She not only contributes to our blog (<https://sherlock.blog.hu>), but she also drew our attention to a Hungarian aspect: Zsófia Ekler, as listed on the IMDb page, worked as an art assistant on Season 4 of BBC Sherlock.

Next year, in addition to running the blog and hosting events, we want to continue to develop further. We are also trying to find new venues for our events to reach as many people as possible and looking for the opportunity to give the club a legal form. We hope our plans will succeed, and we wish all Sherlock Holmes societies around the world much success.



## ITALY

### UNO STUDIO IN HOLMES

BY 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 president 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 105 members, spread all over Italy.

## UNO STUDIO IN HOLMES ACTIVITIES IN ITALY 2025

2025 has been a bit of a slack year for our society meetings. We held in January our Annual General Meeting for 2024, a couple of months later than usual, so that we could be part of the Festival “Dalla parte del Giallo” in Sesto Fiorentino, near Florence. On Friday and Saturday, we had a series of conferences in the town library, hosted in the Villa Buondelmonti (1737) also

known as Villa di Doccia, an historical building where Marquess Carlo Ginori founded the famous eponymous porcelain manufacturing company (and where, we surmise, Sherlock Holmes was a guest when he visited Florence in 1891). We had our Social Dinner in a typical Tuscan restaurant and on Sunday morning we were able to meet the cast of the musical *Sherlock Holmes*, of which our Enrico Solito (BSI, “Gennaro Lucca”) is one of the authors. The piece premiered in October 2024 and was sold out in all the cities where it was shown. We were also able to see the final performance of the season in the nearby city of Prato that same evening.

Our Spring Meeting was held in connection with the fourth edition of the “Festival del Giallo” in Naples in June. We were invited as guests in a big convention that gathered crime, mystery, and detective authors both from Italy and from many other European countries. Our space dedicated to Sherlock Holmes was very well received; teenage students from a local high school participated in a quiz competition, challenging each other to answer questions about a couple of Canonical stories, and some of them organized demonstrations of chemical experiments, following in the footsteps of the Master. Experts from the local scientific crime labs of the Italian Police talked about Holmes and his relationship with modern detection methods. We added to the program our presentations about the Camorra in the Canon, Sherlockian collecting, the role of Mycroft Holmes in the stories, and other subjects.

The plans for our Annual General Meeting 2025 hit a snag. We should have held it in autumn, as usual, but a “grotesque series of incidents” (FINA) forced us to cancel it. Therefore, the AGM 2025 will be held in Modena in March 2026.

Members of USIH have also participated in some cultural festivals and meetings not directly organized by us. In July, Enrico Solito and Luca Martinelli talked about Harry Potter and Sherlock Holmes in Prato, Tuscany. In October, in Capri, we were part of the convention “SherloCkapi”, held in two consecutive weekends on the beautiful island in the Gulf of Naples, with an exhibition of pieces from the collection of Gabriele Mazzoni and presentation about various Sherlockian subjects.

Our usually bi-annual review *The Strand Magazine* has not been issued in 2025. We are working to pick up the pace again and no. 47 is due to be published in February 2026.

2025 has been a year of transition for Uno Studio in Holmes. Still, we are making up for lost ground, and we have begun to work on our 40th Anniversary, that we plan to celebrate with a big international meeting in 2027 in Florence, with October being – at the moment – the most probable date.

## SHERLOCK HOLMES IN ITALIAN MEDIA IN 2025

Sherlock Holmes’s name is still in good stead with Italy’s publishing industry. Publisher Mondadori keeps on issuing their monthly “Sherlock” book series of pastiches from both Italian and foreign authors. In 2025 there were books by Margaret Walsh, Richard T. Ryan, Gretchen Altabef, Orlando Peason, and from our USIH members Luca Martinelli and Lucio Nocentini.

There are also several e-books published by Delos Books: at least three different series are dedicated to the Great Master, the most notable one being named “Sherlockiana”. This series as well hosts Sherlockian authors, among them some USIH members.

Last but not least, Delos Books is also the publisher of *Sherlock Magazine*, with a quarterly issue hosting – among others – a column portraying an Italian or foreign Sherlockian, getting the readers acquainted with the Holmesian world.

Sherlock Holmes is often mentioned on Italian TV. A recurring advertising campaign for an online real estate company is still exploiting the characters of Holmes and Watson as testimonials. A popular quiz show (“L’Eredità”) has repeatedly inserted questions about both Holmes and Conan Doyle. We wonder if one of the authors is a Sherlockian in disguise!

The aforementioned musical *Sherlock Holmes*, starring Neri Marcorè, has just ended (February 2026) its second season, with 40 more performances in 16 different cities distributed in the whole Italian territory. The show earned great reviews in both the local and national press and most of the shows were sold out. We don’t know yet if a third season is in the making, but with the success it earned in the first two seasons, a new tournée might be coming.

# JAPAN

## JAPAN SHERLOCK HOLMES CLUB

BY MITCH HIGURASHI<sup>2</sup>

Japan Sherlock Holmes Club (JSHC) will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2027, and preparations for commemorative publications and events began in late 2025. Its annual journal, *The World of Holmes*, also launched a special feature this year looking back over these past 50 years.

### ACTIVITIES OF JAPAN SHERLOCK HOLMES CLUB (JSHC)

Organizer: Akane Higashiyama

The official monthly newsletter, *Baker Street Information*, was published 11 times in 2025 (excluding August), with a circulation of approximately 650 copies. *The World of Holmes* published its 48th issue in December 2025. This year's special feature is a comprehensive history reviewing the winning works and selection process of the "Japan Sherlock Holmes Grand Prize," hosted by JSHC.

The 93rd General Meeting was held on March 30, 2025, in Tokyo (93 participants).

The 2024 Japan Sherlock Holmes Grand Prize was awarded at the meeting.

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

The award-winning works are two titles: *The Worlds of Sherlock Holmes* by Andrew Lycett (translated by Masamichi Higurashi, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha) and *Sherlock Holmes no Gaisen* (*The Triumphant Return of Sherlock Holmes*) by Tomihiko Morimi (published by Chuokoron-shinsha).



*The Grand Prize. Photo by M. Higurashi*

The latter is a Sherlock Holmes parody set in Victorian Kyoto. After suffering a major setback in REDH, Holmes falls into a slump, quarrels with Watson, and locks himself in his room.... The bestselling author himself had been struggling with writer's block, but he made a comeback with this book, selling over 100,000 copies.

Other events at the convention included a lecture titled "Holmes' Clothing and Culture: Lessons from Authentic Costumes" and a treasure hunt game called "Find the Black Pearl of the Borgias! 2025."

The 13th Tokyo Seminar was held on March 29, 2025, in Tokyo (at the same venue as the General Meeting, 66 participants).

Presentations include: "How Have the Holmes Stories Influenced Japanese Science?", "Classical Philology and the Grand Game," and "Report on Attending the 40th Anniversary of Granada TV's Holmes Broadcast: Brettcon".

The 36th Karuizawa Seminar was held on August 30-31, 2025, in Karuizawa Town, Nagano Prefecture (43 participants). Presentations: "Holmes and Persia," "Real-Life Holmes and Criminal Investigations," "Holmes and Shoso-in," "The True Nature of the Speckled Band," "Props in the Holmes Stories: Plants".

The 94th General Meeting was held on October 12, 2025, in Hirosaki city, Aomori prefecture. The convention became a tribute to Dr. Tsukasa Kobayashi, co-founder of JSHC who passed away in 2010, as he was born in Hirosaki city. Presentations included: "Aomori Prefecture and Holmes, Doyle: The Connected People" (Kiyoshi Arai, BSI), "Tsukasa Kobayashi and the Early Days of the Holmes Club: Days Involving the Whole Family" (Akane Higashiyama, JSHC Co-Founder, BSI), and "In Memory of Tsukasa

Kobayashi: Overseas Memories: From Before JSHC's Founding to After His Passing” (Masamichi Higurashi, BSI).

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



94th General Meeting Program. Photo by M. Hirugashi

## SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN 2025 (PRINCIPAL ONES)

### PUBLICATIONS

Japanese edition of *La méthode policière de Sherlock Holmes* by Edmond Locard (translated by Anri Terai, on-demand) Private Edition.

Japanese edition of *Sherlock Holmes' London* by Rose Shepherd (translated by Masamichi Higurashi, Hara-Shobo)

Japanese edition of *The Lost World* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (translated by Masako Komatsuki, KADOKAWA)

### MOVIES, PLAYS & PERFORMANCES

The Nosaka Labo's reading play *Taste of Sound Wave — Reading with Live music Sherlock Holmes 5* was performed in July 2025 in Tokyo. The program included SILV, NORW, MISS.

Theater OM's *The Adventure of Sherlock Holmes: Six Napoleons* (script by Minoru Ohki) was performed in May 2025 in Tokyo.

(Musical) Moriarty the Patriot: Scandal of the British Empire Reprise was performed in May 2025 in Kyoto and Tokyo.

### LECTURES & TALK SHOW

Lecture: "Sherlock Holmes Stories, An In-Depth Look" (#4 and #5) by Masamichi Higurashi at Waseda University Open College, April-May and October-December in Tokyo.

Lecture: "Detectives and Lost Empires: Reimagining Holmes through Japanese Game Narratives" by Mimi Okabe, June in Kyoto.

## UNITED KINGDOM

### THE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY OF LONDON

BY MARK JONES<sup>3</sup>

This review of Sherlockian life in the UK is necessarily partial, being a survey of the activity of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London during 2025. The London Society does not have the scion structure that complements the Baker Street Irregulars in the USA, but that does not mean there is a lack of Sherlockian activity across the nation – from publications such as the *Sherlock Holmes Magazine* and *The Torr* to gatherings formal and informal. The author begs forgiveness from those not represented in this overview and thanks the contributors to the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* whose work he has mercilessly cribbed.

*“But why Turkish?”*

Friends from near and far gathered in the Members' Dining Room at the Palace of Westminster for the Society's 72nd Annual Dinner on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025, generously sponsored by Gareth Bacon MP. Following a convivial drinks reception, Calvert Markham (Chair of the Society) warmly welcomed Honorary Members and international attendees to the dinner, observing that in a world so often divided, it was heartening that the Great Detective continues to unite people across borders. The Chair then presented two awards: Tony Howlett Award to merchandising officer,

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<sup>3</sup>Mark Jones is a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, for whom he is the Commissioning Editor of *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. The contents of this article are curated from material originally presented in *The Sherlock Holmes Journal*. He gratefully acknowledges Amy Buckley, Catherine Cooke, Peter Horrocks, Rakshita Patel, Giles Phillips, Robin Rowles, and Laura Sparks.

Paul Gillings, for service to the society; and Honorary Membership to Roger Johnson in recognition of his long-standing editorship of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* and his exceptional Sherlockian scholarship.

The Society's guest speaker was award-winning journalist and author Andrew Finkel, author of *The Adventure of the Second Wife*, a novel inspired by the fascination of the last great Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid II with the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Finkel recounted his own initial foray into Sherlockian realms before exploring the blurred boundaries between fact and fiction, delving into the possibility of a real-life meeting between Conan Doyle and the Sultan— an event not definitively recorded but rich with narrative potential.

The toast to Dr Watson was given by Mark Jones, the new Commissioning Editor of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*. A resident of York, Jones sought to assuage any potential concerns about the Journal being commissioned so far from London by putting evidence that Sherlock Holmes was himself a Yorkshireman. He also suggested that several well-known quotes from the canon might have originally been uttered in the Yorkshire dialect, and that Watson served not only as dedicated scribe and biographer to the Great Detective, but also as his translator.

*"We travelled by the Underground..."*

The May Weekend provides an opportunity for members to come together around Conan Doyle's birthday. After the formal business of the Annual General Meeting, which was conducted by Markham with merciful efficiency, Jones presented the Tony and Freda Howlett Literary Award, instituted in 2009 by Miki Kawamura, to recognise an outstanding contribution to the literature of Sherlock Holmes written by a member of the

society in the preceding year. The winner was Laurence Pernet for her article ‘Shaving Sherlock: Charles A. Doyle’s Illustrations for *A Study in Scarlet*’ which appeared in the Autumn 2024 issue of the *Baker Street Journal*.

The evening continued with a panel discussion with the team behind the audio drama *Sherlock Holmes Untold*. Three members of Big Finish Productions ([www.bigfinish.com](http://www.bigfinish.com)) – Nick Briggs (Sherlock Holmes), Jonathan Barnes (Writer) and Ken Bentley (Director) – explained the origins of their original audio plays, the process of production and their ambitions for the future. Attendees were delighted to hear an exclusive trailer for their new series, *Sherlock Holmes Untold*, which was launched in October. Over the summer, members of the Society recorded commentary on *Untold* which was included in the *Big Finish Podcast* to accompany the release of the new series.

After a lovely afternoon tea at the British Museum, two groups of eager Underground explorers embarked on the Hidden London tour of Baker Street Station. Led by expert guides, they traced the station's rich 160-year history from the early days of Victorian steam travel to its transformation into a modern bustling transit hub. As members navigated platforms and tunnels, the tour guides unveiled secret areas long closed to the public — original waiting rooms, remnants of tattered posters from bygone eras and passenger corridors adorned with distinctive teal tiles devised by Underground architect Leslie Green.

Also during the weekend, celebrated guide Richard Burnip took members on a walking tour of Victorian London. Starting at the Langham Hotel, the tour proceeded through quiet mews in the footsteps of Holmes and Watson as they hurried across the capital to apprehend Sebastian Moran. With his customary wit and good humour, Burnip brought alive the many

connections between real-life locations and our beloved characters, and was equally adept at including other authors too.

*"In his hand he held a blue cricket-cap..."*

Against the traditional backdrop of West Wycombe Hill and wheeling red kites, the Society once again took on the Gold Bats of the P.G. Wodehouse Society for the annual vintage cricket match on the 21st June 2025. This year saw the second contest for the Grits Trophy. There was much to play for as after nearly a quarter of a century the two societies were at level pegging in terms of wins. Prospects for the Society at first seemed gloomy, as the squad found itself two players down, on account of illness. Fate however took a hand when Team Captain Peter Horrocks found members of the West Wycombe club finishing Sunday morning practice and expertly co-opted father and son Raf Hussain and Hadi Abdul to the team.

There are a number of certainties in the fixture. One is that the Society's wicket keeper, Michael Howarth, will produce a cooked breakfast for all takers. The second is that the team will be offered a whisky stirrup cup by the captain and a third, adhered to since the very first game, is that the P.G. Wodehouse team will bat first. All of these rituals having been addressed the game got under way. Our opponents have always been a solid batting side and on this occasion, they again performed impressively until a very fine spell of bowling by our new recruit Raf Hussein, who ultimately managed to take six wickets with his accurate and effective medium pace. The Society did well to restrict the Gold Bats to a total of just over 200.

In a game where winning often depends on the Gold Bats declaring early enough to get all the Society players out, Horrocks hoped that a rather late declaration would be a saving grace because of our fragile lower order

batting. However, a fine effort was made to reach the target, despite the lack of time. In the end, the Society was frustrated by the clock, falling only relatively short of our target. Result: a draw with the Grits staying with the Gold Bats, who won last year.

*“He was reading in an indolent fashion...”*

Over the summer, the Society launched an online book club to provide opportunities for members often unable to attend events to share their affection and perspectives on the Canon. The Well-Readed League, convened by Amy Buckley, began with *A Study in Scarlet* and has progressed from there as one would expect. The group has a truly international membership, representing many parts of the globe including Ireland, Switzerland, El Salvador, Denmark, Brazil, the USA, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands, France and Japan. As per the usual format, members broke into smaller discussion groups, directed by group leaders who then reported discussion points back to the wider group. The Well-Readed League has been very well received as an inclusive, no-pressure convening, which has to some extent been a victim of its own success, with numbers currently limited and spaces booked out within a day of registrations opening.

*“... the queerest club in London”*

Also new for 2025 was the Reformed Diogenes Club, a series of informal opportunities for Society members to participate in activities, attend events and generally get to know each other better. The Club launched on Saturday 5th April with a visit to Phantom Peak in Canada Water, a fully realised and immersive Wild West Frontier Town, in which Society members were invited to solve the assassination of dog detective Sherlock Bones. The Club's second excursion was to the official *Sherlock* Escape Room in

Shepherd's Bush where teams competed to crack clues and solve puzzles against the clock. Fortunately, two of the three teams completed the challenge with seconds to spare. The third team is still lost, prospects unknown. The final excursion for 2025 was to Hidden City's Moriarty's Game on 27 September. This treasure hunt-style game took members through the streets of London (including some pubs!), in search of Moriarty's safe house. The Society's crack team completed the challenge in just over two hours, with no incorrect answers, clues, or time penalties.

*"...walking the streets of London unchallenged."*

In the 1970s, Charles O. Merriman published a series of Holmes-themed walks in the *Sherlock Holmes Journal*. More than fifty years later, the Society embarked upon a project to update this work, with four of the six walks paced out in 2025. The remaining walks will see the action shift from the City of London to Westminster and Whitehall. Much has changed in the half-century since Merriman published his original walks, yet surprisingly so much remains. The remapping project continues to be a fun collaborative exercise, with participants delighting in similarities and contrasts between the early 1970s and today.

*"the shingle of Southsea"*

The Society's autumn excursion was into the heart of Conan Doyle country, Portsmouth. Members assembled on Friday 12th September at the Royal Maritime Hotel to discover the city, this year in the company of nine doughty members of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark, celebrating their 75th anniversary. The first evening kicked off with a traditional fish and chip supper after which new recruit Ben Evans gave us the naval toast. Evans talked through the various strengths of rum (from strong to semi-lethal), none

of which prepared members for the imbibing that followed. The entertainment peaked with a visit from the Portsmouth shantymen, who regaled members with a series of ditties, including Conan Doyle's poem 'The Old Gray Fox' set to music.

Saturday was spent immersed in the Richard Lancelyn Green collection at Portsmouth library with Laura Weston and her team. The Society experienced the incredible diversity of the R.L.G. bequest, which includes the manuscript of 'The Creeping Man'. Michael Gunton, head archivist, and Weston explained how the collection is used as a critical educational and community resource. Palle Schantz Lauridsen of the Danish Society gave a fascinating paper on Conan Doyle's visits to Scandinavia, covering especially his work to promote the spiritualist cause.

The rest of the day was spent visiting the *Mary Rose*, Henry VIII's doomed flagship raised from the depths of the Solent in 1982. The magnificent museum is as much a testament to modern Tudor technology, as it tells the story not just of the ship and those on board but of its recovery and the decades of painstaking work required to bring it to fruition. In the evening, post-dinner talks included Mia Lagergaard on the anniversary of the Danish Society, while Pankaj Chandak, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, talked fascinatingly about the links between Joseph Lister and Sherlock Holmes.

On the final day, the Society struck out towards Bush villas, where Conan Doyle resided in Southsea, guided by local author Matt Wingett. It was then on to the R.L.G. collection on display at the Portsmouth Museum, with its various eye-catching beauties. Formal proceedings concluded with a last lunch at the hotel, and another tot of rum for the road.

*“... my hated rival upon the Surrey shore”*

After a brief hiatus, the Society returned to the surroundings of the National Liberal Club for the annual Richard Lancelyn Green lecture. The speaker was Professor Sara Lodge from the University of Saint Andrews, noted Victorianist and author of works on Thomas Hood, Edward Lear and, most pertinent to her presentation, Victorian Female Detectives.

Sara revealed how investigation into the 1864 fictional work *The Female Detective and Revelations of a Lady Detective* led her to investigate real-life contemporaries, of whom she discovered many. As she amply demonstrated, she was so successful in her mission that she was effectively able to re-write the early history of the detective force in this country, with female detectives present from the start of the Metropolitan Police's detective force in 1842. Once the Matrimonial Causes Act came into force in 1857, their role in private investigations increased, especially in divorce work as undercover agents.

Sara also explored the rise of the female detective on the late Victorian stage. Presided over by manager Sarah Lane, the Britannia Theatre in Hoxton staged several popular plays featuring female leads cross-dressing as men to catch their 'mark'. As in real life, such trouser roles enabled them to pass successfully in society, and perhaps slightly less realistically, clap the villain in handcuffs at the end.

*“You've not reported to the Bodymaster.”*

On 7th October, members of the Society returned to the Gordon Museum of Pathology at King's College (Guy's Campus) to hear a fascinating lecture given by the Museum's Director William Edwards. This was the Society's third visit to the Museum, which is not open to the public and is

normally accessible only to students and members of the medical profession. This year, Edwards lectured on “What to do with a body through the ages”, taking the problem from several angles, including the method and a historical and geographical survey. As is now our tradition, many of those attending repaired to The George Inn afterwards for a light buffet, drinks, and discussion of what we had learned.

*“... the differences are obvious”*

The Cinema Museum in Kennington was the atmospheric venue for the Society’s film evening on 13th November. Formerly the Lambeth workhouse, one of its former occupants, in 1898, was the young Charlie Chaplin, shortly before he trod the boards as Billy the page. This year, the Society welcomed back host Matthew J. Elliott, who was unable to attend last year’s evening through ill-health. This year’s meeting was themed as ‘Conan Doyle’s World Tour’ and showcased two international productions of markedly different character. The first was *Shekhar Home*, the 2024 Hindi-language *Sherlock* variant produced by BBC Studios India, in which the action is relocated to the small semi-rural town of Lonpur. The second film was a version of ‘The Musgrave Ritual’ from the 2013 Russian series *Sherlok Kholms*, starring Igor Petrenko and Andrei Panin. The film evening continues to expand our horizons and showcase radically different interpretations of the Canon.

## UNITED STATES

### California

#### THE CURIOUS COLLECTORS OF BAKER STREET

*BY JERRY KEGLEY*

The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (CCOBS) founded and presided over by Jerry Kegley, BSI, & Chrys Kegley, BSI, as Tin Boxes/Presidents since its inception in 1990. Traditionally holding four or five events across Los Angeles and its environs with a very irregular “Lost in New York with A Bunch of Sherlockians” meeting in New York, NY, thrown into the mix.

Sherlock Holmes’ 171st birthday was celebrated by the Baker Street Irregulars this past January in New York. Sherlockians from around the globe descended on the Big Apple, to gather with friends old and new, at many of the official, traditional, and ad hoc events held throughout the week, culminating (unless you’re a “Lostie”) with the BSI’s Annual Dinner on Friday, January 17th.

Our Tin Boxes (Chrys and Jerry Kegley) hosted the very irregular “Lost In New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians” dinner on Saturday the 18th at The Playwright in Times Square. This was “Lost’s” 23rd year of adding a nightcap to the weekend’s festivities with wonderful hospitality, good food and grand fun not to mention prizes... prizes... prizes.

Chrys and I would like to thank all the CCOBS members, guests, and friends along with Sherlockians from around the world who joined us at the Playwright for “Lost 2025.” Special thanks to toast presenters, Lyndsay

Faye, (Sherlock Holmes), Rudy Altergott, (Dr. Watson), and Shana Carter, (ACD “The Founder of the Feast”) and to Maria Fleischhack for her reading from the book of Ogden. Thanks also to Tiffany Knight, Aaron Rubin, and Chris Zordan for their help during the event.

The Curious Collectors Of Baker Street celebrated their 34th Anniversary on Saturday, March 8th at the Smoke House in Burbank, CA. Forty-two Collectors gathered to enjoy a program chock full of fun and surprises.

Micah the Magician (Micah Cover) led things off with a display of spirit magic as Sherlock Holmes himself inhabited the body of John Rabe producing mystifyingly brilliant, funny yet elementary deductions.

Tin Boxes Jerry & Chrys Kegley led the assemblage in the traditional reciting of the “Sherlockian Pledge.” Plugs and Dottles followed, and the Take & Trade table was opened with many of the items brought by members changing ownership. The Tin Boxes then welcomed new members Kathryn Wolters and Marco Meneghin to the CCOBS fold with the presentation of the Membership certificate and lapel pin.

The always informative and introspective Sherlockian Show & Tell provided several glimpses into the very special bond people have with the items they collect relating to Mr. Holmes and his world.

Jeff Hart, BSI, was the event’s Guest Speaker and as always delivered an erudite presentation titled, “The Seven Ages of Sherlock Holmes – With some remarks about the cultivation of Watson.”

The quiz was up next. As an homage to the dearly departed Maggie Schpak, BSI, we presented a quiz titled “Did Maggie make this?” The quiz

covered many of the Canon's jewelry related items. Jeff Hart won with John Goodwin second and Elvin Lindholm taking third.

Canonical toasts were delivered throughout the event with John Goodwin raising a glass to Dr. Watson. Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, BSI and her husband Robert in the guise of presenters at an award show, toasted Sherlock Holmes. They also honored the Tin Boxes for their stewardship of the CCOBS with a golden "Sherlock" in true Oscar style. Our newest Baker Street Irregular, Beth Gallego paid tribute to The Founder of the Feast, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

To close out the show, Collector John Rabe took center stage with guitar in hand and sang his "Ballad of Dr. Bell". John wrote and composed this little ditty, and it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5kQKqnj2BM>.

The curtain came down with a reading of the Musgrave Ritual, and we bid a good day to Mr. Holmes with a see you in June.

The Curious Collectors met on the afternoon of Saturday, June 28th to break in a new venue at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse in Woodland Hills, CA. Twenty-seven members, many attired as late Victorian- or Roaring 20's-style gangsters gathered in the spacious banquet room to investigate Mr. Holmes' look into the Red Circle.

The event commenced with the reciting of the Sherlockian Pledge led by the Tin Boxes (Chrys & Jerry Kegley). Plugs and Dottles followed with news and notes of a Sherlockian nature. Of note, John Rabe discussed an initiative to place a copy of Holmes related books in as many neighborhood "little libraries" as possible. This idea was well received, and we hope to get it

off the ground very soon. We then welcomed new member John Christopher into the CCOBS fold.

Sherlockian Show & Tell followed with several interesting, unique, and obscure items brought by members. Anyone wanting to know what an Astrakhan fur coat is, (Milverton wore one) Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves provided the 411. Author Jeri Westerson showed off her crafting skills with a beautiful book-nook she created representing her Holmes-inspired character's London flat sitting room. Speaking of book-nooks, Les Klinger pulled the trigger on the new LEGO 221B Baker Street version. Chrys Kegley then displayed an original one-of-a-kind Sherlockian charm necklace that she inherited from the late Maggie Schpak. The necklace was created by the Mother of the sister-act of fashion known as Rodarte, to thank Maggie for her work on behalf of her daughters. Jerry Kegley brought in his Peter Cushing Sherlock Holmes doll that bore a striking resemblance to a certain Grand Moff.

A Canonical toast was raised to Sherlock Holmes by Meredith Taylor. Les Klinger did double duty by covering Dr. Watson and ACD, "The Founder of the Feast."

A new feature was added to the program "Never has so much been written." With the plethora of scholarship pertaining to Sherlock Holmes dating back to 1912, it dawned on us that many Sherlockians may never have been introduced to the "writings about the writings." We hope to rectify this with an addition to our event programs showcasing Sherlockian scholarship from far and wide. John Rabe read a piece by Dan Dillistone titled "Reading between the lines of the Red Circle."

The quiz on Red Circle written and presented by Tin Box Jerry Kegley proved to be a brain teaser for some but not the winner, Dave Pleger, who had a perfect score. Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves took second and Stephanie Segal was third.

Costume prizes were awarded to Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves and John Christopher. With that, we closed out our first but probably not our last event at BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse.

The Collectors held their annual "BIG" quiz the afternoon of August 30, 2025, in beautiful downtown Burbank. Barragan's Mexican Restaurant was the venue as 35 Collectors gathered to take the challenge. Titled The Return of the Medal Quiz, Tin Boxes Jerry & Chrys Kegley paid homage to the dearly departed Maggie Schpak by dabbling in the creative process to produce unique prize medals in Maggie's indubitable style. From all accounts received they pulled it off with great success.

The event commenced with the traditional reciting of the Sherlockian Pledge and was followed by Marco Meneghin's tribute to Dr. John Watson. Plugs & Dottles came next, where news and notes of Sherlockian nature were covered from all possible perspectives. A highlight outside the quiz came in the form of John Rabe's presentation of his "Holmesless In Aldershot – A Trifling Monograph on the True Origin of the Crooked Man." John handed out handsome presentation copies to all in attendance, and we are happy and proud to report that John's dissertation will appear in a future issue of The Baker Street Journal. Tin Box Chrys Kegley had the unenviable task of following John, but as is her nature she did so admirably with a toast to Mr. Sherlock Holmes. The lunch buffet was served, and everyone geared up for the quiz to come but, before that Aaron Rubin

had us raise a glass to “The Founder of the Feast,” Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Aaron’s toast also informed us of the details surrounding the auction of the remaining three ages of Doyle’s original manuscript of *Crooked Man* held by Sotheby’s in 2023.

The moment had come, as Jeff Hart took center stage to present his quiz on *The Adventure of the Crooked Man*. 24 of the 35 Collectors present took part in the quiz over several rounds of questions. In the end Meredith Taylor emerged victorious, as the magnanimous Joanne Zahorsky Reeves conceded, following Meredith’s exemplary answer to a question. James Stewart took home the third-place medal for his efforts.

The event ended with giveaways, prizes, and the recital of the *Musgrave Ritual*. Goodnight, Mr. Holmes, see you in October.

November 1st found the Collectors gathered to celebrate the return of an old favorite among the events held by the Los Angeles based Scion, A Blackguard’s Halloween Banquet.

For the uninitiated, the Blackguards is a celebration of the villains and villainy found in the Sherlockian Canon done with a twist. The twist in this case is letting out the inner child by staging some Canonically themed games to allow us all to have a few hours of kid style fun.

The more traditional portion of the event kicked off the afternoon with the delivery of the Canonical toasts. Tin Boxes Jerry & Chrys Kegley led the assembly in the reciting of *The Sherlockian Pledge*. Carolyn Richardson’s ode to Dr. Watson. James Stewart had us raise a glass for Mr. Sherlock Holmes and John Rabe took us *Through the Magic Door* with a tribute in recognition of ACD, *The Founder of the Feast*.

Emmy winning makeup artist John Goodwin brought the 171-year-old Sherlock Holmes back to life with his demonstration of techniques used to create spooktacular Hollywood magic with *The Spirit of Sherlock Holmes*.

Following the pizza and pasta feast, it was time to let the games begin. The Tin Boxes dove deep into the CCOBS' games of chance bag to revive five old favorites and added a couple magicians to round out the fun. Bean The Queen (knock the crown off the Queen's head with a brick), Presbury's Monkey Mayhem (Barrel Full of Monkeys), Pin the Wound on Watson, Agra Treasure (guess the gem & coin count in the treasure box), Time Bomb (Hot Potato) and the magic of Micah the Magician (Micah Cover) and Crooked Man Conjuring (Jeff Hart).

Once the dust had settled, winners of the individual games were announced and prizes were awarded. The Best Blackguard (Debbi Converse) was then crowned.

Prizes were also awarded for the Best Sherlockian Themed Halloween costume Male & Female with James Stewart as the Man in Plaid and Meredith Taylor as a Cottingley Faerie taking the wins.

With a few tricks and a whole bunch of treats we bid adieu to another year celebrating the life and times of Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

The Curious Collectors Of Baker Street, The Los Angeles Sherlock Holmes Society can be found online at: <https://ccobs.homesteadcloud.com/> and also on Facebook by searching: Curious Collectors of Baker Street; CCOBS.

Until next time, keep those Holmes fires burning.

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

|                  |                                                         |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| January 18, 2025 | Lost In New York with A Bunch of Sherlockians           |
| March 8, 2025    | The CCOBS Anniversary Dinner                            |
| June 28, 2025    | The Red Circle Event                                    |
| August 30, 2025  | Return of the Medal Quiz – Adventure of the Crooked Man |
| November 1, 2025 | Blackguard's Halloween Banquet                          |

## THE DEERSTALKERS OF MONTEREY BAY

BY *MAXINE RENEKER*

The Deerstalkers of Monterey Bay is a scion society of people interested in Sherlock Holmes, from the Monterey Bay area, i.e., Carmel Valley to Marina, California. We meet monthly, generally in members' homes. We begin our meetings with the reading of Vincent Starrett's poem, "221B". They often end with Asimov's limerick on the story under discussion. To add to our knowledge of Victorian times and understanding of the Canonical references, we often view maps of the geographical area in which the stories are set, and discuss the annotations of Baring-Gould, Klinger, and other Sherlockian commentators. We view photographs from Sherlock Holmes in London, Charles Viney's book of London in the late 1800's, to see the London that Doyle knew. We are happy each month to be sharing Sherlockian fun, scholarship, and humor, to continue the tradition of "playing the game".

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|                   |                                                                                                        |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 21, 2025  | Report of BSI Annual Weekend; Discussion of "Yellow Face"                                              |
| February 11, 2025 | Christopher Morley and his Introduction to the Doubleday Edition; Discussion of "Stock-Broker's Clerk" |
| March 18, 2025    | Discussion of "Gloria Scott;" Crossword puzzle quiz                                                    |

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 29, 2025    | Discussion of “Reigate Squires;” Radio broadcast sponsored by Petri Wine                                                                                                                                   |
| May 27, 2025      | Discussion of “Crooked Man;” Wessex Press CD collection, “Voices from Baker Street.”                                                                                                                       |
| June 27, 2025     | Discussion of “Resident Patient;” Discussion of French artist’s Vernet’s family                                                                                                                            |
| July 17, 2025     | Discussion of “Greek Interpreter;”                                                                                                                                                                         |
| August 5, 2025    | Favorite elements of Starrett’s:”221B”; Discussion of “Naval Treaty”; Podcast with interviews of two of the principal designers of the Lego BookNook                                                       |
| September 9, 2025 | Discussion of “The Final Problem” and viewing of the Granada video version                                                                                                                                 |
| October 14, 2025  | Discussion of Malcolm Noble “Why is it always 1895”; Discussion of <i>Study in Scarlet</i> chapters 1-3; viewed a facsimile copy of <i>Beaton’s Christmas Annual</i>                                       |
| November 18, 2025 | Discussion of <i>Study in Scarlet</i> chapters 4-6                                                                                                                                                         |
| December 15, 2025 | Discussion of <i>Study in Scarlet</i> chapters 7 and part II 1-3; Listened to episode 466 of the podcast, “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere,” “Who Wrote the American Chapters of <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> ” |



## THE KNIGHTS OF THE GNOMON

*BY MARSHA POLLAK*

The Knights of the Gnomon, Redwood City, California Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, began in 1978 after Orval Graves, BSI, taught a course on “Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Today.” The gnomon is the part of the sundial that casts a shadow, and Mr. Graves had a special interest in sundials, which appear several times in the Canon. He and some of the students then petitioned the Baker Street Irregulars for official recognition as a scion. Members meet on the first Monday night of every other month, now usually via Zoom. At each meeting Starrett’s poem, “221B,” is read by the host, a quiz on an assigned story is given with discussion following, a book report is given, and then we end with a show and tell session.

In 2025 the Knights are saddened to report the passing on September 20, 2025, of our last Charter Member, the stalwart of our group, Dr. Richard Rutter, “Dundas.” Dick, who had an immense collection of Sherlockian books and artifacts, immersed himself in all things Sherlock Holmes. He attended seminars and meetings, wrote articles, translated two German Sherlockian novels into English, and traveled to Meiringen with the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. Dick was invested in the BSI in 1983 as Mike Scanlan. To honor Dick, the Knights decided to keep his memory green by renaming the Knights’ “Book Report” as “The Rutter Report.”

New officers elected for 2025 are: Marsha Pollak: Master Caster (who casts the longest shadow); Marc Kaufman: Amanuensis (secretary and reporter); Cade Deverell: Cox & Co. (treasurer); Maxine Reneker: The Hans Sloan of Our Age (archivist).

On January 6, the Knights celebrated the birthday of Sherlock Holmes by continuing the tradition of reading “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle,” with each of us taking our turns. Four of the Knights—Cade Deverell, Marc Kaufman, Marsha Pollak and Maxine Reneker—were able to later attend the BSI birthday dinner in New York.

On March 3, the Old Guaiacum Test for this month was a quiz on the Musgrave Ritual set in the form of a crossword puzzle by Marsha Pollak and won by Maxine Reneker. As with every meeting, discussion followed: Was this the real crown of Charles I? The book report was deferred to the next meeting. We also noted that the current exhibition at the Book Club of California in San Francisco is “Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books” which was formerly at the Grolier Club in New York City.

On May 5, the test by Maxine Reneker was on the Reigate Squires and won by Frank Vargas. The Book Report was given by Marguerite Kaufman on *Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage* by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. The Knights welcomed guest Steve Mason. Updates on the new television series, *Sherlock & Daughter* and on the third movie in the Enola Holmes franchise were given.

On July 7, Maxine Reneker read “221B” with Marguerite Kaufman presenting the quiz on Crooked Man which Maxine won, and a good discussion followed on Colonel Barclay’s regiment. Mentioned was a chapter on the Royal Mallows in *Corporals, Colonels and Commissionaires*, a BSI Press book edited by Michael Quigley and Marsha Pollak. Also discussed was the possibility of opening up the Knights to new people beyond the San Francisco

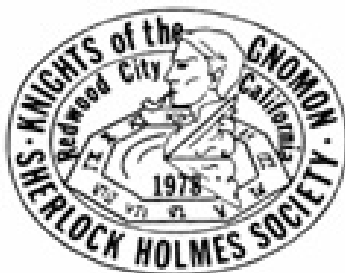
Bay area. Marsha Pollak gave the Book Report on *Enola Holmes and the Elegant Escapade* by Nancy Springer.

On September 2, Amy Buckley recited from memory “221B.” Steve Mason gave us the quiz on Resident Patient with Maxine once more coming in first! Discussion centered on text in CARD used again as the opening of RESI plus Holmes’s deductive ability. Frank Vargas told us about Bonnie MacBird’s book, *Art in the Blood*.

On November 3, the Knights welcomed guests Elaine Lintzenich, Rich Krisciunas, Steve Mason and Jennie Paton to a meeting where the majority of time was devoted to Dick Rutter. Also joining were Joanne Rutter, “Mrs. Dundas,” with her son, Jim Rutter, “Merryweather” of the Knights. Alan Downing dedicated The Old Guaiacum Test on the Greek Interpreter, which was in the form of a crossword, to Dick. Marsha Pollak “stood on the terrace” for Dick and talked about his life. She also gave the first “Rutter Report” on Laurie King’s new book, *Knave of Diamonds*. Joanne and Jim shared stories of Dick and showed some of his Sherlockian collection. Dick is clearly missed.

Contact the Knights at [knightsofthegnomon@gmail.com](mailto:knightsofthegnomon@gmail.com). PDF copies of the Gnomic Gnotes (meeting minutes) are available upon request.

|                   |                                                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| January 6, 2025   | Happy Birthday Sherlock Holmes – on Zoom          |
| March 3, 2025     | “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual” – on Zoom  |
| May 5, 2025       | “The Adventure of the Reigate Squires” – on Zoom  |
| July 7, 2025      | “The Adventure of the Crooked Man” – on Zoom      |
| September 2, 2025 | “The Adventure of the Resident Patient” – on Zoom |
| November 3, 2025  | “The Greek Interpreter” – on Zoom                 |



## THE SCOWRERS AND MOLLY MAGUIRES

*BY MARSHA POLLAK*

The Scowrs 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 Scowrs 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. The Scowrs now meet three times per year, usually on Zoom, with toasts, papers, and frightful puns to close. Zoom meetings are generally recorded.

At our January 26th, 2025, meeting, the Scowrs celebrated Sherlock Holmes's birthday with the annual reading of the poem Happy Birthday, Sherlock Holmes written in 1966 by our former Bodymaster Marilyn MacGregor. Ken Gallegos had the honor this year. After our final rousing toast - "Confusion to the Pinkertons!" - we welcomed our speaker, Marina Stajic, the former Director of Forensic Toxicology of the Office of Chief

Medical Examiner, City of New York. Just like Sherlock Holmes, Marina had to be careful during her career as she dabbled with poisons a good deal and she had a profound knowledge of chemistry. Her topic was “A Highly Poisonous Effect”.

The June 29th meeting found us gathering in-person for lunch at Delancey Street Restaurant, on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. Greetings and the Scowrrers challenge were followed by canonical toasts, including one to Sherlock Holmes given by Michael Kean, “Wiggins” of the BSI. Marsha Pollak gave a report on the Midwest BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies that she attended in Indianapolis, Indiana. Playing off the conference topic, she then continued with a talk on the importance of local scion societies here and what might be done to generate more interest in the Scowrrers.

At the October 26th gathering, the Scowrrers welcomed Evelyn Herzog, The Principal Unprincipled Adventuress of ASH (The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes) as our featured speaker. Evelyn’s topic was “Mere Amateurs”—an appraisal of people in the Canon who really should not have taken up detection as a side hustle. The Scowrrers were also very happy to have Scowrer Ken Gallegos give us an interactive presentation of The Ten Best Sherlock Holmes Performances.

Contact information for the Scowrrers: [McMurdo@Scowrrers.org](mailto:McMurdo@Scowrrers.org). Recordings for the January 26 and October 26 meetings may be requested.

|                  |                                        |
|------------------|----------------------------------------|
| January 26, 2025 | Happy Birthday Sherlock Holmes—on Zoom |
| June 29, 2025    | Summer Meeting In-person               |
| October 26, 2025 | Autumn Meeting—on Zoom                 |



## HOLMES' HOUNDS SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY

*BY LINDA HEIN*

Officers: Gasogene, Beth Barnard; Tantalus, Linda Hein; Commissionaire, Joe Svec.

The Holmes' Hounds Sherlock Holmes Society, founded in January of 2014 by Beth Barnard and Linda Hein, continues its steadfast devotion to the Canon and the convivial spirit of Sherlockian fellowship. Meeting on the first Tuesday of every other month in odd-numbered months ~ save January, when the Society unfailingly assembles on the Sixth to mark Mr. Sherlock Holmes's birthday ~ the Hounds remain an active and engaged Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars.

Membership presently stands at fifty Sherlockians. Each meeting features a canonical discussion, guided by thoughtfully prepared questions submitted by our Wiggins (Andy Rodriguez). Members are encouraged to present their adopted Canonical characters to the Society; upon doing so, they are formally recognized with the Holmes' Hounds Society pin.

For many years, Holmes' Hounds meetings and the annual Holmes' Hunt were held within the Society's former 10,000-square-foot home, a space Baker Street West shared with Hein & Company Bookstore and Hein & Company Estate Sales. Following the relocation of all businesses from that building, both Baker Street West and Holmes' Hounds removed to the historic Old Amador County Courthouse in Jackson, CA, with an adjacent structure christened "Scotland Yard," which now serves as a familiar gathering place while we rebuild a new Baker Street West.

## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

January 6 — Birthday Soirée, Venue: Scotland Yard

Story: "The Problem of Thor Bridge"

Holmes' Hounds gathered in full celebratory spirit to honor Mr. Holmes's birthday. Members attended in costume, shared a potluck repast, and enjoyed cake and festive decorations. Mr. Sherlock Holmes (John Lee) appeared in character and graciously accepted the Society's many accolades. Board members, also in character, offered toasts to those assembled. A lively and erudite discussion of "The Problem of Thor Bridge" followed, with Wiggins' questions ably addressed.

March 4, Venue: The Kennedy Mine

Story: "The Adventure of the Creeping Man"

The Society convened amid the historic surroundings of the Kennedy (Gold) Mine. Updates were shared regarding the Old Historic Courthouse and ongoing fundraising efforts. Discussion of "The Creeping Man" was

thorough and spirited. Elsie Cubitt (Amanda Reis) presented riddles and trivia challenges; winners were rewarded with whimsical flying monkey prizes.

May 6, Venue: Scotland Yard

Story: “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire”

Members toured the Courthouse and reviewed future plans for Baker Street West. Following a potluck, the Society engaged in discussion of “The Sussex Vampire”, with Wiggins' questions prompting thoughtful analysis and debate.

July 1, Venue: The Kennedy Mine

Story: “The Adventure of the Three Garridebs”

Irene Adler (Beth Barnard) provided updates on Courthouse renovations, the forthcoming production of *A Christmas Carol*, and fundraising initiatives. An open forum allowed for questions regarding Baker Street West and Sherlockian endeavors more broadly. The meeting concluded with a detailed discussion of “The Three Garridebs”.

September 2, Venue: The Kennedy Mine

Story: “The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane”

Mary Morstan (Lucy Hackett) presented a concise history of the Metropolitan Police and introduced members to Cockney rhyming slang. Elsie Cubitt and Irene Adler hosted a Sherlock LEGO “Easter Egg” hunt. The Society then turned its attention to *The Lion’s Mane*, engaging Wiggins' questions with customary vigor.

November 4, Venue: Baker Street West, Old Historic Courthouse

Story: “The Adventure of the Illustrious Client”

The Society gathered for the first time within Baker Street West’s new home at the Courthouse. Elsie Cubitt presented a history of Halloween

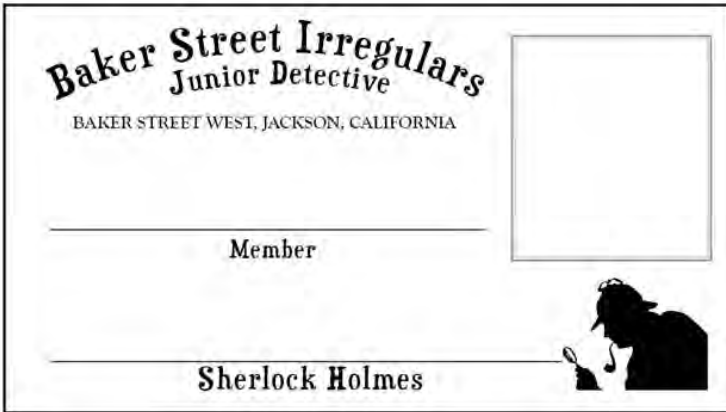
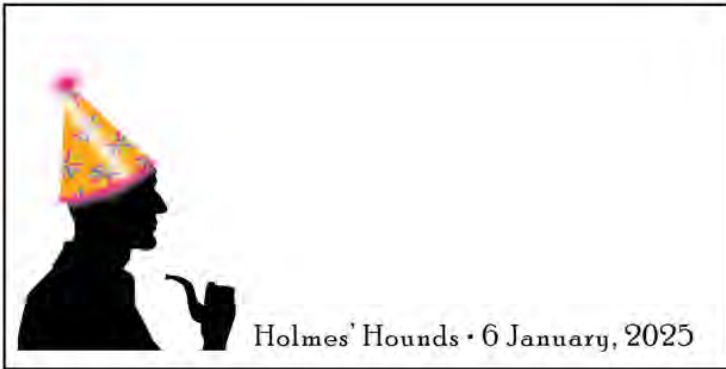
with special emphasis on Victorian traditions. Updates were shared on the production of *A Christmas Carol*. A potluck supper preceded a thoughtful discussion of “The Illustrious Client”.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On April 26, 2025, Holmes’ Hounds participated in the community event Celebrate the Children, hosting a booth dedicated to youthful detectives. Present were Sherlock Holmes (John Lee), Dr. John Watson (Joe Svec), Mary Morstan (Lucy Hackett), Irene Adler (Beth Barnard), and Mycroft Holmes (Brad Barnard). Activities included fingerprinting demonstrations, the distribution of Junior Baker Street Irregulars membership cards, and Sherlock Holmes coloring books.

Holmes’ Hounds continue to uphold the traditions of the Canon while fostering fellowship, scholarship, and community engagement. The Society looks forward to future gatherings, continued collaboration with Baker Street West, and many more spirited discussions in the years to come.

For further information, please contact Mrs. Hudson at [info@bakerstreetwest.com](mailto:info@bakerstreetwest.com).



## Colorado

### DR. WATSON'S NEGLECTED PATIENTS

BY *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 Patients 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 Schwertz (Intern), Kathleen O’Leary (Intern) and Hilleary Waters (Intern). Dr. Watson’s Neglected Patients meets for events throughout the year.

The group started 2025 with its annual Sherlock Holmes Birthday Dinner which was held at the historic Denver Women’s Press Club on January 25<sup>th</sup>. This dinner was the 50<sup>th</sup> for DWNP, and all dinner attendees received a special 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Doctor Watson’s Neglected Patients anniversary coin designed by Jeff Fladung and Brian Belanger. At the dinner, Mr. Fladung gave a talk on Sherlock Holmes and Scouting. The annual Brick Award for winning the evening’s Sherlock Holmes Canonical quiz went to Derrick Belanger.

In October, the group had its first Colorado SPODE outing. SPODE is a Sherlock Holmes organization which stands for Sherlockians Preventing Oysters from Destroying the Earth.

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. This year, the group read and discussed the last few stories in *The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* starting with “The Problem of Thor Bridge”. They also read *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of the Four*, and then began reading *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The final story for 2025 was “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”.

Doctor Watson’s Neglected Patients is planning more events for 2026 including theatre outings and the return of our annual spring tea.

## Connecticut

### THE CHESHIRE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY

BY ANDREW TRANQUILLI & DIANE CALABRO

The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society was founded in February 2016. It has held over 100 meetings in ten years. After Zooming meetings in the pandemic, we continue to Zoom meetings to out-of-state members including our veteran Sherlockian, Rosemary Purdy, in Florida. We hold monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month. We have discussed the entire Canon as well as the Apocrypha, *The Lost World*, Doyle's horror stories, and Doyle's Captain Sharkey pirate stories. After discussions we individually rate each reading with one to five "Smoking Pipes" for excellence. Founder Andy Tranquilli has curated a new Sherlock Holmes film series beginning in January of 2026 with Basil Rathbone's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. An introduction to the context of the film and a post viewing discussion followed. The initial experiment drew 20 people on a Friday afternoon with surprising comments and comments from non-Sherlockians.

During Andy's Florida hiatus, Danna Mancini led the February meeting. He discussed who was the vilest Sherlockian villain, which was your favorite story, and which was the most unique plot.

Our discussions of Daniel Stashower's *Teller of Tales* included talks on writing biographies, spiritualism, and the Warren ghost hunters. Andy gave a presentation on "Connections, Comparisons, and Parallels in the Lives of Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Sherlock Holmes and Tarzan". Andy presented, "Why do we read the Baker Street Journal?" Andy

also presented “The Illustrations of NAVA: Illustrating and the Art of the Story”. Members wore masks to the October Halloween meeting.

Andy presented a Great Hiatus theory in which Sherlock visited New Jersey where he renewed his affair with Irene Adler and discovered his unknown son, Sherrinford. Sherlock trained the young Sherrinford in the detective arts and baritsu. The young Holmes went on to a long career after founding a detective agency and later hiring his sister, Persephone, to join him. While in America, Holmes helped to investigate the H. H. Holmes serial killer and studied the mafia in Chicago. He also met Robert Louis Stevenson and his wife in the American West. Later, inspired by Sir Richard Burton, Sherlock entered Mecca in disguise.

Andy presented “The Meanings of Masks and Disguises Across Cultures and Time: Victorian masquerades, theatre, and the Disguises of Sherlock Holmes” at the October Halloween meeting. Inspired by the Doyle story, “Selecting a Ghost: The Ghosts of Goresthorne Grange),” Dr. Wilbur Moore, the ghostly previous owner of The Cheshire Senior Center house, applied in astral person to be our resident ghost for another year.

Diane Calabro, “The Historian of that Bunch,” created a graphic page for our town’s celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. I think the cartooned page may serve as a model for other town groups.

I would like to thank our Sherlockians for ten years of listening to my mad theories and rants. I have the most sincere gratitude for their continuous contributions to our scion and especially for their personal friendship. The Game is afoot!

## *THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 12, 2025   | Sherlock Holmes Birthday Party at Victorian House<br>Diane Calabro gives a toast to Sherlock Holmes.                                                                                     |
| February 20, 2025  | Danna Mancini leads a general Canon meeting.                                                                                                                                             |
| March 20, 2025     | Meeting, "The Resident Patient"                                                                                                                                                          |
| April 17, 2025     | Pastiche meeting and discussion of:<br>"Adventure of the Amateur Mendicant Society"-Betancourt<br>"Incident of the Impecunious Chevalier"-Lupoff<br>"The Stagecoach Detective"-Robertson |
| May 15, 2025       | Discussion, Part One, <i>Teller of Tales</i> -Stashower                                                                                                                                  |
| June 26, 2025      | Discussion, Part Two, <i>Teller of Tales</i> -Stashower                                                                                                                                  |
| July 17, 2025      | Meeting, "The Greek Interpreter"                                                                                                                                                         |
| August 21, 2025    | Meeting, "The Naval Treaty," Discussion led by Deb Terrell, Deana Todd, and Janet Sudol                                                                                                  |
| September 18, 2025 | Meeting, "The Final Problem"                                                                                                                                                             |
| October 16, 2025   | History of Masks and Disguises<br>Great Hiatus Theories                                                                                                                                  |
| November 20, 2025  | Meeting, The Hound of the Baskervilles                                                                                                                                                   |
| December 18, 2025  | Meeting, "The Empty House"                                                                                                                                                               |



CELEBRATING  
10 YEARS IN 2026



## THE CHESHIRE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY



THE CHESHIRE SHERLOCK HOLMES SOCIETY  
WAS FOUNDED IN 2016 FOR FANS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES.

WE ARE AN OFFICIAL SCION  
OF THE BAKER STREET  
IRREGULARS AND  
HAVE MET MONTHLY  
OVER 100 TIMES.

COME WATSON!  
THE GAME IS  
AFOOT!

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS FOR  
THEIR CAMARADERIE AND FRIENDSHIP.

FOR INFORMATION ON THE CSHS,  
CONTACT  
TRANQUILLI@HOTMAIL.COM



THE WORLD IS  
FULL OF OBVIOUS  
THINGS WHICH  
NOBODY BY ANY  
CHANCE EVER  
OBSERVES.



YOU MUST STAND  
CLEAR, MR HOLMES,  
OR BE TRODDEN  
UNDERFOOT.

MORIARTY  
BY  
Anthony  
Horowitz



Graphic design by Diane Calabro ✂ Text & editing by Andy Tranquilli

## THE MEN ON THE TOR

*BY GREG DARAK*

The Men on the Tor's year started out on a sad note. Harold (Tyke) Niver, who founded the group along with his wife Theodora (Teddie) back in 1977, passed away on March 17 at age 85. Besides running the scion for over 30 years, he and Teddie appeared every Sunday at Gillette Castle State Park, the home of William Gillette, greeting visitors as Gillette and his wife Helen. He will be missed.

On May 18, 2025, twenty-nine people gathered at Filomena's Restaurant in Waterford, CT, for a joint meeting of The Men on the Tor and The Cornish Horrors. The lead speaker was Burt Wolder, who gave an illustrated lecture on Frederic Dorr Steele, the leading American illustrator of the Holmes stories. Shorter papers were read by Danna Mancini, on Holmes and new technologies, and Mike Berdan, on how Conan Doyle effectively restarted the Holmes franchise with "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder", the story of the evening. Toasts were given by Bob Stek (to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle), Jennifer Casasanto (to Jonas Oldacre), Mike Berdan (to Popes Leo XIII and Leo XIV), and Ira Brad Matetsky (to The Director of Public Prosecutions).

We continued the giveaway of the items from the late Charlie Adams's collection, generously donated by his widow Carol and son Chris. People were allowed to take their pick of books, pictures, games, and BSI memorabilia based on their scores on the quiz. The top scorers were Larry Stone, Jose Rodriguez, and Ira Brad Matetsky. Attendees were also allowed their choice of a number of Holmesian books donated by Bob Madison.

After celebrating Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 166th birthday with a cake frosted with his likeness, there was a game created by Vickie Wittman, where players had to identify Canonical stories from four brief clues. The winners were Greg Darak, James O'Leary, and Ira Brad Matetsky.

Harold (Tyke) Niver had written a light-hearted eulogy for himself to be read at his funeral, in effect taking a friendly leave of the people he had known. Teddie Niver read it at the meeting, leaving attendees with warm memories of the group's co-founder.

The meeting closed with Teddie's reading of Vincent Starrett's "221B".

The Men on the Tor met again on November 2, 2025, when 26 people gathered at The Twisted Vine Restaurant in Derby, CT, to commemorate the 135th anniversary of Holmes's solving of the mystery of "The Red-Headed League". The Twisted Vine was a fitting place for this meeting, as the building was originally built as a bank in the 1890s, and we ate with the original, still-existing bank vault open at the side of the room.

The lead paper was "Solving the Problems of 'The Red-Headed League'" by Greg Darak (the paper was later published in the Winter BSJ). Toasts were given by Bob Madison (to "The Red-Headed League"), Anna Behrens (to Arthur Conan Doyle) and Mike Berdan (to Jabez Wilson).

The quiz on the story of the evening was won by Bob Madison, Jose Rodriguez, and Anna Behrens. The top ten scorers got first pick at the items in the final giveaway of items from Charlie Adams's collection, following which everyone was allowed to take what they wanted of what was left. Many Tor members are very grateful to Carol and Chris Adams for their generosity.

Teddie Niver then gave a sample of her new solo performance of “An Evening with Helen Gillette”, telling some of her memories of her life with her husband, William Gillette.

PJ Sullivan was awarded the Tor investiture of “Our Sitting-Room in Baker Street”, a fitting title as she has constructed her own recreation of the sitting-room at 221B in her home.

We then all played another game by Vickie Wittman, a Sherlockian version of the Connections game, with first prize going to Greg Darak, and second prize to Sandy Carles.

The meeting, and The Men on the Tor’s year, was closed by Vickie Wittman reading “221B”.

## Hawaii

### THE SHAKA SHERLOCKIANS

*BY DR. 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 2nd Saturday of February, May, August, and November. Previous Hawaiian scion 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.)

Our inaugural meeting took place in November 2020 and featured Peter Blau, BSI (Black Peter) as the initial guest speaker. 2025 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 2025 guest speakers were consistently top drawer and extremely well-received. (NB: Videos of meetings are available online at [www.shakasherlockian.com](http://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. 2025 winners include Edith Pouden, Shana Carter, and Steve Mason. Final comments and announcements were presented and each meeting ended with a traditional video reading of Vincent Starrett's timeless "221B" poem or special video. 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 BSI Irregular Scion Society and are dedicated to “keeping green” the memory of Sherlock Holmes.

|                  |                                                |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| February 8, 2025 | Zoom Meeting featuring Ross Davies, BSI        |
| May 10, 2025     | Zoom Meeting featuring Nicholas Meyer, BSI     |
| August 9, 2025   | Zoom Meeting featuring Timothy J. Johnson, BSI |
| November 8, 2025 | Zoom Meeting featuring Daniel Stashower, BSI   |

## Illinois

### THE BEE-SPECKLED BAND

BY BRENDA ROSSINI

The BeeSpeckled Band is a scion society founded by the late, great Professor Ely Liebow, author of *Dr. Joe Bell: Model for Sherlock Holmes*. Prof. Liebow’s book sourced the 2001 BBC crime drama, *Murder Rooms: Mysteries of the Real Sherlock Holmes*, in which Ian Richardson played the title character, Dr. Joe Bell.

For over 15 years, our group has been led by the genial, much-published author, Ron Levitsky. We meet at the Highwood (IL) Public Library every second month, the first Tuesday evening, from 6:15 p.m. to 7:45. We meet beforehand, at 5 p.m., for dinner at Washington Gardens, around the corner from the library.

Our numbers vary between ten to 15 introspective Sherlockians. At each meeting, we’re led in Canonical discussion by a member who provides questions for the topic Adventure. Unexpectedly, this year a long-time

member, Allen Cohen, Crossed the Bar. His absence has been most keenly felt. For our annual holiday event, he never failed to bring his homemade, spiked eggnog. His devotion to the group and to the Canon was peerless.

This February 2026, “The Adventure of the Copper Beeches” was discussed with a side of “Dark and Stormy Cookies” baked by the Stormy Petrel. In a village a few miles from Highwood, copper beeches were planted beside the Lake Michigan shore – a commemorative gift by a son to his (Sherlockian?) mother. Also discussed were the literary contributions to Sherlockiana by Monsignor Ronald Knox and Vincent Starrett, the latter enjoying a revival with an Oct. 2026 Chicagoland conference in his honor.

Our Holiday gathering in December 2025 brought a surfeit of holiday treats and a discussion of “The Beryl Coronet” led by our forensic accounting professor-member.

In October, our group’s nobility shone in a discussion of “The Noble Bachelor.” Was this the only investigation during which Holmes offered Inspector Lestrade a cigar and a drink—a noble gesture.

In August, the discussion of “The Engineer’s Thumb” was enlivened with distribution of bloody thumb thumbtacks. Dr. Franklin Saksena led with meticulous engineering statistics and medical ephemera. Can you imagine the hole left in Victor Hatherley’s thumbless hand and, despite the wound, how he could dash about, taking trains, paying his fare, hallucinating from blood loss until finally coming to rest on Holmes’ sofa? That evening, we also held a raffle in which the lucky pick won a lemongrass candle in a ceramic pot painted with our logo, a green/yellow Speckled Band.

In May, we tackled “The Adventure of the Speckled Band,” the origination of our scion handle, and March (December delay attributable to

Chicago-area snow and cold) saw our annual reflection upon “The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle” and Holmes’ masterful application of the pardon power.

If any scion society is wholly intellectual, verbal, witty, charming, and incisive – walking the walk and talking the talk of the Great Detective – the BeeSpeckled Band is it. We even gather 'round a fireplace at the Highwood Public Library.

For more information, please contact Brenda Rossini, the Stormy Petrel, [agrrtig@aol.com](mailto:agrrtig@aol.com).

## THE CHESTER BASKERVILLE SOCIETY

BY MICHAEL MCCLURE

The Chester Baskerville Society (CBS) marked its 38th anniversary in 2025. Founded by Michael W. and Susan McClure, the society held its inaugural meeting at their home, Baskerville Hall in Chester, Illinois, on October 19, 1988. Just two days later, *Without a Clue* premiered in theaters, inspiring Michael (known within the group as Lord Baskerville) to reach out to the film’s stars. Sir Michael Caine (Sherlock) and Sir Ben Kingsley (Watson) graciously accepted honorary memberships, and the society later acquired the deerstalker used in the movie’s production, a prized addition to its museum.

Over the years, many other Sherlockian actors joined the ranks. Jeremy Brett would occasionally telephone during meetings to offer his warm regards. Peter Cushing, OBE, became an especially kind and active member,

even illustrating a full-color logo for the scion. Before his generous contribution, the society used a Sherlock-themed Popeye design licensed by King Features Syndicate. Chester, Illinois, is the home of Popeye the Sailorman. His creator, Elzie C. Segar was born and raised there, and subsequently patterned many of his cartoon characters after his real-life neighbors, including Frank “Rocky” Fiegel, the inspiration for Popeye.

The society’s flagship journal, *The Devonshire Chronicle*, presented its research, including multiple full tours through the Canon, to members near and far. In 1989, the group launched a children’s magazine, *Holmes for the Holidays* (HforH), which quickly grew in international popularity well before the internet was available to the public. A companion sub-scion, Cartwright’s Companions, soon followed, created to spark the imaginations of the society’s youngest members and, through the magazine, children around the world. With the help of gifted artists and writers, HforH reached countless young readers, and many who were simply young at heart. A glowing review in the February 1991 issue of *Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine* sent subscriptions soaring, and through 2025, The Beacon Society was inspired by selected HforH features while producing its online publication, Sherlock’s Spotlight.

The CBS strives to meet irregularly, along with any other opportunity to celebrate Conan Doyle’s great detective. Its activities have included placing Sherlockian floats in regional parades, presenting lectures to community groups, and, in 2019, erecting the world’s first full-size granite tribute to Sherlock Holmes, the first permanent public Sherlock statue on the continent. Although Covid immediately slowed tourism in 2020, since 2023 thousands of visitors annually travel once again to see Sherlock and his monumental companions. The Popeye and Friends Character Trail was created and is

coordinated by Michael to foster tourism and education concerning Chester's unique claim to fame.

The Illinois House of Representatives officially recognized this collection of statues' cultural impact upon the region by passing House Resolution No. 497, commending the Popeye & Friends Character Trail (which included the Sherlock tribute) and the contributions of both Michael W. McClure and Sherlock Holmes. In the summer of 2021, Luis Guillermo Solís, former president of Costa Rica, visited Chester specifically to view the monuments, following in the footsteps of tourists from all 50 states and 96 countries.

Michael continues conversations with fellow Sherlockians about forming a new scion devoted to kilt wearers and enthusiasts of Scottish culture. He proposed the name, The Glorious Scots, which was met with overwhelming enthusiasm. More information will be shared as plans develop. Michael (Stimson & Company–1992 BSI) and other CBS members have continued to “travel” the world virtually, attending scion and national gatherings across the globe. Michael also formed Stimson & Company as a B.S.I. scion in 1990.

Our tabletop game, *The Original Sherlock Holmes and His Baker Street Irregulars*, an engaging card drafting game created by Michael and his son, Michael W. McClure II, has enjoyed remarkable success since its 2020 release, with strong sales in 41 countries. The Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., coordinated by the late Jon Lellenberg, BSI, granted the Michaels a full license to use all of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works (characters, plots, settings, and other literary creations) in the development and marketing of their products. We are grateful for CDEL's confidence in our work and are exploring new avenues to

further honor Conan Doyle's genius. Games continue to sell through our society website at [www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi](http://www.baskervilleproductions.com/shbsi), and five countries are currently considering reprinting the game in their own languages. In 2025 we attended several major gaming conventions—including GenCon, Geekway, DieCon, Archon, and Wicked Fest, where our Sherlock Holmes game enjoyed brisk and enthusiastic sales. The detective's appeal clearly spans every generation.

During the cruise season, Chester's port on the Mississippi River welcomes numerous paddlewheel boats and excursion vessels. Michael regularly leads busloads of visitors through Chester, highlighting the 29 statues he has erected over the past decades. The Sherlock Holmes statue is always a favorite, giving him the perfect opportunity to share the virtues of our Grand Game.

Our current tabletop game is richly themed in the world of Magic—yet our favorite detective makes an appearance there as well. The game pays tribute to the master magicians of the last two centuries, the legendary magi of the past two millennia, and the mythic (godly) roots of the Art. At the end of play, participants unlock an extensive collection of magic tutorials, including several Sherlock Holmes-themed effects. These routines are ideal for scion gatherings or can be combined to create a full public performance. *Masters to Mythics: Behind the Magic* was launched in a Kickstarter campaign, which concluded in June 2025, and is now available to the public. Additional Sherlockian packet tricks (small collections of magic tricks) will also be offered for purchase in 2026. Michael was invited to compete in the FISM: World Championship of Magic in 2025 and submitted an act that featured Sherlock Holmes solving a case with the help of a spectator. He was one of

only 140 acts to be selected for the competition and wound up garnering the 12th most public views. Sherlock Holmes is often accused of being a magician, and public is still mysteriously drawn to the Master. The game may be previewed at: <https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/masterstomythics>.



*Photo by Michael McClure*



## THE CRITERION BAR

*BY RUTH GOEHMAN*

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. All in-person attendees go home with something Sherlockian. In 2024 we had a mix of interesting programs.

January 11, 2025. At a Zoom only meeting, Donny Zaldin, leading member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, spoke from Canada, on “The Agony Column in Victorian Culture and in the Sherlockian Canon.” Donny traced the origins of the “Agony Column” from answers to readers’ personal questions to a means of conveying private information, which Holmes used to “lift the lid off London.” (IDEN)

March 15, 2025. At an in-person lunch meeting, Dr. Elzbieta Foeller-Pituch, Northwestern University professor of literature, spoke on “Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire”. Dr. Foeller-Pituch gave an overview of the British Empire and how the views of it by the British people played out in the Canon.

May 17, 2025. At an in-person lunch meeting, Dr. Maureen Mascha, professor of Accounting at Purdue University Northwest, presented “The Financial Life of Sherlock Holmes” Dr. Mascha examined actual criminal cases from the archives of the Old Bailey to find the cases that Holmes might have consulted to account for his rise from an amateur in 1879 to the most celebrated detective in 1886.

October 25, 2025. At an in-person lunch meeting, Abir Mukherjee, an award-winning Anglo-Indian author, spoke to us by Zoom from London. Mr. Mukherjee spoke on “Time, Place and Committing Murder to Scratch an Itch,” in which he outlined his journey as an author, and what influenced his choice of subject, people and place of his novels.

The Cri Bar Crier, newsletter of the Criterion Bar Association, is published four times a year and sent by e-mail to members and any interested Sherlockians 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](mailto:franklin.saksena@gmail.com).

## THE SCOTLAND YARDERS

*BY JANICE L. WEINER*

The Scotland Yarders was founded in 1988. 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, the Winnetka Public Library in Winnetka, a northern suburb of Chicago. 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 started meeting at Scotland Yard Books (in Winnetka), 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 talks/presentations on 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 them for some time. We have short discussion of the stories and, if there isn't any version of the story we can watch, we will watch a video of some event that happened during the time of the story. For example, we have watched videos about the Statue of Liberty, Krakatoa, and the Johnston Flood. 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 book dealer, at Scotland Yard Books.

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

January 2025: The meeting was canceled due to a number of members not being able to attend.

March 20, 2025: We discussed "The Blue Carbuncle". We also watched the Jeremy Brett video of the story.

May 21, 2025: We discussed "The Speckled Band". We watched the video of the story from the Granada Brett series. The Commissioner discussed the eruption of Krakatoa and recommended the book on the eruption by Simon Winchester. She also recommended the PBS video on the event.

September 16, 2025: We discussed “The Engineer’s Thumb”. We watched the version of the story from the series *Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century*.

November 8, 2025: We had our holiday party luncheon. The program was a violin concert of music related to Holmes (the Granada theme) or related to the period when he lived.

## THE TORISTS INTERNATIONAL SS

*BY JONATHAN SHIMBERG AND LINDA CROHN*

2025 saw our society continue on its path to growth. We held our four meetings and, in the meantime, started planning for our upcoming conference honoring Vincent Starrett. More about that later.

At our March meeting we celebrated our 38th birthday with toasts about our history. We heard a presentation by David Harnois (BSI, James Bowwell) on his creation of an ongoing podcast series of audio dramatizations of the Canon. As a door prize we gave away a spot to act in one of David’s podcasts to a new member, Karen Klancir.

In June a gathering of 50 Sherlockians heard Erica Fair talk about “Bad Medicine: Dangerous Doctors and Toxic Treatments in Watson’s World”. It was a fascinating look at the world of Victorian medicine and its practices. The following day we continued our historic celebration of the Chicago Silver Blaze race with the Watsonians, for the 66th running of the race. We hope to be able to continue that tradition as time marches on.

Our September meeting featured Scott Monty (BSI, Corporal Henry Wood) and his leading us through Sherlock Holmes, discussing Holmes in the past, present and future. A good time was had by all as we also shared a birthday cake in honor of Dr. Watson's birthday, celebrated by our scion every September.

Our December meeting, as always, celebrated the Tale of the Blue Carbuncle. The meeting was led by Max Magee (BSI, Cyril Morton) as the speakers for the evening were our co-Chief Stewards, Linda Crohn and Jonathan Shimberg. They spoke on "Family Law and the Canon", explaining the many instances in the Canon where family law issues are presented. There was also the traditional reading of Vincent Starrett's story "Monologue in Baker Street".

Torists International S.S. has planned a conference honoring Vincent Starrett on the occasion of his 140th birthday. The conference will be held over three days, October 23-25, 2026, and will include an invitation to conference attendees to attend a Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) dinner meeting, an all-day conference on Saturday with eight speakers, and a Sunday visit to Starrett's gravesite at Graceland Cemetery on Sunday. To register for the weekend, you can download the form at [anditisalways1895.org](http://anditisalways1895.org) or email [starrett1895@gmail.org](mailto:starrett1895@gmail.org).

# Iowa

## THE SIGN OF FOUR CITIES

### IN THE QUAD CITIES, IOWA AND ILLINOIS

BY SUSAN PERRY

The Sign of the Four Cities meets on the Iowa side of the Quad Cities monthly. We became an official Irregular Scion Society with the name The Sign of the Four Cities on December 21, 2019. A toast is always made at the beginning of our meetings, using *Raise your Glass to Sherlock Holmes* by Phil Angelo toasts to each of the 60 cases.

We routinely discuss one of the stories in the Canon in order of Baring-Gould's chronology of when events happen in Sherlock's life. On occasion we discuss a pastiche or other work by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. We meet indoors at the Bettendorf Public Library during winter months and outside at Susan Perry's home during the summer, with cookies supplied. Most of us wear our deerstalker hats at our gatherings and one of us has a fantastic Inverness cape.

We welcome new members, so if interested, send an email to Susan Perry at [sgoody162@aol.com](mailto:sgoody162@aol.com).

|                  |                                                 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| January 6, 2025  | Toast in honor of Sherlock's birthday via email |
| February 3, 2025 | "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist"         |
| March 3, 2025    | "The Adventure of Black Peter"                  |
| April 7, 2025    | "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder"          |
| May 5, 2025      | "The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans"   |
| June 2, 2025     | "The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger"            |
| July 7, 2025     | "The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire"           |
| August 4, 2025   | "The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter"    |

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

|                   |                                          |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------|
| September 8, 2025 | "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange"      |
| October 6, 2025   | "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot"      |
| November 3, 2025  | "The Adventure of the Dancing Men"       |
| December 8, 2025  | "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman" |



*Front Row L-R: Janet Enslein, Susan Perry, Hedy Hustedde; Back Row L-R: Diane Schroder, Kent Schroder, Bill Hampes, Michael Hustedde, Michael Dyer. Photo by Michael Hustedde.*

## Maryland

### THE BLACK PEARLS OF THE BORGIAS

*BY 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 2025 to battle evil bivalves. Both dinners were held at Jimmy's Famous Seafood Restaurant in Baltimore on March 15, 2025, and September

27, 2025. Members enjoyed dining on Chincoteague oysters, Maryland blue crabs and other bounty from the nearby Chesapeake Bay while enjoying good conversations with each other.

## A SATURDAY WITH SHERLOCK HOLMES AT THE PRATT LIBRARY

*BY 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 46th annual Saturday with Sherlock Holmes program at the Pratt's Wheeler Auditorium at its Central Library building in downtown Baltimore.

With a theme of "Our Favorite Parts of The Canon", presenters included Carla Coupe, Deborah Clark, S. Brent Morris, Daniel Thomas and Evelyn Herzog.

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

## THE SHERLOCKIANS OF BALTIMORE

*BY GREG D. RUBY*

The Sherlockians of Baltimore met three times in 2025 – March 15th, June 21st, and September 27th.

Mary Alcaro presented at the March mob and was honored with the investiture of "King Pest," a short story of Edgar Allan Poe, and not a reflection upon her. Another presentation was given by PJ Sullivan, the

talented editor at the *Baker Street Almanac* earning the investiture of rocker Joan Jett.

Bruce Harris presented at the September mob and was presented with the investiture of “Babe Ruth,” and Liane Luini was awarded the investiture of “Annie Goodrich Ellsworth” for her services as the webmistress for the scion.

For more current information on the SOBs, please check out their website: [SherlockBaltimore.com](http://SherlockBaltimore.com).

## SHERLOCKIANS OF DOOBY-OUS AND QUESTIONABLE MEMORY

BY 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 of the Six Napoleons dinner stay for the weekend.

Having gathered on March 15 and September 27, topics included BSI Press publications, past Pratt Library programs, Sherlockian numismatic items, and memories of previous BSI Weekends, among others.

## SIX NAPOLEONS OF BALTIMORE

BY GREG D. RUBY

March 14th, saw the Six Napoleons hold their first dinner meeting of 2025 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.

Ross E. Davies, the Editor-in-Chief of the *Baker Street Almanac*, presented "Classical Dance Numbers: An Update" on the unique advertising campaign that *Collier's* magazine used to promote its publication of the story, "The Adventure of the Dancing Men". Two Postulants who survived their Inquisitions at an earlier meeting, Dennis Keiser and Matt Hall, also gave presentations to become full-fledged Napoleons. Gasogene Karen Wilson led us in a discussion of "The Adventure of Black Peter" with a killer quiz on that story as well.

The Six Napoleons next met on September 6, 2024, and featured Steven Doyle, publisher of the *Baker Street Journal*, who presented to us on "Lord Peter Wimsey and Sherlock Holmes." Robert Sharfman also presented to become a full-fledged Napoleon, being joined by Ross E. Davies and Ray Betzner, having met the three-meetings-attended requirement to now become Napoleons. A spirited discussion then followed on the need to possibly strengthen the criteria for becoming a Napoleon. The meeting then wrapped up with a story discussion and quiz on "The Adventure of the Dying Detective", led by Gasogene Karen Wilson.

## WATSON'S TIN BOX

*BY MATTHEW D. HALL*

Watson's Tin Box of Ellicott City meets on the third Monday of every month at Union Jack's British Pub in Columbia, MD. At each meeting a story is set for discussion, using the Baring-Gould chronology – the canon taking sixty meetings to cover. The meeting agenda is fairly uniform: introductions; a toast to 'The Woman' and other toasts; Tom Fahres provides a new haiku inspired by the story; announcements and news; examination of the Evidence Box created by WTB co-founder Paul Churchill, BSI; a discussion of the story; a Sherlockian presentation by a member or guest; and finally, a quiz. A full meeting - accomplished at pace over two hours and all while ordering and eating our meals!

The first meeting of the year is the annual Killer Quiz meeting, a 60-question themed quiz that covers every story in the Canon, set in 2025 by 'Torquemadae' Karen Wilson, BSI. At stake is the prestigious 'Mycroft Award'. The 'Strangers' Room Award' goes to the highest scorer among the self-designated Sherlockian "newbies" taking the quiz (this category can only be competed in once). Dana Richards, BSI won the 'Mycroft Award' (not for the first time!), while the 'Stranger's Room' honoree was Liane Luini.

At our March meeting, outgoing Gasogene Terry McCammon, BSI handed over duties to Matthew Hall (the author of this report) for the remainder of 2025 and into 2026. Other WTB responsibilities are taken on by Olivia Milunzi ('Tantalus') who sets the monthly quizzes, and Liane Luini who is our webmaster.

2025 was an exciting year of growth for WTB, with some meetings reaching thirty attendees. As new Gasogene I set the goal of building our speakers – both by attracting visiting speakers and also encouraging new members to take the plunge and create their first presentation. Guests included Travis Shick (PA), and Art Taylor (VA). As Gasogene I received many expressions of regret from those who were able to be part of WTB meetings during the dark COVID years when all meetings were virtual, and the decision was made to establish an annual virtual meeting in July to allow Sherlockians from anywhere to join us – our inaugural virtual guest speaker was Burt Wolder, BSI. In an effort to encourage new members, the Gasogene writes a summary of each meeting that is available at [221bcooee.blogspot.com](http://221bcooee.blogspot.com).

There were also efforts to update our website ([www.watsonstinbox.org](http://www.watsonstinbox.org)) thanks to our new webmaster Liane. This included adding new content to the web pages. We created digital copies of all issues of Irene's Cabinet (IC, last published in 2019 and rare as hen's teeth now) and made them available free to download, and announced we'd be re-launching IC in 2026 with Jacquelynn Bost Morris, BSI, as Editor-in-Chief. Steve Mason, BSI, and Rusty Mason had created sixty PDF documents showing each item in each of Paul Churchill's evidence boxes, thanks to collaboration with Denny Dobry, BSI, and Debbie Clark, BSI - these are also now available for download to allow people from anywhere in the world to peruse the amazing evidence boxes.

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

For the first time, we have Watson's Tin Box tote bags that are available for purchase along with our pins, both bearing the WTB logo. At the end of 2025 it was announced that Debbie Clark would be downsizing, and the Evidence Boxes will now have a new host (Matthew Hall) to care for them. WTB looks forward to 2026 – with an exciting group of speakers lined up, the Irene's Cabinet journal returning, and other projects planned.

|                    |                    |                           |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| February 16, 2025  | "The Mycroft" Quiz |                           |
| March 16, 2025     | "Crooked Man"      |                           |
| April 20, 2025     | "Wisteria Lodge"   | Matthew Hall              |
| May 19, 2025       | "Silver Blaze"     | Olivia Millunzi           |
| June 16, 2025      | "Beryl Coronet"    | Carla Coupe               |
| July 21, 2025      | "Final Problem"    | VIRTUAL – Burt Wolder     |
| August 18, 2025    | "Empty House"      | Karen Wilson              |
| September 15, 2025 | "Golden Pince-Nez" | Travis Schick             |
| October 20, 2025   | "Three Students"   | Matthew Hall (understudy) |
| November 17, 2025  | "Solitary Cyclist" | Art Taylor                |
| December 15, 2025  | "Black Peter"      | Michael Ravnitzky         |



# Michigan

## THE AMATEUR MENDICANT SOCIETY

BY 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. A special meeting is being planned to celebrate the group’s 80th anniversary in April 2026.

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

At its spring meeting on April 5, 2025, the group of 33 bid farewell to its longtime venue, the Commonwealth Club in suburban Warren, which is closing after more than 50 years as it looks for a new home.

After the usual toasts and a buffet of baked chicken, roast sirloin and sides, the group discussed the assigned story, “The Speckled Band,” in which Sherlock Holmes faces off against Dr. Grimesby Roylott, that ophidian flake, who murdered his stepdaughter by using a snake. Offering talking points on the story was playwright and member David MacGregor.

Next, Commissionaire Chris Music presented a brief Mendicant Minute from the scion’s storied history. Then, Rich Krisciunas, a former county prosecutor, presented his paper, “Drs. Palmer and Pritchard: The First of Criminals,” followed by Regina Stinson, BSI, and her talk, “Traveling the Railways with Sherlock Holmes.” Stinson is also the co-founder of the

Ribston Pippins, a suburban Detroit scion founded during a hiatus of the Mendicants. A 50/50 raffle was also held before the meeting concluded with the singing of “God Save the Queen” and the recitation of “221B”.

Attended by 37, the fall meeting of the Mendicants was held Oct. 26 at Rocky’s restaurant in Northville. By coincidence, the gathering came on the 139th birthday of that great Sherlockian, Vincent Starrett.

At the meeting, Gasogene Scott Monty introduced four new members and three visitors from the Torists International, a Chicago scion.

Then, Commissionaire Chris Music offered up another Mendicant History Minute. This one tied in the Laurel & Hardy fan group, the Dancing Cuckoos (based on the Baker Street Irregulars) founded by one John McKay, who’d attended the first meeting of the Mendicants back on April 26, 1946.

After ceremonial toasts to “The Woman,” Watson’s Second Wife and Mrs. Hudson, Regina Stinson offered a brief slide show saluting Mycroft Holmes.

The buffet included chicken piccata, grilled salmon and sides. As an added treat, with the assigned story being *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, the dessert was a special cake brought by Anne and Rob Musial, bearing the footprints of a gigantic hound – in frosting.

This set up the afternoon presentation by Rich Krisciunas who detailed the 25 fascinating things he learned about the assigned story.

Among them were that *The Hound*, at 59,000 words, is the longest of the Holmes’ adventures; that Arthur Conan Doyle likely got the story idea from a folklore tale told him by a friend and that *The Hound* has been the most-filmed adventure of the Canon – with 20 versions so far.

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

Members and guests then discussed *The Hound*, various Sherlockian trivia, the release of a book of Sidney Paget’s original illustrations of the Canon and a mysterious lost film about our heroes.

Monty then previewed the upcoming 80th anniversary dinner for the Mendicants, set for the afternoon of April 25, 2026. It will be held at the same Detroit venue where the Society was founded in 1946 – a testament to both the Mendicants and that famous supper club. In another nod to history, the Beggar’s Cup – the Society’s annual honor for the best presentation of the past year – is being brought back and will be awarded.

Then, with door prizes awarded, everyone stood to sing “God Save the Queen,” the poem “221B” was recited, and the meeting was adjourned.

|                      |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 5, 2025        | Commonwealth Club, Warren, MI. “The Speckled Band.”                                               |
| October 25, 2025     | Rocky’s of Northville, Northville, MI. <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> .                     |
| Comng April 25, 2026 | Cliff Bell’s, Detroit – The 80th anniversary dinner for the Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit. |



*Photo by Robert Musial*

## THE GREEK INTERPRETERS OF EAST LANSING

*BY RICH KRISCIUNAS*

The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing is the oldest Sherlockian scion in Michigan, founded at Michigan State College on April 16, 1945, by a half-dozen students and the professor of their English literature class. The group continued to meet and prosper after the College became a University under the leadership of Prof. Donald Yates, BSI, Howard Brody, BSI, Charles Press, and Shari and James Conroy. Like many Sherlockian scions, the group didn't meet after the Covid pandemic in 2020 until the group was resuscitated by Rich Krisciunas in 2023.

On April 5, 14 members attended the first meeting of the year at the Saddleback BBQ in Okemos, Michigan where they discussed "The Adventure of the Speckled Band," which chronologists say occurred on April 6, 1883. Bob Wilks started off the meeting with a toast to Sherlock Holmes. Rich Krisciunas gave a presentation on "Drs. Palmer and Pritchard, the First of Criminals." They were two real doctors, mentioned by Holmes, who were both convicted of murder. Bev Sobolewski did a great job leading the story discussion.

On August 23, we had a wonderful Greek Interpreters meeting at Traverse City Pie Company in East Lansing with 18 members discussing "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder." Bob Wilks led off with a toast to Insp. Lestrade, who appeared in 13 of the 60 stories in the Canon. Guest Rudy Altergott, BSI, traveled from Chicago to become a new member and offered a toast to John Hector McFarlane's Masonic watch. Rich Krisciunas toasted Jonas Oldacre and led a spirited discussion on the issues in the story.

McFarlane's entry was compared with the memorable entry at 221B by Thorneycroft Huxtable in "Priory School." The group discussed the important role newspapers play in providing information to the reader and the ranking of Oldacre as a villain compared to Sebastian Moran, Charles Augustus Milverton and Baron Adelbert Gruner.

Several flaws in the story were identified such as the idea that Scotland Yard couldn't distinguish rabbit bones from human bones and the difficulty in burning the remains of a body in such a short time. This was remedied in the Jeremy Brett version when Oldacre killed a passing tramp and burned his body. There was discussion of Mrs. Lexington's role in helping Oldacre. Did she hope to marry him? There were drag marks leading to the wood pile. If it wasn't a body that was dragged, then what was it? Another flaw was the speed at which the story of the alleged murder and McFarlane's role could have made it to the newspaper delivered to the young solicitor at his hotel. If the fire department was notified closer to midnight and Lestrade traveled to Norwood to investigate, how did the Daily Telegraph get the info, print the story and deliver the newspaper to McFarlane's hotel in time for him to read it at breakfast without the benefit of today's technology?

A highlight of the discussion was a reference to a 1992 Baker Street Journal article by Michael Waxenberg who suggested that Oldacre was really McFarlane's father and he staged this ploy so that his son would inherit his estate.

On December 6, 23 members of the Greek Interpreters attended a Sherlock Holmes play, *A Sherlock Carol* at the Williamston Theatre in Williamston, Michigan. They gathered at Tavern 109 for a tasty lunch across the street from the theater. The downtown area was busy preparing for their

evening Christmas parade and offered holiday markets for shoppers. Mark Shanahan's play concerns a retired and crabby Sherlock Holmes who is grieving the death of Moriarty is visited by the ghost of Ebenezer Scrooge and is asked to solve the mystery of a missing blue carbuncle. John Lepard played the role of Sherlock Holmes while the other five cast members played the roles of another 12 characters. For Sherlockians, it was great hearing lines from the Canon interspersed with lines from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* throughout the play. There were a lot of laughs. The tiny theater had great seats for all, and the cast kept changing costumes and entering and exiting from different spaces throughout the play. The group enjoyed the play so much that they plan to attend another play *Dial M for Murder*, in March, before meeting again in April.

## THE RIBSTON-PIPPINS

BY 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 will celebrate 38 years with a big party in November.

The new year began with the next story in the Baring-Gould chronology, “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box”. Delightful toasts were given by Rob Musial, Cindy McCormick and Bev Sobolewski. While we dined, we enjoyed a viewing of the Jeremy Brett version of the story. Regina Stinson presented a paper that had been published in *The Strand Magazine* called “A Chapter on Ears” by an anonymous author which was published the same year as our canonical story, 1893. Rich Krisciunas led a lively story discussion including a PowerPoint presentation. There was an awesome display including severed ears, pictures of Henry Ward Beecher and General Gordon as well as the contents of the BSI swag bag. Leslie Brudne perplexed us with one of his wonderful quizzes. Judith Davis conducted the 50/50 drawing. We closed the meeting with a group recitation of “221B”.

Our March meeting was well attended with several members from our sister scion, The Illustrious Clients, traveling from Indianapolis. Our story was “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb.” The highlight of the meeting was Steve Doyle’s “Sherlockian Mythbusters” video and presentation demonstrating how the engineer’s must have been situated on the windowsill in order to sever it properly. Five excellent toasts were presented by Rich Krisciunas, Kate Callas, Chris Music, Don Curtis, Jr. and Scott Monty. Once again, Bev Sobolewski did a scintillating story discussion followed by show and tell, a quiz and the 50/50 drawing. Louise Haskett closed the meeting with a reading of “221B”.

Since our next story involved India, we celebrated “The Adventure of the Crooked Man” at an Indian restaurant in May. Toasts were offered by Rich

Krisciunas, David MacGregor, Bev Sobolewski and Chris Music. Due to technical difficulties, the movie could not be shown, however an in-depth discussion by Bev elicited a lot of participation. Regina showed the scrapbook she has been working on covering the past 37 years. David spoke about Eille Norwood, the celebrated actor of the silent era. Rob Musial read “221B” to close the meeting.

In July we had a fantastic turnout, welcoming a new member, Dinah Bianchi and greeting members of our sister scion in Chicago, Torists, International S.S., Linda Crohn and Jonathan Shimberg. The story for discussion was “Wisteria Lodge”. Our evening began with Canonical toasts by Linda and Jon. We watched the Granada version of the story during dinner which was followed by a Power Point presentation by Regina Stinson on the cinematic versions of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Leslie Brudne provided the quiz, and Bev Sobolewski led the story discussion. There were some great show and tell items, a 50/50 drawing and the closing poem, “221B”, was read by our newest member, Dinah.

Our 37th anniversary celebration took place in November and was a smashing success, with a record 34 members in attendance from all over the Midwest! “Silver Blaze” was the story of the evening and as usual, Regina Stinson created a gift for each attendee. These were commemorative bookmarks with little horse and horseshoe charms attached. Rich Krisciunas, Mark Walters, Rudy Altergott, Monica Schmidt and Scott Monty offered toasts to the various characters in the story. Mike McSwiggin was the highlight of the evening with his wonderful and informative Power Point presentation on Solar Pons. Steve Doyle conducted a very interactive and lively story discussion. Lots of excellent items were brought for show and tell,

including Cary Black's canvas movie poster for the Basil Rathbone movie, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The great food was only surpassed by the awesome Sherlockian camaraderie that always attends these events. We had a quiz with lots of prizes, a 50/50 drawing and door prizes. Max Magee, our new member of the evening, closed the meeting with a reading of "221B".

|                   |                                                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| January 25, 2025  | Dinner meeting – "The Adv. Of the Cardboard Box"    |
| March 15, 2025    | Dinner Meeting – "The Adv. Of the Engineer's Thumb" |
| May 24, 2025      | Dinner Meeting – "The Adv. Of the Crooked Man"      |
| July 25, 2025     | Dinner Meeting – "The Adv. Of Wisteria Lodge"       |
| August 17, 2025   | Field Trip – Michigan Central Train Station"        |
| November 15, 2025 | 37th Anniversary Celebration – "Silver Blaze"       |

## Minnesota

### THE NORWEGIAN EXPLORERS OF MINNESOTA

BY TOM GOTTWALT

Our organization was founded in 1948 by five University of Minnesota professors, most of whom were of Norwegian or Scandinavian ethnic heritage. Also, after the events at Reichenbach Falls, Sherlock Holmes traveled the world disguised as a Norwegian explorer named Sigerson. Thus, our name is particularly appropriate.

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. 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.

Many of us are intrepid travelers and we are typically well represented at other scion and conference gatherings around the county.

We also seem to be a hotbed for young Sherlockians. We usually have at least one member under the age of 18 but we currently have three. We are blessed to have the opportunity to help nurture the next generation of Sherlockians.

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](http://www.norwegianexplorers.org) to learn more about our organization and to join. Annual dues are only \$30 per family. Lapel pins are available for purchase as well.

President: Tom Gottwalt, [tomgottwalt@gmail.com](mailto:tomgottwalt@gmail.com)

Secretary & Treasurer: Phil Bergem

|                   |                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------|
|                   | Study Group Meetings – All via Zoom          |
| January 18, 2025  | “The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone”         |
| February 25, 2025 | “The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter” |
| March 15, 2025    | “The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual”       |
| April 19, 2025    | “The Adventure of the Naval Treaty”          |

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

|                    |                                                                   |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 17, 2025       | “The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor”                             |
| June 21, 2025      | Noncanonical detour (“The Black Doctor,” “The Jew’s Breastplate”) |
| September 20, 2025 | “The Adventure of the Norwood Builder”                            |
| October 18, 2025   | “The Adventure of the Priory School”                              |
| November 15, 2025  | “The Adventure of the Red Circle”                                 |
| December 13, 2025  | “The Red-Headed League”                                           |

|           |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|           | Other Events and Happenings                                                                                                                           |
| February  | Baker Street West – Gathering to hear from those attending NYC weekend                                                                                |
| March     | Agatha Christie’s <i>The Mousetrap</i> premiered at the Guthrie Theatre and ran through May 18                                                        |
| April     | Issued call for papers for Christmas Annual with theme “Holmes in Motion”                                                                             |
| May       | The Red-Throated League performed the Edith Meiser radio script “The Adventure of the Speckled Band”                                                  |
| 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 Real Thing</i> |
| September | Completed our first draft of the Norwegian Explorers Wikipedia entry                                                                                  |
| November  | The Once Upon a Crime bookstore hosted Larry Millett’s <i>Mysterious Tales of Old Minneapolis</i> book launch event                                   |
| December  | Began work on Norwegian Explorers Wikipedia entry                                                                                                     |

## THE GREAT ALKALI PLAINSMEN

BY MICHAEL WAXENBERG

The Great Alkali Plainsmen of Kansas City was re-generated in March 2023 by Olivia Kirkendall as a virtual, monthly discussion group that approaches one Canonical case per meeting. In 2025, we had a Zoom event every month. Some meetings featured presenters, and other meetings were

free-ranging conversation where we wandered off into areas of TV and movie adaptations, fantasy, horror, or cartoons. Our group has a Facebook page where the discussion topics may begin, or continue, from the Zooms. We try to be welcoming to all views, ages, and backgrounds. We try to avoid criticizing or controlling. We encourage, but do not require, participation by everyone. Olivia makes our little group a cuddly place for devotees of Sherlock Holmes, new and old. Come to a meeting and see for yourself.

## THE PARALLEL CASE OF ST. LOUIS

*BY 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 like a book club that encourages everyone to share their thoughts on that month's story.

A schedule of all 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>).

2025 found The Parallel Case of St. Louis publishing a new book containing all the presentations from the 2018 and 2023 Holmes in the Heartland weekends. You can enjoy all the fantastic talks by purchasing the book from Amazon.

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/>).

|           |                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January   | "2025 and The Parallel Case of St. Louis" by Rob Nunn                                                            |
| February  | "Sherlockian Musings in Shibuya" by Kristen Mertz                                                                |
| March     | "Sherlock Holmes Film Night 2025" by Joe Eckrich                                                                 |
| April     | "Too Old to Play Holmes?" by Adam Presswood                                                                      |
| May       | "I Spy Sherlock Everywhere" by Kristen Mertz                                                                     |
| June      | "A Night of Magic" by Heather Hinson                                                                             |
| July      | "Announcing Holmes in the Heartland 2026" by Rob Nunn                                                            |
| September | "India in the World of Sherlock Holmes: Tracing Colonial Echoes in Conan Doyle's Fiction" by Srinivasan Raghavan |
| October   | "Good Sherlock Hunting Scottish Edition" by Kristen Mertz                                                        |
| November  | "Mercy, Compassion, and Justice" by Nellie Brown                                                                 |
| December  | "The Case of the Non-Canonical Addition to Canon Regarding Sherlock Holmes" by Karl Bockemeier                   |

Our members celebrate Sherlock Holmes all over as they traveled to events in New York, Ohio, Atlanta, Indiana, England, and Japan. But this year we are hosting everyone right here in St. Louis! The third Holmes in the Heartland Weekend will take place July 24-26, 2026. Join us for a weekend at a British-themed hotel full of friends, speakers, vendors, entertainment, food, and a field trip to The Missouri History Museum. Details and a lineup of the weekend can be found on the Holmes in the Heartland website (<https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home/holmes-in-the-heartland>). Come at once if convenient!

|                  |                                                       |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| January 11, 2025 | In-person discussion of "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" |
| February 8, 2025 | Zoom discussion of "A Case of Identity"               |
| March 8, 2025    | Movie Night                                           |

|                    |                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 26, 2025     | In-person discussion of “The Five Orange Pips”                                                      |
| May 10, 2025       | Field trip to the BSI Midwest Canonical Conclave in Indianapolis, IN                                |
| June 7, 2025       | In-person discussion of “The Man with the Twisted Lip”                                              |
| July 12, 2025      | Field trip to “The Ghosts of Arthur Conan Doyle” event at the American Oddities Museum in Alton, IL |
| September 13, 2025 | In-person discussion of “The Blue Carbuncle”                                                        |
| October 11, 2025   | In-person discussion of “The Speckled Band”                                                         |
| November 8, 2025   | Zoom discussion of “The Engineer’s Thumb”                                                           |
| December 13, 2025  | In-person discussion of “The Noble Bachelor”                                                        |

## Missouri

### THE HARPOONERS OF THE SEA UNICORN

BY *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, 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 to 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 ([https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/The\\_62\\_Sherlock\\_Holmes\\_stories\\_written\\_by\\_Arthur\\_Conan\\_Doyle](https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/index.php/The_62_Sherlock_Holmes_stories_written_by_Arthur_Conan_Doyle)). At the time of this writing, we have finished the STUD and SIGN novellas, we have completed *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* and *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*, and we have begun observing *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, meanwhile looking to pick up again with SOLI when we meet again in January.

As other scions and societies have noted, we have 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>].

Earlier this year, we also started a new program to encourage audience participation called The Photoshop Project. Each month as we observe different narratives from the Canon, we feature their illustrations from Sydney Paget and offer an opportunity to contribute different captions than the ones originally published [e.g.—the first illustration of “The Naval Treaty” (NAVA) where Holmes is “working hard over a chemical investigation;” our new caption: ““Watson, I am not a miracle worker..., some stains in your underpants cannot be removed by chemistry....”]. Contributions for future captions can be submitted at <https://harpooners.wordpress.com/photoshop-projects/>.

We also maintain a presence on social media. You can follow us on Facebook [[@Harpooners.MO](#)] and on X (the social media platform formerly

known as Twitter) [@Harpooners\_MO]. Feel free to join our email list [[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNPG7xbTFQG\\_Dg1L1ArIhzNT93XyMh2bcuOmrVmTJfciUt8g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdNPG7xbTFQG_Dg1L1ArIhzNT93XyMh2bcuOmrVmTJfciUt8g/viewform)] or contact our Pilot Whale/Editor for more details [[pcairnes26@icloud.com](mailto:pcairnes26@icloud.com)].

We hope we can see you at our next meeting!

|                    |                                                                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 24, 2025   | Zoom discussion of REIG                                                        |
| February 21, 2025  | Zoom discussion of CROO                                                        |
| March 14, 2025     | Zoom discussion of RESI                                                        |
| April 18, 2025     | Zoom discussion of GREE (and celebration of Holmes' birthday on 5 April, 1854) |
| May 23, 2025       | Zoom discussion of NAVA                                                        |
| June 20, 2025      | Zoom discussion of FINA                                                        |
| July 11, 2025      | Zoom discussion of BLAC                                                        |
| August 22, 2025    | Zoom discussion of "The Field Bazaar" [BAZA] and HOUN                          |
| September 26, 2025 | Zoom discussion of EMPT                                                        |
| October 17, 2025   | Zoom discussion of NORW                                                        |
| November 21, 2025  | Zoom discussion of DANC                                                        |
| December 19, 2025  | Zoom discussion of BLUE                                                        |

## Nebraska

### THE MAIWAND JEZAILS

BY RORY BERRY

2025 was a momentous year for the Maiwand Jezails. Having survived our own great hiatus and a few years with no conclaves, we are back!

While going through the archives this year, we discovered a small collection of medals we had issued during the centenary of the battle of Maiwand, in 1980. The dye was made from the actual campaign medal,

reproduced on the reverse. On the obverse, Queen Victoria's portrait was replaced with Richard Lesh's rendering of the Master. Some of these medals were distributed in New York in January 2026, one to Peter Blau, a Jezail of many years' standing, though the records indicate he missed our conclave at which Basil Rathbone was our honored guest. Other medals were awarded as follows (with regimental titles): Monica Schmidt, The Bullet; Greg Ruby, Kabul Silver Clasp; Paul Singleton, The Conk-Singleton Forgery Case; Kira Holmes, Misfortune and Disaster; Emily Pataki Hamburger, Violet Hunter; Bob Katz, Subclavian Artery; Alex Katz, Enteric Fever; and of course, one to Michael Kean, Point Man. Staff Judge Advocate John Stevens Berry, Sr. presented to Susan Dahlinger, Malalai of Maiwand, in absentia.

Every year, as applicable, the Jezails present an annotated canon to a library, in memory of a Jezail who has broken ranks. This year we honored the late Sam Cooper, Regimental Bhisti.

Over the years we had accumulated funds intended for a monument at Maiwand. As some of us were lucky enough to get all-expenses-paid trips to Afghanistan, courtesy of Uncle Sam, we were able to bring a small brass plaque, in Farsi and English, to leave at the battlefield a few years back. Mission accomplished.

Thanks to the low price of having the bulk of the travel distance covered by involuntary government accommodation, some of the funds remained, and we decided to use it to advance scholarship.

In 2025, we donated the entire sum of remaining funds to Midland University, with instructions that the interest on the gift be used to award \$1,000, in perpetuity, to an undergraduate who wrote a Sherlockian paper of merit.

The Jezails, who were guests of Lord Paul Gore-Booth at the London Sherlock Holmes Society, and who presented the Silver Blaze blanket at the

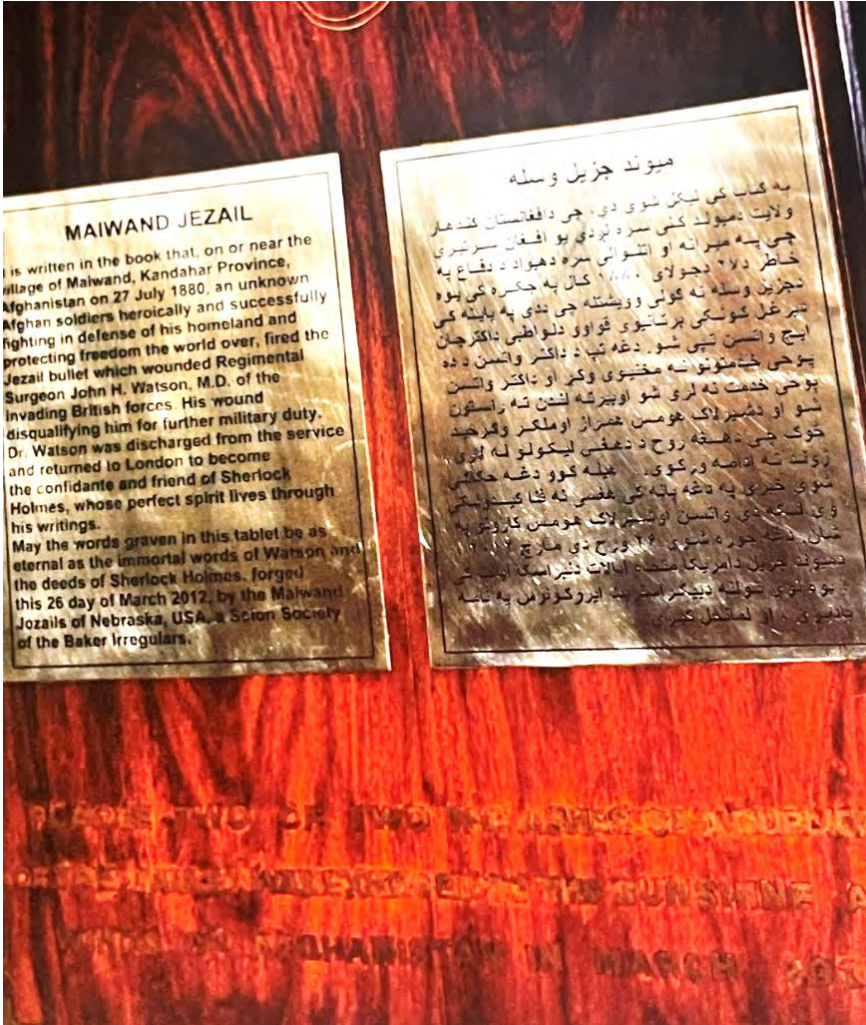


Photo by J.S. Berry

Aksarben Racetrack, will not sound retreat! We will save the guns at Maiwand! The Jezails live!

# New Hampshire

## THE MONADNOCK SHERLOCKIANS

BY ANNA BEHRENS

The Monadnock Sherlockians, founded in 2016 in Keene, NH, by Anna Behrens and her late husband Richard Behrens, meets monthly. We discuss canonical stories in order of publication. We meet at the home of leader Anna Behrens, where a PowerPoint presentation is shared about that month's story, and the contents of the evidence box are shared. Members share toasts to the characters, and all enjoy food and drink. If one is available, we view an adaptation of the story. We have a yearly outing to Naulakha, Rudyard Kipling's home in nearly Dummerston, VT, where Arthur Conan Doyle came to stay in 1894. Conan Doyle presented golf clubs to Kipling, and those golf clubs are currently on display in the house.

The Monadnock Sherlockians have a dedicated Facebook page, but not a website. <https://www.facebook.com/The-Monadnock-Sherlockian-108479030925744/>. Meetings are organized via email and the Monadnock Sherlockians Facebook group.

Our scion is open to both novice and seasoned Sherlockians, so if you are interested in joining us, please email Anna Behrens at [monadnocksherlockian@gmail.com](mailto:monadnocksherlockian@gmail.com).

|                   |                                                                                                          |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 12, 2025  | Sherlock Holmes's Birthday celebration, <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> presentation and discussion, Part One. |
| February 15, 2025 | <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> presentation and discussion, Part Two.                                         |
| March 9, 2025     | <i>The Sign of Four</i> presentation and discussion, Part One.                                           |
| April 6, 2025     | <i>The Sign of Four</i> presentation and discussion, Part Two.                                           |

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| May 4, 2025        | <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> presentation and discussion followed by a viewing of Granada Television Adaptation.                                                                       |
| June 1, 2025       | Naulakha tour (Rudyard Kipling's home where Arthur Conan Doyle came to stay in 1894) Dummerston, VT.                                                                                           |
| June 8, 2025       | <i>The Valley of Fear</i> presentation and discussion.                                                                                                                                         |
| August 24, 2025    | End of summer party. Members wore their new Monadnock Sherlockian T-shirts!                                                                                                                    |
| September 21, 2025 | "A Scandal in Bohemia" presentation and discussion, followed by a viewing of the Granada Television adaptation.                                                                                |
| October 19, 2025   | "The Red-Headed League" presentation, discussion followed by a viewing of the Granada Television adaptation. Members came dressed in red.                                                      |
| November 9, 2025   | "A Case of Identity" presentation and discussion. Members donned their most preposterous hats.                                                                                                 |
| December 14, 2025  | "The Blue Carbuncle" presentation and discussion, followed by a viewing of the Granada Television adaptation. Holiday dinner and celebration of the anniversary of the Monadnock Sherlockians. |

## THE SHERLOCK HOLMES CLUB OF THE UPPER VALLEY

BY JOHN TIHOLIZ

Our Scion was founded in 2006 by "Waterloo Bridge" Tom Brydges. 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 2025, our twentieth 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. All are welcome to join us.

In January we celebrated the Master's birthday with a Shepherd's Pie luncheon, and after lunch we had an interesting discussion about possible

topics for presentations and group discussions at Club meetings throughout the upcoming year.

Anna Behrens, MA, CCC-SLP, Club member and Founding Leader of the Monadnock Sherlockians in Keene, NH, gave a presentation about Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's second wife, Jean Leckie, and her journey from being his mistress, to his wife, and to ultimately being a medium.

In April and May we had very engaging group discussions about how and when each of us became interested in Sherlock Holmes and which stories in the Canon are our favorites, and which Sherlock Holmes Pastiches are our favorites.

In June, we held our annual summer luncheon, and after lunch we heard a presentation by Hyla Maddalena, MA, about the development of the archetype of the gentleman detective in the Golden Age of Detective Fiction as established by Edgar Allen Poe and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Lyman Hurd, Ph.D., gave a presentation about how Sherlock Holmes, the author of a monograph describing 160 different ciphers as revealed in "The Adventure of the Dancing Men", was able to break the Vigenère Cipher, also known as "le chiffre indéchiffrable".

John Turner, MA, the Director of Debate for the Dartmouth Forensic Union, gave a presentation about the intersection of forensic science and deduction and about the rhetorical and literary techniques Sir Arthur Conan Doyle used to present deductive reasoning in the Canon.

Sarah Stewart Taylor, the author of ten crime novels and a nominee for the Agatha Award, the Dashiell Hammett Prize, the Sue Grafton Memorial Award, and the Nero (Wolfe Pack) Award, gave a presentation describing how crime writers develop a plot for a mystery novel, how they

leave clues to solving the mystery in the story, and how they often have their readers reaching early erroneous conclusions.

For more information about our club and its meeting schedule or to join our email list, please contact John C. Tiholiz at [jctiholiz@gmail.com](mailto:jctiholiz@gmail.com).

|                    |                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 6, 2025    | SH Birthday Luncheon – Group Discussion of Topics of Interest for Upcoming Meetings and Presentations                                           |
| March 13, 2025     | “Jean Leckie: From Mistress to Medium” – Anna Behrens, M.A.                                                                                     |
| April 10, 2025     | Group Discussion of How and When We Became Interested in Sherlock Holmes and Our Favorite Stories in the Canon                                  |
| May 8, 2025        | Group Discussion of Our Favorite Sherlock Holmes Pastiches                                                                                      |
| June 12, 2025      | Summer Luncheon – “The Development of the Gentleman Detective as Outlined by Edgar Allen Poe and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle” – Hyla Maddalena, M.A. |
| September 11, 2025 | “The Adventure of the Dancing Men and How Sherlock Holmes Deciphered the Vigenère Cipher” – Lyman Hurd, Ph.D.                                   |
| October 9, 2025    | “Rhetorical and Literary Techniques Used to Present Deductive Reasoning in the Canon” – John Turner, M.A.                                       |
| November 13, 2025  | “How Mystery Writers Plot a Mystery Novel, Drop Clues, and Send Their Readers Down the Wrong Track” – Sarah Stewart Taylor                      |

## New Jersey

### THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE OF NEW JERSEY

BY *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 consist

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

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 lieu of a formal presentation during our April gathering, Paul Hartnett (ASH) led a lively discussion about the television series *Watson*. Paul also shared film clips from the series. The quiz, on “The Gloria Scott,” was designed by Frank Ferry. We had a three-way tie for high score: Bernadette Hunsicker, Rory Berry, and Emily Hamburger shared the honors.

Our October meeting featured an exceptional talk by Anna Brindisi Behrens. The Red-Headed Leaguers were treated to a wonderful PowerPoint presentation about Jean Leckie and her relationship with Arthur Conan Doyle. The meeting’s quiz was created by Rory Berry and Emily Hamburger on “The Naval Treaty.” Andrea Giarnieri was the quiz winner.

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

|                 |                                                                           |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April 10, 2025  | Discussion of the television series <i>Watson</i> , by Paul Hartnett, ASH |
| October 9, 2025 | “Jean Leckie, from <i>Mistress to Medium</i> ,” by Anna Brindisi Behrens  |

## New York

### THE ADVENTURESSES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

BY 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 2025.

The 2025 NYC Birthday Weekend included both the traditional ASH Wednesday dinner hosted by Jen Kneeland on January 15th and the Sunday brunch hosted by Tiffany Knight and Tamar Zeffren on January 19th.

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 2025 Spring Meeting was held on Saturday, May 17th, at Tony di Napoli's East Side location in NYC. We first honored the lives of our late members Paula Riezenman and Nora (Ellinor) Myers, and commemorated ASH spouse Harold "Tyke" Niver and ASH-friend Cheryl Hurd. We shared greetings from members and friends who couldn't be with us and distributed a gift of colorful "ASH" pill cases from Jack Zatz.

50 years having passed since ASH's re-formation in 1975 from a college society to a women's special interest group, we invited the five women present who have been invested for those 50 years – Paula Cohen, Susan Dahlinger, Ev Herzog, Kate Karlson, and Angela Mitchell – to stand and receive the plaudits of the group.

As to membership, first an announcement of the investitures given to ASH's class of 2022: Cynthia K. Brown, "An Emerald Snake Ring"; Maria Fleischhack, "Dr. Watson's Journal"; Nancy Holder, "His Abominable Wife"; Mark Jones, "Mr. Vandeleur"; Rich Krisciunas, "The Barrister who Crams up a Case with Such Care"; and Kathryn A. Piffat, "Miss Morrison".

Then an announcement of our newest members (whose investitures were still under discussion): Curtis Armstrong, Clara Bajc, Bruce Harris, Rosemary Herbert, Enid Langbert, Mike McSwiggin, S. Brent Morris, and Jane P. "Jenna" Weart.

Then to the program, which began with our customary toasts, offered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Paula Cohen (the Victorian Age), Marina Stajic (Irene Adler), Ron and Carol Fish (Sherlock Holmes), Lauren Cercone (John Watson), Bob Stek (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Dana Cameron (Friendship). Michael Barton introduced us to the life and works of British-born American artist Pamela Colman Smith. Larry Sufrin observed how successive television versions of "Copper Beeches" have done less and less justice to Violet Hunter.

The afternoon finished with our best wishes to all.

On Sunday, November 8th, ASH met again at Tony's for our 2025 Autumn Meeting. We commemorated the loss of ASH member Dorothy Stix. We shared greetings from members and friends who couldn't be with us.

Our customary toasts were delivered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Lynn Walker (Irene Adler), Bob Zatz (Sherlock Holmes), Bob Katz (John Watson), Curtis Armstrong (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Shana Carter (Friendship). We enjoyed a set of toasts to Canonical characters of questionable identity, by Larry Sufrin (the little old lady "When STUD

*THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

Comes Up”), Bruce Harris (Neville St. Clair / Hugh Boone), and Lauren Cercone (Sherlock Holmes, in song). Dubious current events concerning the British Royal Family led to a pair of toasts on doings of the peerage, by Hal Glatzer (the Duke of Holderness), and Karen Wilson (Wilhelm and Clotilde). The afternoon finished with ASH’s traditional songs.

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

|                   |                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| January 15, 2025  | Birthday Weekend ASH Wednesday |
| January 19, 2025  | Birthday Weekend Sunday Brunch |
| February 5, 2025  | ASH Wednesday                  |
| March 5, 2025     | ASH Wednesday                  |
| April 2, 2025     | ASH Wednesday                  |
| May 7, 2025       | ASH Wednesday                  |
| May 17, 2025      | Spring Luncheon                |
| June 4, 2025      | ASH Wednesday                  |
| July 2, 2025      | ASH Wednesday                  |
| August 6, 2025    | ASH Wednesday                  |
| September 3, 2025 | ASH Wednesday                  |
| October 8, 2025   | ASH Wednesday                  |
| November 5, 2025  | ASH Wednesday                  |
| November 8, 2025  | Autumn Luncheon                |
| December 3, 2025  | ASH Wednesday                  |

THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS OF NEW YORK

*BY ROSS E. DAVIES*

In 2025, The Five Orange Pips met for drinks and dinner on October 23 at Morton's Steakhouse on Fifth Avenue in New York City. Present were Pips Ray Betzner, Peter Blau, Ross Davies, John Linsenmeyer, Peggy MacFarlane, Rebecca Romney, Steve Rothman, and Lisa Sanders, and special guests Barbara Malone and Bev Wolov. Each Pip delivered a paper, and Bev recited a poem.

THE GRILLPARZER CLUB OF THE HOBOKEN FREE STATE

*BY 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 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 membership meeting near Morley's birthday too complex. As a

result, we have decided to stick largely to remote Zoom celebrations, as we did during COVID.

For the past two years, however, we have been able to commemorate Morley's birthday with a small breakfast gathering in Boston on the morning after the Speckled Band Dinner in early May.

Our Madonna of the Liverwurst (co-leader) Linda Hunt retired from an active role in the Club due to health reasons. Her contributions to the group over the past 12 years were recognized by awarding her the distaff version of our highest honor, Dame of the Blue Suspenders.

In November, the Grillparzer Club offered an online PowerPoint presentation about the history of Christopher Morley's writer's retreat The Knothole for its 90th anniversary.

The Club continues to issue a newsletter, "The Bowling Green," and an occasional 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](mailto:Hobokenfreestate@gmail.com).

|                   |                                                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| May 3, 2025       | Christopher Morley 133rd Birthday Brunch             |
| November 12, 2025 | Online program about the Christopher Morley Knothole |

## THE HUDSON VALLEY SCIONTISTS

*BY CANDACE LEWIS*

Our group, the Hudson Valley Sciontists, was founded in 1972 by Al and Julie Rosenblatt and about six friends as a Sherlockian club. It is based in Poughkeepsie, New York, 70 miles north of New York City (a two-hour train ride from New York City along the gorgeous Hudson River).

Today, just over fifty years later, Al and Julie are still active members of our scion---as well as of the Baker Street Irregulars--- and our group is still here. Many of us are older and wiser. We are always trying to recruit more and younger Sherlockians. Before Covid, our regular attendance had swelled to over 60; since the pandemic, it has become smaller: 30 or 40.

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 about 1986. Lou and I share the duties of producing what we hope will be an entertaining evening. The usual venue is the Arts-and-Crafts 1923 Alumnae House at Vassar College with its beautiful interior and excellent acoustics.

In 2025, we experimented by meeting once at the Alumnae House and once at the home generously offered by one of our members. This second venue was quite unique as it had been built by Italian-American stonemasons for a local bootlegger who became enormously rich during Prohibition in the Roaring Twenties.

For the June 13, 2025, meeting held at the Vassar College Alumnae House, we read "Gloria Scott."

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies: Lou Lewis

Toasts:

Marc Suffern: To Her Majesty, Queen Victoria.

Will Walsh: "To the Singular Hounds."

Talks:

Charles Blanksteen: "British Convict Ships, Destination Australia."

Roger Donway: "The True Story Behind the 'Gloria Scott.'"

Evelyn Friedman: "Japonisme: The Craze for All Things Japanese in Late Nineteenth Century Europe."

Ira Brad Matetsky: "The Glorious Scott."

Comments by members: Please wave your hand; Lou will call on you.

Toast to Sherlock Holmes: Marjorie Smith: "A Long Evening with Holmes" by William B. Schweickert.

For the September 7 meeting held at the home of the Spiegels, we read "The Solitary Cyclist."

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies: Lou Lewis

On the Patio:

Toast to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria: Ed Schultz

In the Spiegel Library:

Anne Spiegel: Welcome to the Spiegel Home.

Nancy Rubsam and Phebe Banta: Violet Smith

Albert Rosenblatt: An Examination of "The Solitary Cyclist."

Lou Lewis: "Bicycles and 'The Solitary Cyclist.'"

## *THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

Comments by members: Lou will call on you.

Toast to Sherlock Holmes: Richard Cahn: "A Long Evening with Holmes" by William B. Schweickert.



*(L) Dr. S. Lichtenberg & Hon. A. Rosenblatt; (R) Emilia Fox & hostess Anne Spiegel.*

*Photos by C. Lewis*

We would be delighted to welcome Sherlockians to visit us at one of our meetings. Please send me your email if you wish to be notified: Clewis1880a@gmail.com.

## THE PRIORY SCHOLARS

*BY 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 2026 meeting schedule, can be found at <https://prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com/> and you can reach us via email at [PriorityNYC@gmail.com](mailto:PriorityNYC@gmail.com).

|                 |                                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| March 29, 2025  | Priory Scholars meeting on <i>The Sign of Four</i> |
| June 14, 2025   | Priory Scholars meeting on “The Three Students”    |
| October 4, 2025 | Priory Scholars meeting on “The Copper Beeches”    |

## THE THREE GARRIDEBS OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY

BY TROY REYNOLDS

In 2025, the Three Garridebs of Westchester County (New York) were pleased to present Michael Bush with the investiture of “Newgate Calendar.” The investiture was one of the highlights of our annual summer luncheon, held in August. Another noteworthy element of the program was guest speaker Bruce Harris’s entertaining and enlightening examination of Victorian matches.

In addition to the luncheon, we hosted three story meetings in 2025, beginning with a gathering in April to investigate “The Boscombe Valley Mystery.” Tony Czarnecki’s paper focused on the mystery of the location of Boscombe Valley. Hint: You won’t find it on your GPS. Joe Isherwood

expounded on the martial art of bartitsu (or “baritsu”) and demonstrated the technique with Tony. Will Walsh led an engaging group discussion of the story.

In June, we met to discuss “The Problem of Thor Bridge.” Ira Matetsky presented details about the original manuscript and provided a short exploration of the story. Troy Reynolds shared some interesting perspectives on Sherlock found in two unexpected sources, a book on mathematics in nature and a Leonard Nimoy autobiography. The passages generated some interesting conversation among the group. For the meeting’s activity, we played a game of Hangman. Much like Sherlock saved Grace Dunbar, the Garridebs managed to prevent the hanging of our stick man by solving all the challenging puzzles.

Our final story meeting for the year was held in November, when we turned our attention to the mystery of “The Missing Three-Quarter.” Tony Czarnecki gave a brief history of rugby, noting both Arthur Conan Doyle’s and John H. Watson’s relationship with the sport. Bob Katz provided a medical description of Watson’s enteric fever and suggested that a recurrence (which he said was possible) may have been the inadvertent cause of Mary’s demise. Peter McIntyre reviewed the two-volume *Sherlock Holmes at Universal*, a hefty resource on the Rathbone/Bruce movies, including many details on the behind-the-scenes activity. Arthur O’Dwyer offered a presentation on Agatha Christie and trivialities. Will Walsh again led a group discussion about the adventure.

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. 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; to Will Walsh for coordinating the toasts and preparing the discussions; to Ben Vizoskie and Troy Reynolds for developing the activities; to Sue Vizoskie for managing refreshments; and to Becca Reynolds for assistance leading the meetings. We also thank the following for providing toasts: Michael Bush, Greg Darak, Sabina Hollis, Joe Isherwood, Ira Matetsky, Fran Schulz, Ben Vizoskie, Lynn Walker, Will Walsh, Burt Wolder, and Bob Zatz.

New guests are always welcome, and we’d love to see you in 2026. To learn about the Three Garridebs’ upcoming events, visit our website, <https://threegarridebs.com>, or contact us via our new email address, [threegarridebsny@gmail.com](mailto:threegarridebsny@gmail.com).

|                   |                                                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| April 5, 2025     | Meeting investigating “The Boscombe Valley Mystery” |
| June 21, 2025     | Meeting discussing “The Problem of Thor Bridge”     |
| August 3, 2025    | Annual summer luncheon                              |
| November 22, 2025 | Meeting studying “The Missing Three-Quarter”        |

## THE BOWERY RUFFIANS

*BY MATTHEW D. HALL*

January 2025 saw the first meeting of a new scion – the Bowery Ruffians – during the Baker Street Irregulars Weekend in New York.

The Bowery features in the only direct mention of a New York location in the Canon, in 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."

The Bowery Ruffians can meet at any time when two or more Sherlockians gather in the Bowery area of Manhattan (preferably with a drink). The only formal activity of a Bowery Ruffians meeting is that toasts can be made to those nefarious criminals and ne'er-do-wells in the canon, many of whom are greatly misunderstood.

The attraction of this concept is that it is tied to a place. A thousand years from now, the scion can still meet so long as the Bowery has not been wiped off the map. As a compromise, the Ruffians can spontaneously meet at any other location with Bowery in the name such as a street, bar, anything. For example, the Ruffians could spontaneously meet in Oak Bowery, Alabama, along Bowery Creek in the Catskill Mountains, or at the Bowery Kitchen & Bar in Katoomba, Australia.

A logo and pin were designed by Kyle Brimacombe. The design motif includes a rabbit and hat. The hat emblematic of the 'Bowery Boys' gang, and the rabbit represents their main opponents, the 'Dead Rabbits'. The only way to receive the pin is to attend a meeting of the Bowery Ruffians (i.e. have a

*Photo by Matthew D. Hall*

drink in the Bowery and toast a criminal), then email Matthew Hall (theearlofmaynouth@gmail.com) to request a pin. It will be mailed to you gratis.



# Ohio

## THE AGRA TREASURES

BY LORRAINE REIBERT

The Agra Treasurers (Dayton, OH) generally meet for lunch and have a quiz on one of the adventures five times each year. Most meetings are held in a local restaurant.

Coming up, we will be hosting Holmes, Doyle & Friends 11 on March 21, 2026, in a new location at the Doubletree Inn, Fairborn, OH.

|                   |                                                     |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| January 12, 2025  | Restaurant meeting. Quiz on “The Musgrave Ritual”   |
| March 21-22, 2025 | Hosted Holmes, Doyle & Friends conference           |
| April 13, 2025    | Restaurant meeting. Quiz on “The Engineer’s Thumb”  |
| June 8, 2025      | Restaurant meeting. Quiz on “The Retired Colourman” |
| August 10, 2025   | Restaurant meeting. Quiz on “His Last Bow”          |
| November 9, 2025  | Restaurant meeting. Quiz on “The Devil’s Foot”      |

## THE STORMY PETRELS OF MAUMEE BAY

BY 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 weeks late of the famed January 6, 1854, event, we still enjoyed our repast at Angelo's Northwood Villa Restaurant.

Per the decision taken in 2022, we are meeting in alternate months, starting with the Master’s Dinner in January. Thus, there was no February meeting scheduled.

In March, Mr. Jack Stapleton and Miss Kitty Winter (Ralph and Pat Spitulski) hosted the monthly meeting in their home. There we enjoyed a very tasty buffet. In lieu of a published adventure, we were regaled with two recorded Sherlock stories starring John Stanley as our inveterate hero.

An April Gathering of the Nest was skipped but, in May, ‘the remarkable worm, said to be unknown to science’ and Miss Helen Stoner (Dave and Kathy Dennis) hosted a meeting that included a discussion of “A Case of Identity”. As always, the conversation and analysis of the story was highly enjoyable. Vamberry the wine merchant (Tom Schoen) reported that a memorial brick had been ordered and would soon be installed in Waterville, Ohio, the home of the late Mike “the resident patient” Hagen. Mike became a Petrel Who Has Flown the Nest in September of last year.

There was no June gathering of the Nest. 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 Genoa, Ohio. Unfortunately, the planned biannual election of officers did not occur. This, in spite of repeated notifications that included ballots which were distributed to the membership. A discussion of the situation brought out the sad fact that interest in continuing the Stormy Petrels seemed to be waning. Furthermore, we had not been able to attract new members for some time. It was decided to bring the issue up at future meetings when more members would be present.

After the August recess, the September meeting was held in Waterville, Ohio. There the Stormy Petrels met to honor Mike Hagen with the formal installation of a memorial brick, laid at Wakeman Hall. Inscribed

on the brick is a simple tribute, “MIKE HAGAN/STORMY PETRELS/OF MAUMEE BAY”. After the dedication, we lunched at Shawn’s Irish Tavern.

We skipped the month of October for a regular meeting. The final Gathering of the Nest took place in the home of the Prime Minister, the Baron and late Baroness Gruner (Mark and Kathy McGovern). The details for the 2026 Master’s Dinner were announced, along with suggestions for a truncated version of the scion thereafter. The adventure discussed at this, the last regular Gathering of the Nest was *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

On 31 December, the Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay, as a non-profit entity, was dissolved. It had been in existence for over 51 years.

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 18, 2025   | Our annual Master’s Dinner, which we held at Angelo’s Northwood Villa Restaurant.                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| February 2025      | No meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| March 15, 2025     | Regular meeting with old radio Sherlock Holmes episodes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| April 2025         | No meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| May 23, 2025       | Regular meeting with discussion of “A Case of Identity.”                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| June 2025          | No meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| July 29, 2025      | Annual Dr. Watson’s Picnic. Election of officers failed to take place due to lack of interest. A discussion ensued in which the dissolution of the scion was considered.                                                                                                   |
| August 2025        | No meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| September 14, 2025 | Dedication of memorial brick for Mike “the resident patient” Hagen in Waterville, Ohio.                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| October 2025       | No meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| November 15, 2025  | Final regular meeting of the Stormy Petrels, with a discussion of <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> . A vote was taken to dissolve the scion as an incorporated non-profit organization. Some members indicated that they wish to continue in a less organized fashion. |
| December 2025      | No meeting. The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay were officially dissolved upon the 31st.                                                                                                                                                                                      |

THE TANKERVILLE CLUB

BY 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”). Our club logo memorializes the scandal by showing five aces, as well as a silhouette of a deerstalkered figure with a pipe and a magnifying glass. We now also have club ties and scarfs in the club colors of black and red.

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 “221B” to close the festivities.

Tankerville Club toasts are sometimes unusual. At the September meeting, where all three toasts were poetic by sheer coincidence, John Bloomstrom had us lift our glasses to the bicycle in “The Solitary Cyclist”:

A cyclist named Carruthers from Kent  
was seen pedaling in a position exceedingly bent  
With a handlebar kept purposely low  
and his pace of speed noted as slow  
I bet he wishes now that he had never went.

On Sept. 20, the club’s annual Fall Film Festival was the world’s first All-Cartoon Sherlock Holmes film festival, held as usual at a historic theater (opened in 1881!) which appropriately has a pub attached. Organized by Mike McSwiggin, the cartoons included Mr. Magoo, Scooby-Doo, and Sherlock Hound.

The holiday meeting on Dec. 12 featured a wonderful talk by ghost-hunter Shelly Gage less than a week after she was elected the Illustrious Client of The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis. Under the title “When the Ghosts Do Apply,” Shelly explained how the process for conducting a paranormal investigation closely mirrors the way Sherlock Holmes sleuthed. Mike McSwiggin gave out copies of Vincent Starrett’s Christmas-themed “Monologue in Baker Street,” a limited-edition printing under The Tankerville Press imprint.

|                    |                                           |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| March 7, 2025      | Winter Meeting: "The Norwood Builder"     |
| June 13, 2025      | Spring Meeting: "The Dancing Men"         |
| September 5, 2025  | Summer Meeting: "The Solidary Cyclist"    |
| September 20, 2025 | All-Cartoon Sherlock Holmes Film Festival |
| December 12, 2025  | Autumn meeting: "The Priory School"       |



## Pennsylvania

### THE WHITE ROSE IRREGULARS OF YORK

BY DENNY DOBRY

Luncheon Meetings in 2025 were held at Marzoni's Pizzeria in Mechanicsburg, PA.

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 22, 2025 | 23 Sherlockians gathered to discuss "The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax". The presentation "The Fires of Fate: A Morality Play that is Bad Medicine" was given by Dana Richards BSI.                        |
| May 24, 2025      | 30 Sherlockians gathered to discuss "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs". The presentation "Sherlock Holmes and "The Sign of...Fore!" - The Intersection of Sherlock Holmes and Golf" was given by Travis Shick |

## *THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 26, 2025     | OPEN HOUSE at 221b Baker Street at Reading, Pennsylvania. 80 Sherlockians and friends gathered for socializing and experiencing the last look at Dobry's 221b Sitting Room Re-creation in its original state before its move to the University of Minnesota Sherlock Holmes Collection. |
| August 16, 2025   | 26 Sherlockians gathered to discuss "The Resident Patient". The attendees participated in an exercise to identify photographs of adult Sherlockian actors with photographs from their youth.                                                                                            |
| November 22, 2025 | 30 Sherlockians gathered to discuss "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman". The presentation was "Matters Mathematical – A Speculation as to Why a Gifted Mathematician like Professor Moriarty turned to a Life of Crime" by Dr. Brent Morris.                                       |



# Rhode Island

## THE CORNISH HORRORS

BY BURT WOLDER

After a one-year hiatus, the Cornish Horrors held a festive luncheon on Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Fleming's Steakhouse in downtown Providence. The Horrors were delighted to see their arrival celebrated by a parade in their honor, featuring people in colorful costumes, replete with songs and bright music, passing by the restaurant's windows. (They were later told this was part of the "No Kings" march in downtown Providence, which was clearly a misrepresentation.) The story for the afternoon was "The Adventure of the Engineer's Thumb." Richard Olken toasted Sherlock Holmes, quoting from Watson's description of Holmes's warm and gracious welcome to Victor Hatherly. Peter Weichman toasted Dr. Watson, honoring Mary Morstan as well and asking the group to join him and Hatherly in offering one thumb up to Watson's dedicated service. Jennifer Casasanto offered a toast in verse to The Woman, followed by Greg Darak, who toasted Dr. Leon Sterndale by singing "Hooray for Captain Spaulding." Nevan Hanuma's toast to Victor Hatherly and Burt Wolder's reading of "Cornwall's Secluded Coast" by Les Daniels concluded the first part of the program. The Horrors enthusiastic discussion of the adventure followed. PJ Sullivan delivered the Annual Leon Sterndale Invited Address on the subject of "A Baker Street Sitting Room." Michael Barton's dastardly quiz on "The Engineer's Thumb" was won by Peter Weichman. Certificates of investiture were awarded to PJ Sullivan (Radix Pedis Diaboli), Nevan Hanumara (An Unjustifiable Experiment), and Jim

Tattersall (Vicar Roundhay). Many Horrors remained in friendly conversation after the meeting, the sign of a successful gathering.



## South Carolina

### THE HANSOM WHEELS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

*BY 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: The Dude said to Walter, “There’s no raw umber in that box of Crayolas; it’s a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_ = retired color, man = “The Retired Colourman.” 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 reading of 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 listen 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 2025 it was *Silver Blaze*.

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](mailto:hansomwheels@aol.com).

|                   |                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 20, 2025 | Joe Long, “Bartitsu.” Assigned story: EMPT.                                                                   |
| April 17, 2025    | Phil Dematteis, “The Adventure of the Invidious Lists.” Assigned story: CARD.                                 |
| August 21, 2025   | Tom Elmore, “British Money.” Assigned story: TWIS.                                                            |
| October 16, 2025  | Pat McNeely, “The Case of the Haunted President: Lincoln, Doyle, and the Spirit World.” Assigned story: SUSS. |
| December 4, 2025  | Hansom Wheels Christmas Party; play: <i>Silver Blaze</i> , by Bob Robinson.                                   |

## THE SURVIVORS OF THE GLORIA SCOTT

BY TRACY REVELS

The scion for the upstate of South Carolina, The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, meets bi-monthly, on the first Saturday of the month, at 1pm EST on Zoom. The Zoom format allows 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, and we have gained many new members from across the nation. Our format is announcements of Sherlockian interest followed by a discussion of the story for the month. We continue to work our way through the Sacred Writings. Meetings are held to an hour and thirty minutes. Currently, we have about fifteen active members, and we are always looking for new members to come and join the fun! If you'd like to be placed on our list for announcements and the link to the meetings, please drop a line to Tracy Revels, BSI, at [Revelstj@wofford.edu](mailto:Revelstj@wofford.edu).

|                  |                                               |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| February 1, 2025 | Survivors meeting, discussion of CARD         |
| April 5, 2025    | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of BLAC |
| June 7, 2025     | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of SIXN |
| August 2, 2025   | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of 3STU |
| October 4, 2025  | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of GOLD |
| December 6, 2025 | Survivors meeting on Zoom, discussion of MISS |

# Texas

## THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR

*BY STEVE MASON*

2025 marked the 55th 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 Ten List by Brad Keefauver, BSI
- BSJ Reading by Shana Carter, BSI
- Closing toast written by Rich Krisciunas on the Crew of the Barque Lone Star Society

As always, the Crew is extremely grateful for the work of Cindy Brown, BSI, to keep the minutes each month and find us a wonderful slate of speakers each year.

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. You can learn more about our society at [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org).

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

In November 2025, the Crew published its tenth annual book, *Rejected Holmes*, a compilation of 32 wonderful pastiches by Society members which looks at stories rejected by the *Strand Magazine*, including the rejection letter from the editor. A free copy (.pdf/Nook/Kindle versions) can be found on our website. All our Society books can be purchased at <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/s/the%20crew%20of%20the%20barque%20lone%20star>.

At the end of 2025, the Society has 342 members.

|                   |                                                                                                                                   |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 5, 2025   | 87 attendees; Guest speaker – David McGregor: “Sherlock Holmes on Stage – Writing a Sherlockian Play.”                            |
| February 2, 2025  | 77 attendees; Guest speaker – Rudy Altergott, BSI: “Chicago in the Canon and Beyond.”                                             |
| March 2, 2025     | 68 attendees; Guest speaker – Johanna Draper Carlson: “Sherlock Holmes Comic Books in the 2000s”                                  |
| April 6, 2025     | 57 attendees; Guest speaker – Beth Gallego, BSI: “Showmen of the Day – Wombell, Sanger, and the Victorian Traveling Menagerie.”   |
| May 4, 2025       | 69 attendees; Guest speaker – Rich Krisciunas: “Would Sherlock Holmes Be a Good Witness in Court?”                                |
| June 1, 2025      | 65 attendees; Guest speaker – Josh Harvey: “Tra La La Lira Lira Lay – Another Take on ‘The Study in Scarlet’ Musical Mystery.”    |
| July 6, 2025      | 70 attendees; Guest speaker – Derrick Belanger, BSI: “Crop Beat Sticks, Why the Crop Is Sherlock Holmes’ Favorite Weapon.”        |
| August 3, 2025    | 72 attendees; Guest speaker – Ann Caddell: Shakespeare / Sherlock Holmes Connection.”                                             |
| September 7, 2025 | 69 attendees; Guest speaker – Bob Katz, BSI: “Reminiscences of Residency and the Canonical Connection.”                           |
| October 5, 2025   | 68 attendees; Guest speaker – Bill Mason, BSI: “Moriarty’s Crime Family, an Underworld Empire in Victorian London”.               |
| November 3, 2025  | 72 attendees; Guest speaker – Peggy McFarland, BSI: “Did Jabez Wilson Have a Soul? – A Brief Look at Gingers in Fact and Fiction” |
| December 7, 2025  | 75 attendees; Guest speaker – Linda Crohn & Jon Shimberg: The Forensic Science of Sherlock Holmes.”                               |



THE DIOGENES CLUB OF DALLAS ~AND~  
THE RETIRED COLOURMAN OF DALLAS

BY JIM WEBB

The scions meet irregularly and serve as the point of contact for local groups seeking a speaker on Sherlock Holmes. Examples include June 1 for the Dallas Scottish Society, September 9 for the Greenhill Prep School, which was reading *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, and a reading at the Farmers Branch Public Library for young children on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

# Vermont

## THE BAKER STREET BREAKFAST CLUB

BY 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 one in-person meeting this year, on August 4. We spent a lovely time discussing “The Speckled Band” on our members Jeanne Davis and Bruce Wheat’s terrace. As usual, we had a number of tasty items to choose from and ample wine with which to toast The Master and others. We hope that 2026 will present us with more opportunities to get together for Sherlockian entertainment.

Our quarterly newsletter, *Groans, Cries, and Bleatings*, which goes out to about 160 Sherlockians, will enter its 29<sup>th</sup> year with our upcoming March issue. The serial publication of our round-robin novel, *The Singular Affair at Quechee Gorge*, will conclude with this issue. 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. Our website is brought up to date irregularly. Most issues of our newsletter (if not always the most recent), as well as much other Sherlockian content, can be accessed from the website, <https://bakerstreetbreakfastclub.com>.

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

## Washington

### THE SOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES

BY DAVID N. HAUGEN

Our meetings for 2025 followed the same format for all of our prior years, by reviewing an adventure written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. We have previously reviewed the Canon in publication order, the order devised by William S. Baring-Gould, and the order used by Leslie S. Klinger. But in 2023 our program chair, Sunny Even, created a new approach to chronology. She combined the stories into groups that have a common theme. So, in November 2024 we started discussing the stories that fit under the theme of “The State of Royalty and Aristocracy”. This meant that we discussed ILLU in November. After our annual review of BLUE in December, we started 2025 with BERY in January. Another example of stories with a common theme is “Medicine” which started in June. The stories included were DYIN, RESI, DEVI, & CREE. In our monthly newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, Sunny always

includes an article speaking to how this current story falls into the category she chose.

Our April 13 meeting was different because we also celebrated our 45th anniversary. This scion's first meeting was on a Washington state ferry sailing from Seattle to Bremerton on March 31, 1980. Jan and Gil Bailly were the founders. Since the body of water we were crossing is named Puget Sound, they aptly named our society "The Sound of the Baskervilles". But our membership is not limited to this geographic area.

When the pandemic struck us in 2020, we quickly moved our monthly meetings to the Zoom platform, allowing us to continue our interaction with all our members, across the U.S. and Canada and across the pond to England, Wales, and the Czech Republic. We now offer our monthly meetings in two manners: Zoom calls in odd numbered months; in-person meetings and events in even numbered months.

One of the events at our April 2025 meeting was the naming of "The Footprints of a Gigantic Hound Award" winner. This is given to that member whose contribution to our success has been outstanding. The winner was Dr. Charlie Cook. But unlike most of our winners he did not live locally, but in South Carolina. A member since 2009, he created a series of quizzes to match the stories we discuss at meetings. We on the west coast got a chance to cheer his win live because our VP, Kashena Konecki, had already planned ahead and set up a phone call to him.

But it was with great sadness that we learned that he had died suddenly and unexpectedly a couple of weeks later. Though he had a Ph.D., he will always be just Charlie to us—May he be where it is always 1895.

July saw us celebrating our annual Dr. John H. Watson picnic. It was again held at Seahurst Park in Burien, WA. The park itself faces Puget Sound, and we had a very happy gathering. Our tongue-in-cheek game was won by Norm Foster.

Members have taken up leading the discussions on our Holmes adventures. The August meeting on DEVI was run by Shannon Wallace, our webmaster. Our review of SCAN in November was run by Naching T. Kassa, our social media administrator.

One of the reasons that our newsletter, *Ineffable Twaddle*, is so good is because of the contributions of so many people. In addition to Sunny Even, we have regular columns by SOBs Kris Hambrick, “Sherlock on the Screen”, and Margaret Nelson, “Sherlock Throughout the Year.” We also have a column titled “Things to See, Buy, Do & Know” which includes Sherlockian news from many sources, first, from our members, and national and international, including Peter Blau’s newsletter and the London Society’s District Messenger. What makes this all work is our editor and secretary, Terri Haugen.

We give thanks to all of our SOB members for their contributions of time, talent, and treasure—along with their loyalty in these past 45 years. Their ideas give us a fresh viewpoint and different ways of thinking about those plots we hold so dear.



## Washington, D.C.

### THE COMMISSIONAIRES CLUB

*BY THOMAS CYNKIN*

A brief report from the Commissioners Club: Seasonal Greetings and Salutations from the Commissioners Club, a scion for invested BSI members and The Woman, and devoted to the fine arts of whiskey and sodality over lunch. We kinsprits meet (irregularly, of course) at the Army & Navy Club in downtown Washington, DC, courtesy of Army & Navy Club member Mike Quigley ("Sergeant of Marines, Ret."). With his decamping to the Emerald Isle, we're pleased to report that Carla Coupe has taken over his official responsibilities for arranging the venue (again, courtesy of Mike, at the Army & Navy Club), and tabulating the luncheon tariffs (for individuals, as distinct from the now-ubiquitous tariffs of a more global nature). Accordingly,

Carla has also assumed the august mantle of "Sergeant of Marines, Ret. II," while Mike will retain the title of "Sergeant of Marines, Ret." in perpetuity, in emeritus status. Rounding out the roster of officers, Ross Davies ("Tangey") and I ("Peterson") will continue in our respective capacities. Please direct any inquiries to me at cynkintm@hotmail.com.

The Commissionaires stand upon the terrace in memory of a true stalwart, Jacquelynn Morris, BSI. Jacquelynn rarely missed our gatherings, and it's hard to imagine what they'll be like without her. Jacquelynn's good cheer was infectious, and she will be dearly missed.

## THE RED CIRCLE

BY CARLA KÆSSINGER 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. The Red Circle celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2025.

Our first speaker of 2025 was Olivia Rutigliano, editor at *Literary Hub* and *CrimeReads*, podcaster, and lecturer, whose talk was titled "On Charles Dickens's Magician-Detectives." Olivia examined the influence of Charles Dickens's penchant for performance magic on others, especially Arthur Conan Doyle, who later in life embraced spiritualism.

Summer began with lawyer, master researcher, and inveterate punster Ira Brad Matetsky speaking on "Sherlock Holmes and Washington." From

Holmes's first appearance in Washington on July 12, 1891, when "A Scandal in Bohemia" was published in *The Washington Post*, to Arthur Conan Doyle's visit during an 1894 lecture tour of the US, when he announced that Holmes was dead for good, Ira showed a wide variety of connections between Holmes, Conan Doyle, and Washington.

Cattleya Concepcion spoke on "Adventures of a Lucky Librarian, with Sherlock Holmes, Rex Stout and Others" at our autumn meeting. Cattleya is the Associate Director for Research and User Services at the Georgetown University Law Library and describes her position as being a researcher, copyright sleuth, decipherer of handwriting, map maker, and videographer. She regaled attendees with some of her adventures (and misadventures) while working at the Law Library.

The Red Circle's 75th anniversary celebration began at the American Film Institute's AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland, which hosted three newly restored silent movie shorts starring Eille Norwood. After the films, members flocked to a local restaurant to discuss the films, enjoy each other's company, and toast The Red Circle's continued presence.

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

|                    |                                                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 8, 2025      | Spring meeting. Speaker: Olivia Rutigliano                      |
| June 7, 2025       | Summer meeting. Speaker: Ira Brad Matetsky                      |
| September 20, 2025 | Autumn meeting. Speaker: Cattleya Concepcion                    |
| November 15, 2025  | Winter meeting. 75th Anniversary at the American Film Institute |

# Wisconsin

## THE NOTORIOUS CANARY-TRAINERS

BY 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 Holmesian announcements of note (and frequently, to trade 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 website, [CanaryTrainers.com](http://CanaryTrainers.com), has a list of our discussion topics, meeting dates, and locations. We follow the style of a book club, where at each monthly meeting, we cover one of the canonical stories through friendly discussion. We are open to anyone interested, it is free to attend our meetings, and we continue to add new members annually. Our story discussion schedule from 2025 is listed below.

Max Magee and Johanna Draper Carlson both attended 221B Con (221bcon.com) in April 2025, as they did the year before. In 2025, Johanna acted as Sponsor and Guest Coordinator for the convention and converted the organization behind the show into an official non-profit before becoming one of the two new Executive Directors. Max, meanwhile, presented the final viewing of his “Becoming a Sherlockian” talk for the Chicago Torists International scion in late 2024.

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

The Notorious Canary-Trainers has a sibling society, the Diogenes Club, which meets virtually to discuss historical/Golden Age mysteries. Titles read in 2025 included works by Rex Stout, Mary Roberts Rinehart, August Derleth, Wilkie Collins, P.D. James, and *The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars* by Anthony Boucher.

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

|                    |                                                             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 12, 2025   | Sherlock Holmes Birthday Celebration Luncheon               |
| February 16, 2025  | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Six Napoleons”          |
| March 16, 2025     | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Three Students”         |
| April 20, 2025     | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez”       |
| May 18, 2025       | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter”  |
| June 15, 2025      | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange”           |
| July 20, 2025      | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Second Stain”           |
| August 17, 2025    | Discussion of “The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge”             |
| September 21, 2025 | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Red Circle”             |
| October 19, 2025   | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans” |
| November 16, 2025  | Discussion of “The Adventure of the Dying Detective”        |
| December 21, 2025  | Discussion of “The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax”    |



## THE ORIGINAL TREE WORSHIPERS

BY RESA HAILE

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

In our meetings, going through our second group reading of the Canon, we now discuss two or more stories that have common ground, sometimes including adaptations. Linda Robinson provides cryptograms consisting of humorous puns on the names of stories in the Canon. We meet monthly, usually at the public library in Janesville, Wisconsin, but occasionally elsewhere.

|                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Meetings are held at 2:21 p.m. unless otherwise stated. |                                                                                                                                                                  |
| January 18, 2025                                        | Sherlockian Show & Tell and mystery games                                                                                                                        |
| February 8, 2025                                        | Stories: "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange"/"The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger"<br>Introduction to the stories by Linda Robinson                               |
| March 1, 2025                                           | Stories: <i>A Study in Scarlet</i> /"The Adventure of the Red Circle"                                                                                            |
| April 5, 2025                                           | Stories: "The Adventure of the 'Gloria Scott'"/"The Adventure of the Lion's Mane"                                                                                |
| May 3, 2025                                             | Special Conan Doyle Meeting. Discussion: <i>The Wanderings of a Spiritualist</i> by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; <i>A Magician Among the Spirits</i> by Harry Houdini |
| June 7, 2025                                            | Stories: "The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez"/"The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge"                                                                               |
| August 2, 2025<br>At High Noon                          | The Second Annual Irregular Original Tree Worshipers Picnic                                                                                                      |

*THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

|                                |                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 16, 2025                | Stories: "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier"/"The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone"       |
| September 13, 2025             | Stories: "The Adventure of the Three Students"/"The Adventure of the Missing Three-Quarter" |
| October 25, 2025               | Stories: <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> /"The Adventure of the Creeping Man"          |
| November 8, 2025               | Stories: "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle"/"The Adventure of the Six Napoleons"         |
| December 6, 2025<br>11:30 a.m. | Holiday party at Linda's house                                                              |

Contact information:

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email: [huntingviolets@gmail.com](mailto:huntingviolets@gmail.com).

Blog: <https://rocksherlocktw.blogspot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OTW.RockSherlock/>

## ONLINE & OTHER-WAYS

[Editor's Note: One of the editors of the BSA is a prude. While inwardly laughing, we are sure, this editor outwardly expressed some concern as to the tenor of the first entry here, by the Baker Street Guttersnipes. Erring, therefore, on the side of discretion, we are presenting an excerpted version of the report, condensed somewhat from its initial magnificence. The grip on the reins, however, of the aforementioned prude is loosening, and so we (a) are including a really swell photo<sup>4</sup>, and (b) strongly encourage the adventurous to seek out the literary thrill of the full text in all its original glory at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/963734775271083/>.]

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<sup>4</sup> The editor in question wishes to make it known that he may be prudish but he is not blind. While he acknowledges that – unlike the hand in the decal drawing of note – the hand in said photo has only one finger raised, he asserts that he recognizes that particular finger when he sees it.

THE BAKER STREET GUTTERSNIPE  
THE SOCIETY FOR THE CANONICALLY COARSE

BY KAREN ELLERY

*"I Went To It On My Knees...": The Germination of the Guttersnipes*

"What are you, twelve?" If you've ever heard that phrase directed at you for laughing at something risqué, rude, or just plain open to (mis)interpretation, you MAY be a Guttersnipe.

On April 7, 2024, a vital question was asked in The Stranger's Room (an all-inclusive Facebook group for Sherlockians). "Has anyone ever created a collection of the rudest sounding, most misconstruable lines in the Canon?"

In the few hours, several links, and 65 replies that followed, many Sherlockians suggested, cursed, gagged, and dived deep for satisfaction. One in particular took the matter to her bosom. No one will be surprised to learn that bosom belonged to Carla Kaessinger Coupe.

"I want to work on this project!" she ejaculated.

Ever ready to spot the possibilities in any opening, Karen Ellery made a most improper suggestion: "Ya know, we COULD start a FB group..."

Shunning all shibboleths in true Bohemian fashion, the Guttersnipes eschew formal meetings. Instead, we lurk in insalubrious places like Facebook, cocking a snoot at organization in general. In addition to having more fun than all other societies combined, 2025 saw the adoption of the official Guttersnipes motto, "Crime is common, logic is rare, but snark is critical;" and the creation of the Guttersnipes logo by Amanda Downs Champlin.

In their own nose-thumbing, backward-V way, the Guttersnipes celebrate the Canon in unintended but by no means unfriendly ways. Come,

check them out, enjoy the titillatingly retitled stories or unmannerly memes you'll find in their midst. Or you can just ask to see a certain nail decal.



*The Baker Street GutterSnipes logo, modeled by the Dirty Little Lieutenant.*

*Photo by Karen Ellery.*

THE CLIENTS OF ADRIAN MULLINER

BY BURT WOLDER

*From Mulliner to Moriarty and from Blandings to Baker Street – in One Hour.* The Clients, a scion society for enthusiasts of both Holmes and P.G. Wodehouse, returned to activity in 2025 with two meetings on Zoom. The June 22 meeting began with four toasts, the first to Plum, with Scott Daniels delivering remarks prepared by Bob Rains, who could not attend. Burt Wolder toasted Conan Doyle, using Wodehouse's words; David Leal celebrated the Inimitable Jeeves, and Lee Shackleford saluted Adrian Mulliner. Next, Scott Daniels led the group in an animated discussion of Holmes parallels and appearances in Wodehouse, in a session called "At Holmes in Wodehouse." The discussion was ably propelled by Neil Midkiff's newly updated page on Madame Eulalie. Lee Shackleford then delivered the Augustus Fink-Nottle Invited Address on the subject "Sherlock Holmes is Like Jeeves", noting many similarities between these men, such as the practice of quoting from books written in languages other than English, and their capacity for quickly winning the hearts of manor house cooks and scullery maids. David Leal led the last section of the program, "Plum-ing the Depths," in which the group discussed potential crossovers of the characters: what would Bertie have been like as a client of Sherlock Holmes? Who in the world of Wodehouse would be the best client? The worst?

A post-meeting survey gave the meeting high marks, and the Clients gathered for their next one-hour Zoom meeting with twenty-four attendees on October 12. David Leal toasted Plum as an intellectual entrepreneur who knew his audience and kept the pounds and dollars flowing for decades. Burt

Wolder, stepping in for Matt Hall, toasted Conan Doyle, whose greatest creation drew order from chaos and clarity from confusion. Scott Daniels celebrated the Inimitable Jeeves with a series of story titles which built a heartwarming impression of the Great Man. Burt Wolder returned to salute Adrian Mulliner, the detective whose smile could unlock every guilty conscience. He suggested Adrian was proof that, in a well-paced comedy, everyone can get precisely what they deserve — and sometimes, what they never expected. Next, Scott Daniels led the group in an animated discussion called “Your First and Favorite,” which began with a review of members’ favorite works. We heard many stories of first discoveries, with examples of Wodehouse’s writing which made lifelong impressions. David Leal then delivered the Augustus Fink-Nottle Invited Address on “Parliament and Politics in the Worlds of Wodehouse and Holmes”. He discussed Conan Doyle’s personal experiences in politics and examples from Holmes’s cases. Turning to Wodehouse, David revealed Plum’s deep awareness of politics, suggesting he was a great political satirist as well as humorist. David’s talk generated enthusiastic discussions, and the hour flew by.

## BOHEMIAN SOULS

*BY KAREN ELLERY*

Bohemian Souls, the Sherlockian LGBTQ+ Society, is a hybrid virtual/in-person society with discussion groups on Facebook and Discord, founded June 4, 2023, with current membership of 35.

Led by Lavender Spats Karen Ellery (contact: themadblonde@gmail.com) and Olivia Kirkendall, Bohemian Souls holds irregular, in-person gatherings as two or more members happen to meet. Discussion topics range from representative literature to current LGBTQ events and concerns and other subjects of interest to our members. This is a safe, inclusive, queer space for Sherlockian Family and allies.

## BRICKS WITHOUT CLAY

*BY KAREN ELLERY*

Founded on January 2, 2025, Bricks Without Clay is the society for Sherlockian Modular Builders, with a current membership of 47, this virtual society is headquartered on Facebook for online discussions and picture sharing, and is headed by the NoWood Builder, Karen Ellery (themadblonde@gmail.com).

2025 was the inaugural year for BWC and our timing couldn't have been better. While we began the year with only Pantasy and custom-built modular sets created from Legos, Play Mobil, and other systems, greater delights were in store.

On June 1, Lego released its Sherlock Holmes Book Nook (10351), and the Sherlockian community rejoiced. Membership surged as people joined to ask advice, share pictures, and generally enjoy their new toys with a like-minded community.

BWC is a great place to share your Lego, Pantasy, Play Mobil, and other modular passions. If you've made a 221B Sitting room out of Lincoln Logs, WE WANT PICTURES! Members can even "build" their own Society pins. You find the template in the Facebook group discussion.



*Photos by Victoria Wood*



*Photos by Christy Allen*

FIVE MILES FROM ANYWHERE

*BY 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 annual summer hiatus, we met ten times during 2025. The talks were as follows:

January 2025: Derrick Belanger, BSI (“The Board Schools”) gave a talk on Holmes’s favorite weapon – the loaded hunting crop.

February 2025: PJ Sullivan gave the group a tour of her 221B Baker Street sitting room.

March 2025: Margie Deck led a panel discussion of authors who were part of her Sherlock Holmes project, “Sherlock Holmes: Into the Fire”.

April 2025: Author Tom Burns discussed his Holmes pastiche, "His Own Hangman" where Holmes must confront the menace known as The Doctor (aka Dr. Fu Manchu).

May 2025: Edward Pettit discussed *Sherlock Monthly*, The Rosenbach Museum & Library's Biblioventure series on Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories

August 2025: Bruce Harris, BSI ("Harris") gave a talk on Sherlock Holmes Chronology in general and more specifically on *The Sign of the Four*.

September 2025: Hal Glatzer showed clips from his theatrical production "A Musicale in Mrs. Hudson's Parlor" and discussed the production.

October 2025: Sherlockian artist Tiger Daniels presented her Sherlock Holmes boxes, miniature versions of some classic locations from the Canon as well as scenes from the Grenada series and even a Johnlock setting.

November 2025: Sherlockian author and researcher, S.F. Bennett gave a talk titled "ACD in Devon." We learned about Doyle's connection to the land of The Hound of the Baskervilles.

December 2025: Sherlockian artist and writer Brian Belanger gave a talk titled "Did Doyle Invent Cosplay?" We learned how Doyle started the tradition carried on in Fandom and Comicons all across the world today.

All the meeting talks can be viewed on Derrick Belanger's YouTube channel: @derrickbelanger3389.

## THE DANCING MEN SCOURERS

BY VICTORIA WOOD

Founder Ross Davies was intrigued by Burt Wolder's chapter in the 2021 BSI volume, *A Masterpiece of Villainy* discussing how admirers, art and advertising led readers to *The Return of Sherlock Holmes*, prompting further research into the promotion of those stories. *Collier's* campaign of December 1903 particularly caught Davies' eye. In early December of 1903, *Collier's* magazine placed advertisements for its Christmas issue in many newspapers. The ads were ten-cents-off coupons, each illustrated with one or more of the intriguing cipher-characters from Arthur Conan Doyle's much anticipated new Sherlock Holmes story, "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" – the main attraction in the Christmas *Collier's*. In addition to at least one mysterious Dancing Man, each ad also contained a code, a Roman numeral that enabled *Collier's* to determine which newspaper the ad had been clipped from. From "I" (1) the *New York Times* to "LXIX" (46) the *Atlanta Constitution*, the Scourers have been on the hunt for missing Roman numerals, and their newspapers. All these elements came together around the time of Davies' talk on the subject at the Toronto Public Library, where he noted: "Any clue that is not completely developed, when presented to Sherlockians, will result in a pursuit." Thus, with his talk was displayed the incomplete map of the Dancing Men ad campaign and an invitation to find examples of these coupons in the newspaper archives and fill in the map. Subsequent appeals and regular updates have been posted in The Strangers Room on Facebook. You can find additional background in Davies' IHOSE interview episode 322.

## *THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025*

A group of intrepid investigators have coalesced around this mission and spent their time deducing, researching, compiling and spreadsheeting their way through digital archives, microfilm, and even (gasp!) bound volumes of newsprint from December 1903 and have been able to successfully identify 61 of the 69 newspapers that were part of this campaign. The group have also located three newspapers that have had the Dancing Men coupons, without the Roman numeral codes. The group, named The Dancing Men Scourers, includes Melissa Aho, Ross Davies, Matt Hall, Bruce Harris, Ira Matetsky, Olivia Millunzi, Greg Ruby and Victoria Wood.



As the year 2025 ends we are closing in on a complete map! In the meantime, the Scourers are considering a Constitution and Bylaws as the basis for our long-term existence and work. Contact Victoria Wood at [victowood@gmail.com](mailto:victowood@gmail.com) if you have any leads and wish to join us as we continue the hunt in 2026!

**CLASSICAL DANCE NUMBERS**  
by Rose E. Davies

In early December 1963, Collier's magazine placed advertisements for its Christmas issue in many newspapers. The ads were ten-cent-of-copy coupons, each illustrated with one or more of the intriguing cyber-characters from Arthur Conan Doyle's much-anticipated new Sherlock Holmes story, "The Adventure of the Dancing Men" — the main attraction in the Christmas Collier's.

In addition to at least one mysterious Dancing Man, each ad also contained a code inserted not by Abe Sinner or Elsie Cabot or Sherlock Holmes (the three people in the story who readers would soon learn were able to communicate via Dancing Men), but by Collier's itself. Discreetly tucked into each Dancing Men ad was a Roman numeral.

The numeral was part of a simple code that enabled Collier's to determine which newspaper the ad had been clipped from. Thus, for example, "LII" (= the Arabic "52"; Arabic is used on the map here for ease of reading) appeared in all, and only, the ads in the Indianapolis Journal, while "XXI" (= "21") was code for the St. Louis Post Dispatch and "XXII" (= "22") was for the Montreal Daily Star.

Many Roman numerals, and many Dancing Men, have not yet been found in the Collier's ads. Join the hunt! First finder will get credit in the final map. Please email images of full newspaper pages to [rdavies@greenberg.org](mailto:rdavies@greenberg.org).

Third edition (in progress, forthcoming 2022), based on first edition (1963/64/65, Toronto, 2002).

below:  
Numbers not yet on the map and connected to a newspaper.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

**THE CHALLENGE OF THE DANCING NUMERICAL CODE: PLEASE FILL SOME BLANKS!**

|                                         |                                              |                                            |                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| I — New York Times (1)                  | XXIII — Kansas City Star (23)                | XLIV — St. Paul Pioneer Press (45)         | LXV —                            |
| II — New York Sun (2)                   | XXIV — Kansas City Times (24)                | XLVI — Omaha Daily Bee (46)                | LXVI —                           |
| III —                                   | XXV — Philadelphia Public Ledger (25)        | XLVII — Portland Oregonian (47)            | LXVII —                          |
| IV — New York Evening Post (4)          | XXVI — Philadelphia Press (26)               | XLVIII —                                   | LXVIII —                         |
| V — New York Mail and Express (5)       | XXVII — Philadelphia North American (27)     | XLIX — Milwaukee Evening Wisconsin (49)    | LXIX — Atlanta Constitution (69) |
| VI — New York Commercial Advertiser (6) | XXVIII — Philadelphia Evening Telegraph (28) | L — Washington Post (50)                   | Indianapolis Täglicher Telegraph |
| VII — New York American (7)             | XXIX — Philadelphia Evening Bulletin (29)    | LI — Indianapolis Evening Star (51)        | Indiana Tribune                  |
| VIII — New York Telegraph (8)           | XXX — Philadelphia Record (30)               | LII — Indianapolis Journal (52)            | Newark Evening News              |
| IX — Brooklyn Daily Eagle (9)           | XXXI — Pittsburgh Dispatch (31)              | LIII — Indianapolis News (53)              |                                  |
| X — Buffalo Morning Express (10)        | XXXII — Pittsburgh Leader (32)               | LIV — Baltimore American (54)              |                                  |
| XI — Buffalo Evening News (11)          | XXXIII — Pittsburgh Press (33)               | LIV —                                      |                                  |
| XII —                                   | XXXIV — Pittsburgh Daily Post (34)           | LVI — Detroit Free Press (56)              |                                  |
| XIII — Chicago Evening Post (13)        | XXXV — San Francisco Chronicle (35)          | LVII — Detroit Evening News (57)           |                                  |
| XIV — Chicago Tribune (14)              | XXXVI — San Francisco Examiner (36)          | LVIII — Detroit [Sunday] News-Tribune (57) |                                  |
| XV — Chicago Record-Herald (15)         | XXXVII — Rocky Mountain News (37)            | LIX — Cincinnati Enquirer (59)             |                                  |
| XVI — Chicago Daily News (16)           | XXXVIII — Louisville Courier-Journal (38)    | LX — Cleveland Plain Dealer (60)           |                                  |
| XVII — Boston Herald (17)               | XXXIX — Louisville Times (39)                | LXI — Cleveland Press (61)                 |                                  |
| XVIII — Boston Evening Transcript (18)  | XL — New Orleans Daily Picayune (40)         | LXII — Montreal Daily Star (62)            |                                  |
| XIX — Boston Globe (19)                 | XLI — New Orleans Times-Democrat (41)        | LXIII — Toronto Globe (63)                 |                                  |
| XX — St. Louis Globe-Democrat (20)      | XLII — Minneapolis Journal (42)              | LXIV — Toronto Trader (64)                 |                                  |
| XLI — St. Louis Post-Dispatch (21)      | XLIII — Minneapolis Star-Tribune (43)        | LXV — Boston Globe (65)                    |                                  |
| XLII — St. Louis Republic (22)          | XLIV — St. Paul Dispatch (44)                |                                            |                                  |

Mississ Aho: XLIV  
Matthew D. Hall: XLVII, LX  
Bruce Harris: V, VI, VII, XIII, XV, XVI, XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, XXXII, XXXVII, XXXIX, XLIX, LVII (all), LXIV, Indianapolis Täglicher Telegraph, Newark Evening News  
Ira Brad Matetsky: IV, VIII, XVII, XX, XXV, XL, LXI, LXII, LXIII, Newark Evening News  
Olivia Millanzi  
Greg D. Raby: LIV  
Victoria Wood: XXXI, XLV

THE JOHN H WATSON SOCIETY

BY MADELINE QUIÑONES

The John H Watson Society continued to tweak its registration process for free membership in 2025. We remain grateful to webmistress Beth Gallego (JHWS “Selena”) for all her hard work. New members can now create their own account at our website, [johnhwatsonsociety.com](http://johnhwatsonsociety.com), and they will receive a welcome email, an online account, and a bullpup moniker!

*The Watsonian* continues to be published via Amazon, and can be purchased by anyone, regardless of membership, here: [tinyurl.com/yhexumjy](http://tinyurl.com/yhexumjy)

The JHWS meets on Zoom and managed this past year to meet mostly or entirely on the fourth Sunday of the month (the writer’s memory is not clear). Brad Keefauver (JHWS “Calder”) hosted the meetings, but, at the end of the year, he stepped down. The Boy-in-Buttons, Madeline Quiñones (JHWS “Maddie Buttons”), is now hosting the meetings as of January 2026. The JHWS owes Brad a tremendous amount of gratitude: he was the bullpup who began the practice of the JHWS holding regular meetings at all. The JHWS is an online, international society, and, as such, no monthly meetings had been held prior to the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.

2025 meetings were dominated by a game called “London 1891,” inspired by the reality TV show *Traitors*, which is also similar to the game “Werewolf.” Following the death of Sherlock Holmes, citizens of London in 1891 were asked to help Dr. Watson track down the rest of Moriarty’s gang. Every player took on a name for the game, either a Canonical character, a real-life person, or else a totally new character they made up. In-between meetings, “Colonel Moran” (aka gamemaster Brad) would email his minions and ask

them which innocent London citizen they should kill before the next meeting. At each meeting, the new death was announced (Rich Krisciunas, JHWS “Hector,” was the first to go), and the players would have the chance to vote for who they thought was a Moriarty agent. The players almost always got it wrong (but to be fair, it was surprisingly difficult to play), and every innocent and guilty person alike was sent to Mycroft Holmes’s secret prison in Australia. The innocent parties were eventually all found to be innocent and were sent on their way back to London. One Moriarty agent got away scot-free at the end: Naching Kassa (JHWS “Sunshine”).

The podcast *Watsonian Weekly* continued to review the adaptation *Sherlock & Co* every week and also published special episodes early in 2025 to review the first season of the CBS series *Watson*.

There was no annual treasure hunt in 2025, but the JHWS plans to return to devious questions and ciphers in 2026.

Lastly, the JHWS has no official presence at 221B Con in Atlanta, but Con is always well-supported by the society, and never more so than now that two of our bullpups, Johanna Draper Carlson (JHWS “Frita”) and Heather Hinson (JHWS “Starlight”) are the new directors of Con! The JHWS is excited, grateful, and proud.

If you want more information about the society or if you would like to join, you can visit our website, [johnhwatsonsonociety.com](http://johnhwatsonsonociety.com), or email Madeline at [boswell@johnhwatsonsonociety.com](mailto:boswell@johnhwatsonsonociety.com). If you would like to contribute to the *Watsonian Weekly*, you can email Brad at [podcast@johnhwatsonsonociety.com](mailto:podcast@johnhwatsonsonociety.com). And if you would like to contribute to *The Watsonian*, you can email Sandra Little (“Evidently Harmless”) at [publisher@johnhwatsonsonociety.com](mailto:publisher@johnhwatsonsonociety.com).

## THE SOCIETY PAGES 2025

|                    |                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 26, 2025   | Zoom discussion: the events of the birthday weekend          |
| February 23, 2025  | Zoom game: Instant Symposium!                                |
| March 30, 2025     | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| April 27, 2025     | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| May 25, 2025       | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| June 22, 2025      | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| July 27, 2025      | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| August 24, 2025    | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| September 28, 2025 | Zoom game: London 1891                                       |
| October 26, 2025   | Zoom game: London 1891 Finale                                |
| November 23, 2025  | Zoom interview: Consultation with Margie Deck (JHWS “Mopsy”) |
| December 28, 2025  | Zoom reader theater: “The Blue Carbuncle”                    |

## THE LEGION OF ZOOM

BY 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.

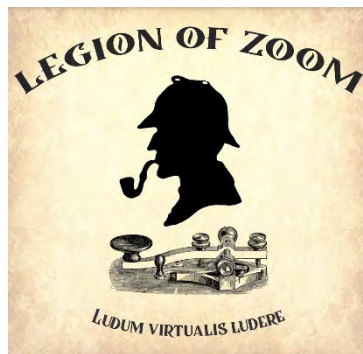
The fourth annual “221B Sitting Zoom” virtual conference was held March 16, with six speakers on a range of Sherlockian topics. Many of the presentations given at previous “221B Sitting Zoom” conferences are available to view via the Legion of Zoom website ([www.sherlocklegionofzoom.org](http://www.sherlocklegionofzoom.org)).

Continuing its virtual tobacco card series based on characters and artwork in the Sherlock Holmes stories, the Legion began distribution of a series based on Sherlock Holmes adaptations in film.

In March, in conjunction with *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*, the Legion conducted Holmes Hysteria IV, a virtual March Madness-style battle royale in which members of the Facebook Stranger's Room voted on the greatest portrayal of Dr. John Watson in film and television. The winner was David Burke, in the Granada Television Sherlock Holmes series (1984–1994).

The Legion also continued the tradition started by Theater-Goers, Homeward Bound, hosting virtual broadcasts of various Sherlock Holmes film adaptations via Zoom on a monthly basis throughout the year.

| 2025 Conference Speakers |                                                                          |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Speaker                  | Title                                                                    |
| Randall Stock            | Exploring <i>The Valley of Fear</i> and its Manuscript                   |
| Erica Fair               | A Very Real Danger to Humanity: The True Story behind “The Creeping Man” |
| Bruno Stenson            | Sherlock Holmes in Montréal                                              |
| Karen Ellery             | The Red-Throated League of Minnesota                                     |
| Fabienne Courouge        | The French Inspiration for Sherlock Holmes                               |
| Robert Sharfman          | Is the Canon a ‘Great Book’?                                             |



## THE NOBLE CORRESPONDENTS

*BY MICHAEL BARTON*

The Noble Correspondents is a letter-writing society of twenty-six members across the United States and Europe. Founded by Master of Posts Michael Barton, the society is composed of Sherlockians who enjoy sending and receiving missives through the post. Its members are united by a shared enthusiasm for the Canon and the exchange of ideas through traditional means; many correspond using typewriters, fountain pens, and pencils. The creativity of the membership is notable, often showcased through unique stationery, rubber stamps, vintage postage, and limited-edition postcards. Although no official accounting has been conducted, the Master of Posts estimates that well over 1,500 pieces of mail have been exchanged to date.

The society's coat of arms was designed by Burt Wolder. Quarterly azure and gold, the shield is divided into four parts:

- The first quarter: A sun with rays of splendor, representing the birth of new ideas.
- The second quarter: A sable quill pen and ink pot, the tools of creativity.
- The third quarter: Two golden wheat sheaves placed saltire, representing the flight of imagination and words.
- The fourth quarter: Three enclosed letters in black with red seals, the symbols of communication.

The society's Latin motto, *Verba Volant, Scripta Manent*, translates to: "Spoken words fly away, written words remain."

The name of the society is derived from the opening of "The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor," where Watson relaxes in 221B:

"With my body in one easy-chair and my legs upon another, I had surrounded myself with a cloud of newspapers until at last... I tossed them all aside and lay listless, watching the huge crest and monogram upon the envelope upon the table and wondering lazily who my friend's noble correspondent could be."

Those interested in membership should send a letter of interest and enthusiasm to:

The Noble Correspondents  
Michael R.H. Barton, Master of Posts  
33 Robert Road  
Tyngsborough, MA 01879  
United States



## THE RED-THROATED LEAGUE

BY KAREN ELLERY

Old Time Radio Company dedicated to recreating the Sherlock Holmes scripts of Edith Meiser; in partnership with the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota and the University of Minnesota Libraries Special Sherlock Holmes Collections.

Founded: 1990 by Bob and Lucy Brusic

Current Company membership: 12

Director: Karen Ellery, redthroatedleague@gmail.com

On Sunday, March 16, Director Karen Ellery presented “Full Throatal: The History of the Red-Throated League,” at the Legion of Zoom 4th Annual Virtual Conference. Being a replacement speaker and having all of 36 hours to prepare, this was almost as much of a surprise to Director Ellery as it was to the attendees.

The Red-Throated League made its triumphal return to The Pavek Museum of Broadcasting in May for its production of *The Adventure of the Speckled Band*, a radio script by Edith Meiser. The League had performed regularly at The Pavek for over a decade and was pleased to be “home” again after an absence of several years.

In July, company members helped staff the STEAM Saturday at the Pavek, introducing folks, young and old alike, to the fun of Foley sound effects. And finally, in October, The Red-Throated League provided foley and the assistance of our Foley Captain Heather Edwards for the annual Pavek fundraising evening, Pavek After Dark.

THE SUB-LIBRARIANS SCION OF THE BSI  
IN THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

*BY CHRISTY ALLEN*

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association, led by Beth L. Gallego and Christy Allen, was founded by John Bennett Shaw and Howard Haycraft in 1967. It is the oldest profession-oriented scion related to Sherlock Holmes.

The Sub-Librarians held their 47th (irregular) annual meeting at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as part of the American Library Association annual conference. Christy Allen and Beth Gallego organized the event which took place on Sunday, June 29th and featured author Lyndsay Faye. Prior to the presentation, toasts were given as follows:

- Lomax, the Sub-Librarian of the London Library, by Chloe Bennett, Experiential Learning Librarian, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries.
- Sherlock Holmes, Bookman and Special Librarian, by Beth L. Gallego, BSI, The Curious Collectors of Baker Street, the John H. Watson Society, and Children's Librarian, Los Angeles Public Library
- Dr. Hill Barton, Library Patron, by George H. Scheetz, The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), The Double-Barreled Tiger Cubs, and Director Emeritus, Batavia (Ill.) Public Library
- Baron Gruner, Collector, by Christy Allen, Associate Director for Digital and Resource Management, Furman University

- Kitty Winter, a *Wronged Woman*, by Lyndsay Faye, BSI, ASH, The Baker Street Babes, and author of the Timothy Wilde series, Jane Steele, *Observations by Gaslight: Stories from the World of Sherlock Holmes*, &c.

ALA Best Historical Award-winning (and twice Edgar Award-nominated) Sherlockian author, Lyndsay Faye, gave a presentation on Lomax: the sub-librarian of the British Library and namesake of our scion. Her presentation included historical information about British sub-librarians during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She also reflected upon her own research and experience in writing her short story “The Gospel of Sheba,” a bibliomystery centered around a lethal grimoire, narrated via Lomax's private journals. The presentation was followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. The presentation was sponsored by CORE: Leadership Infrastructure Futures, a division of the American Library Association.



*Photo by Kimberlee Richards*

The Sub-Librarians also organized a guided tour of the Sherlock Holmes collections at the Rosenbach Museum and Library on June 28th. Edward G. Pettit, Sunstein Senior Manager of Public Programs led an engaging hands-on program which included archival material, first editions, and the original manuscript for “The Adventure of the Empty House.”

The Sub-Librarians will meet in June 2026 in Chicago, Illinois as part of the American Library Association conference. To learn more about our plans for 2026, please visit our website at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians/>.

## THE TEA BROKERS OF MINCING LANE

*BY KAREN ELLERY*

Virtual Scion Society of the Baker Street Irregulars, with a presence on Facebook, Discord, Threads, and Instagram; QuarterTea meetings on Zoom. [teabrokersmincinglane@gmail.com](mailto:teabrokersmincinglane@gmail.com). Founded: February 15, 2021; Current membership: 135; Mother: Karen Ellery

The Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane really started to come into its own in 2025. We started the year as one starts a good day: with breakfast. Tea Brokers and friends gathered at the Gee Whiz Diner (just down the street from The Mysterious Bookshop in Manhattan), on Thursday, January 16, for the Pre-Peggy’s Ponies Prandial Tea Brokers Breakfast. This event preceded the Arthur Conan Doyle Society’s Doylean Honours and the running of the Wessex Cup during the annual New York Sherlockian Birthday Celebrations. Old friends were greeted, new friends were made, tea was shared, and a

tradition was born. Tea Broker Margie Deck received a Doylean Honour for Excellence in Fiction and Poetry.

On Friday night of the same weekend, guests at the Gaslight Gala, the Baker Street Irregulars annual dinner, and The Woman dinner received a Tea Brokers “goody bag” consisting of a sample of Mincing Lane Morning Blend tea and a heart-shaped tea infuser. These were among the many other wonderful items to be found in the presentation bags for these events. Tea Brokers invested in the BSI Class of 2025 were Shana Carter and Beth Gallego.

In February, the Brokers celebrated their Fantastic Fourth Birthday with a Zoom meeting. The remaining three QuarterTea meetings, “May We Tea” in May, “Dog Days Tea” in August, and “GraTeaTude” in November also took place on Zoom. We were glad to welcome back Guest Mixologist and Superior Ginger Bill Pitcher for another Tea Mocktail class at our August meeting.

In April, the Tea Brokers held one of the coveted table-segments at the first ever BSI Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies, held in Indianapolis, IN. In addition to information about our society, we provided stickers, tea candies, and nail decals as giveaways. We gathered for a group picture and signed up new members and had a lovely time.

Being a virtual society, we have the privilege of having members from around the world, and even if we don’t meet in person as often as we’d like, we still share our tea, our time, and our treasures regularly via Zoom. As is said in the last two lines of The Mincing Lane Ritual: “Why do we do this?” “For the sake of the Tea.”



*Sherlock's Desk in the 221B Baker Street Sitting Room at PJ Sullivan's House, where there is clearly no room for editing Almanacs.*

# 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. I will say, recently a few groups that are listed geographically are really only meeting virtually, and thus the local identity is less essential. I may start marking these clubs differently next year, for clarity. 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.

While I have been shedding some inactive groups from this list, it has not been many. I have added a surprising number of new groups (awesome!). I seem to find out about inactive groups in a rather random and scattershot way. If you see a group that you know is defunct, please let me know. Having inactive groups listed does no one any favors.

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

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\* Mike McSwiggin is “A Seven-Per-Cent Solution” in the Baker Street Irregulars.

perhaps even love) a good old-fashioned letter. Any sent to me will not be speared by a jackknife.

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](mailto:mikemcswiggin@gmail.com)) with any updates, additions, or deletions. Thanks to everyone for helping us out!

• • • •

## SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES BY COUNTRY

### *Australia*

The Severed Ears of Croydon  
Phil Cornell  
Croydon, N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA  
[philipcornell@yahoo.com.au](mailto:philipcornell@yahoo.com.au)

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne  
Michael Duke  
Hampton  
Victoria  
AUSTRALIA  
[mmgduke@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mmgduke@bigpond.net.au)

The Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia  
Mark Chellew  
Daw Park  
AUSTRALIA  
<https://adelaiderascals.com/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia  
Fred Rutter  
Forrestfield, WA  
AUSTRALIA  
[camden.house@telstra.com](mailto:camden.house@telstra.com)

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

The Sydney Passengers  
Bill Barnes  
Manly, N.S.W.  
AUSTRALIA  
<http://www.sherlock.on.net/>

*Belgium*

Le peloton des cyclistes solitaires  
Cedric C. Goffinet  
Bruxelles  
BELGIUM  
[cedric.goffinet@skynet.be](mailto:cedric.goffinet@skynet.be)

*Brazil*

The Isadora Klein Amateur Mendicant Society  
Carlos Orsi Martinho  
BRAZIL  
[carlos.orsi71@gmail.com](mailto:carlos.orsi71@gmail.com)

*Canada*

The Bimetallic Question  
Wilfrid de Freitas  
Montreal  
CANADA  
<http://www.bimetallicquestion.org/>

The Bootmakers of Toronto  
Thelma Beam  
Toronto, ON  
CANADA  
[ccr@pathcom.com](mailto:ccr@pathcom.com)  
<https://www.torontobootmakers.com/>

The Spence Munros  
Mark J. Alberstat  
CANADA  
[HalifaxSherlock@gmail.com](mailto:HalifaxSherlock@gmail.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Spence-Munros-212957769636/>

*SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY*

The London Cesspudlians  
Mark Hanson  
London, ON  
<https://cesspudlians.weebly.com>  
CANADA

The Main Street Irregulars  
Trevor S. Raymond  
Georgetown, ON  
CANADA  
[bootprint@cogeco.ca](mailto:bootprint@cogeco.ca)

The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia  
Fran Martin  
New Westminster, BC  
CANADA  
[franziskah@shaw.ca](mailto:franziskah@shaw.ca)  
<https://thestormypetrels.com/>

The Stratford on Avon Sherlock Holmes Society  
Jack Winn  
Stratford, ON  
CANADA  
<https://www.facebook.com/Stratford-On-Avon-Sherlock-Holmes-Society-890766164306152/>

The Wisteria Lodgers of Edmonton  
Constantine Kaoukakis  
Edmonton, AB  
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](mailto: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

Copenhagen

DENMARK

info@sherlockholmesklubben.dk

<http://sherlockholmesklubben.dk>

<https://www.facebook.com/SHKlubben/>

<https://twitter.com/SherlockDK>

The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street

Jens Byskov Jensen

Sønderborg

DENMARK

jens@byskovjensen.com

*France*

Cabinet du patient résidant / Pau - Sherlock Holmes

François Pardeilhian

FRANCE

lepatientresidant@orange.fr

Club des hydropathes holmésiens

“Montrachet”

FRANCE

saint-joanis@sshf.com

Evadés de Dartmoor

François Hoff

FRANCE

<http://lesevadesdedartmoor1.free.fr>

Grand dépôt de Paris de la Franco-Midland

(SSHF Paris branch)

Jean-Pierre Cagnat

Paris

FRANCE

sshf@sshf.com

Hôtel Dulong

(SSHF Lyon branch)

Jean-Pierre Crauser

Lyon

FRANCE

jpcrauser@gmail.com

Le Cercle Holmésien de Paris

Laurence Deloison

Paris

FRANCE

<https://cercleholmesparis.fr/qui-sommes-nous/>

<https://www.facebook.com/CercleHolmesienDeParis>

<https://twitter.com/LeCercleHolmes>

Société Sherlock Holmes de France

Thierry Saint-Joanis

Paris

FRANCE

[saint-joanis@sshf.com](mailto:saint-joanis@sshf.com)

<https://www.sherlockians.com/sshf>

<https://www.facebook.com/SocieteSherlockHolmesdeFrance/>

[https://twitter.com/s\\_s\\_h\\_f](https://twitter.com/s_s_h_f)

*Germany*

Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft

Olaf H. Maurer

GERMANY

<https://dshc.de/>

*Hungary*

The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club

HUNGARY

[sherlockclub@gmail.com](mailto:sherlockclub@gmail.com)

<https://sherlock.blog.hu>

<http://sherlockian-sherlock.com/>

*India*

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<https://www.facebook.com/The-Cornish-Horrors-126862217346878/>

— South Carolina

The Hansom Wheels  
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The Survivors of the Gloria Scott  
Tracy Revels  
[revelstj@wofford.edu](mailto:revelstj@wofford.edu)  
<https://www.facebook.com/SurvivorsoftheGloriaScott/>

— South Dakota

The Sign of the Four Faces  
Cary J. Wencil  
Sioux Falls, SD  
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— Tennessee

The Fresh Rashers of Nashville  
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Friends of the Soldier Named Murray  
Nora S. Michaels  
1005 Mountain Creek Road #106  
Chattanooga, TN 37405-1666

The Giant Rats of Sumatra  
Robert A. Lanier  
Memphis, TN  
giantrats@hotmail.com

The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem  
Billy Fields  
<https://www.nashvillescholars.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/14771382227968/>

— Texas

The Abernethy Family of Abilene, Texas  
Larry Prince  
Abilene, TX  
l-nconnect@suddenlink.net

The Crew of the Barque “Lone Star”  
Steve Mason  
Denton, TX  
Mason.steve8080@gmail.com  
<https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

The Diogenes Club of Dallas  
Jim Webb  
Dallas, TX  
DrJimWebb54@gmail.com

The John Openshaw Society  
Brian Clark  
Houston, TX  
noreply@johnopenshaw.org  
<http://www.johnopenshaw.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/TheJohnOpenshawSociety/>

— Utah

The Avenging Angels  
Heidi-Marie Mason  
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The Country of the Saints  
Kevin John  
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brighamguy@hotmail.com

— Vermont

The Baker Street Breakfast Club  
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Pittsfield, MA  
jeffry.bradway@gmail.com  
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/73987337494/>

The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn [Vermont]  
William E. Wicker  
Colchester, VT  
billwicker@comcast.net

— Virginia

The DoG Street irregulars  
Ray Betzner  
Williamsburg, VA  
rlbetzner@mac.com

— Washington

The Dogs in the Nighttime  
Kathleen Kaska  
Anacortes, WA  
kathleenkaska@hotmail.com

The Sound of the Baskervilles  
David & Terri Haugen  
University Place, WA  
terri@soundofthebaskervilles.com  
<http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/thesoundofthebaskervilles/>  
<https://www.Instagram.com/soundofthebaskervilles>  
<https://twitter.com/seattlesherlock>

— West Virginia

The Scion of the Four  
Andrew G. Fusco  
andyfusco@aol.com

— Wisconsin

The Illustrious Guild of the Two-Hour Breakfast  
Sophie Schneider  
Oshkosh, WI  
[https://www.instagram.com/uwo\\_sherlockholmessociety/](https://www.instagram.com/uwo_sherlockholmessociety/)

The Merripit House Guests  
Ed Christenson  
Oshkosh, WI  
[christenson.eddie@gmail.com](mailto:christenson.eddie@gmail.com)

The Notorious Canary-Trainers  
Johanna Draper Carlson  
[NCT1969@googlegroups.com](mailto:NCT1969@googlegroups.com)  
[www.canarytrainers.com](http://www.canarytrainers.com)

The Original Tree Worshipers of Rock County  
Gayle Lange Puhl  
Evansville, WI  
[puhlreader@yahoo.com](mailto:puhlreader@yahoo.com)  
<http://rocksherlockotw.blogspot.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/OTW.RockSherlock/>

The People of the Drama: The Valley Dwellers  
James A. Pabian  
S 12595 Davies Road  
Spring Green, WI 53588-9761

*Uruguay*

The Blue Scarves' Society  
Ana Fernandez  
Punta del Este, Maldonado  
URUGUAY  
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/368486129842276/>

SHERLOCKIAN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

The Alienists of Baker Street  
practicing psychologists  
Jason Hicks  
[drjasonhix@gmail.com](mailto:drjasonhix@gmail.com)

The Baker Street Bar Association  
lawyers  
David R. McCallister  
Wesley Chapel, FL  
drmmystery1881@gmail.com

The Board-School Beacons  
educational research and psychometry  
Michael H. Kean  
Pebble Beach, CA  
sherlockkean@gmail.com

Clerks of the Assizes  
court clerks felony trial court  
James Motylenski  
537 Christie Street  
South Hempstead, NY 11550-8004

The Fairly Good Dispensers  
pharmacists (and related fields)  
Mike McSwiggin  
Cincinnati, OH  
mikemcswiggin@gmail.com

The Forensic Faces of Sherlock Holmes  
forensic science  
Marina Stajic  
New York, NY  
MStajic@aol.com

The Master's Masons  
members of the Masons  
Ron Fish  
Ronf404@aol.com

Moriarty's Mathematicians  
mathematics majors  
John R. Clark  
Box 821  
Lowell, AR 72745-0821

The Norwood Fire Brigade  
fire service  
Capt. Randall Getz  
Hazelwood Fire Department  
6800 Howdershell Road  
Hazelwood, MO 63042-1214

*SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY*

The Old Soldiers of Baker Street of the Two Saults (Old SOB's)  
military Sherlockians  
John S. Rabe  
261 South Figueroa Street #200  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2503

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists  
geology  
Peter E. Blau  
Bethesda, MD  
blau7103@comcast.net

Priory Teachers Association  
educators  
Rob Nunn  
robertanunn@gmail.com

The Sherlockian Oenophiles Tasting Society (S.O.T.S.)  
alcoholic Sherlockians  
Maribeau Briggs  
Medford Lakes, NJ  
onthe-fly@peoplepc.com

St. John's Wood Accomplices  
the society for Sherlockians in the Arts  
Karen Ellery  
themadblonde@gmail.com  
<https://sites.google.com/view/stjohnswoodaccomplices/home>

Stimson & Co.  
funeral directors  
Michael W. McClure  
Chester, IL  
watson7654321@gmail.com

The Studios Scarlets Society  
women writing Sherlockiana  
Tamara Reynolds Bower  
Tomball, TX  
bower.t@gmail.com  
<http://www.studiousscarlets.com/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/StudiosScarletsSocietyPage/>

The Sub-Librarians Scion of The Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association

librarians

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San Jose, CA

[mlpollak@icloud.com](mailto:mlpollak@icloud.com)

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The Trifling Monographers

practitioners of public relations

Graham Sudbury

Box 506

Taos, NM 87571-0506

## OTHER SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES

The 140 Varieties of Tobacco Ash

privately-banded cigar dinners

Steven T. Doyle

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[sdoyle221b@gmail.com](mailto:sdoyle221b@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Sherlock-Holmes-for-Dummies-129581877077394/>

221b Baker Street/Los Angeles

study of the sitting-room at 221b

Chuck Kovacic

North Hills, CA

[cfkovacic@aol.com](mailto:cfkovacic@aol.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/221bbakerstreetlosangeles/>

The ACD Society

A community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle

Ross Davies

[acdsocy@gmail.com](mailto:acdsocy@gmail.com)

<http://acdsociety.com/>

The Admirable Beach Society

reading at the beach

Beverly A. Ellis

Plymouth, MI

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*SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY*

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes

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herzogbaesch@aol.com  
<https://ash-nyc.com/>

The Apocryphal Calabash

pipe-smoking Sherlockians  
Wayne B. Anderson  
Lancaster, CA  
cavaleaf@verizon.net

Ascotland Yard

promoting Victorian-style neckwear  
Derrick Belanger  
derrickbelanger@gmail.com

The Baker Street Guttersnipes

the society for the Canonically coarse  
Carla Coupe  
carla.coupe@gmail.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/963734775271083>

The Baker Street Irregulars

American national Sherlockian society  
Steven T. Doyle  
Zionsville, IN  
<https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/>

The Baker Street Irregulars of St. George's University of London

forensic medicine and pathology  
Pamela Eligio  
bsi.sgul@gmail.com  
<https://www.sgsu.org.uk/organisation/irregulars/>

The Beacon Society

educating the young about the Canon  
Denny Dobry  
Reading, PA  
dendobry@ptd.net  
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The Birdy Edwards Society

19th-century detective literature  
J. Randolph Cox  
Dundas, MN  
cox@stolaf.edu

The Black Jacks of Ballarat  
emphasis on the study of supporting characters in Dr. Watson's writings  
Jason Hicks  
drjasonhix@gmail.com

The Bohemian Souls  
Sherlockian LGBTQ society  
Karen Ellery  
themadblonde@gmail.com

Bricks Without Clay  
Sherlockian modular builders (Lego, Playmobil, Pantasy, and more)  
Karen Ellery  
themadblonde@gmail.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1523843528327148>

Canonical Sleuths, Inc.  
College of Staten Island adult ed class  
Francine Kitts  
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The Clients of Adrian Mulliner  
Wodehouseans of BSI--Sherlockians of TWS  
Elaine Coppola  
Fayetteville, NY  
emcoppol@syr.edu

The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment  
information on ACD and tours of his home  
Brian Pugh  
Lewes, Sussex  
ENGLAND  
brianpugh140@btinternet.com  
<http://www.the-conan-doyle-crowborough-establishment.com/>

Dr. Watson's Medicinals  
dedicated to identifying & patronizing boutique drinking establishments in the midwest  
Mike McSwiggin  
mikemcswiggin@gmail.com

Five Miles from Anywhere:  
An International Sherlock Holmes Scion Society  
Only meets online  
derrickgbelanger@gmail.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/FiveMilesFromAnywhere/>

The Five Orange Pips  
Sherlockian scholarship  
Ross E. Davies  
Washington, DC  
[rdavies@greenbag.org](mailto:rdavies@greenbag.org)

The Fourth Garrideb  
Canonical and Conanical numismatics  
Greg Ruby  
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<https://fourthgarrideb.com/>

Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial, Inc.  
commemorating the illustrator Frederic Dorr Steele  
Burt Wolder  
[bwolder@gmail.com](mailto:bwolder@gmail.com)

The Glorious Scots  
Sherlockians who enjoy wearing kilts  
Harrison "Terry" Hunt  
[thegloriousscots@gmail.com](mailto:thegloriousscots@gmail.com)

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State  
celebrating Christopher Morley  
Harrison and Linda Hunt  
[hobokenfreestate@gmail.com](mailto:hobokenfreestate@gmail.com)

The Hansom Cab Clock Club  
owners of hansom cab clock sold by Sears  
Don Hobbs  
[221b@verizon.net](mailto:221b@verizon.net)

His Last Bow  
congenial men & women who wear bow ties to Sherlockian events  
Dan Andriacco  
[tankervilleclub@gmail.com](mailto:tankervilleclub@gmail.com)  
[https://www.facebook.com/His-Last\\_Bow-Sherlockians-in-Bow-Ties-105030497780239](https://www.facebook.com/His-Last_Bow-Sherlockians-in-Bow-Ties-105030497780239)

The Holmesian Society  
interest in Holmes and the 19th century  
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Flushing, NY  
[thing@opermail.com](mailto:thing@opermail.com)

The Hounds of the Internet  
computerized (electronic mailing list)  
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San Jose, CA  
[courageousmurray@aol.com](mailto:courageousmurray@aol.com)

Irregular Special Railway Company  
Holmesians interested in railways  
Antony Richards  
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The John H. Watson Society  
publishing on Dr. John H. Watson, M.D.  
Beth Gallego  
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The Literary Agents  
a scion of the BSI dedicated to the study of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's works — not exclusively (but also not excluding) those he may have marketed for, or under the name of, Dr. John H. Watson  
Mark Jones and Ashley Polasek  
[theliteraryagents@gmail.com](mailto:theliteraryagents@gmail.com)  
<https://twitter.com/AgentsLiterary>

The Lions Mane Society  
a modern look at Sherlockian media  
Heather MacKenzie  
[STLgeekgirl71@gmail.com](mailto:STLgeekgirl71@gmail.com)  
<https://lionsmaneliterarysociety.blogspot.com/>  
<https://twitter.com/LiteraryMane>

The Midwest Scion of the Four  
a traveling barber-shop quartet  
Joseph J. Eckrich  
Fenton, MO  
[jeckrich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeckrich@sbcglobal.net)

The Mini-Tonga Scion Society  
collectors of Sherlockian miniatures  
Jay Pearlman  
1656 East 19th Street #2-E  
Brooklyn, NY 11229-1317

The Mongooses of Henry Wood

a correspondence society

Mattias Boström

Bålsta

SWEDEN

mattias221b@gmail.com

Mrs. Turner's Thames Club Breakfasters

annual breakfast during birthday weekend

Peter Blau

blau7103@comcast.net

Napoléon of Crime

interested in Holmes' adversaries

René Mercat

napoleon-of-crime@hotmail.fr

The Noble Correspondents

Postal correspondence among Sherlockians

Michael Barton

33 Robert Road

Tyngsborough, MA 01879-1238

mrhbarton@protonmail.com

The O'Lunneys of Helston Asylum

O'Lunneytics celebrate the BSI weekend

Jerry Kegley

Reseda, CA

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174558085915247/>

The Persian Slipper Club of New Jersey

smokers who meet at Sherlockian meetings

Sandy Kozinn

Demarest, NJ

skozinn@optonline.net

The Pocket Petrarchs

bibliophiles and cinephiles on Facebook

Rudy Altergott

[rudy.altergott@gmail.com](mailto:rudy.altergott@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2097903287236186>

The Praed Street Irregulars

American national Pontine society

Derrick Belanger

[derrick@belangerbooks.com](mailto:derrick@belangerbooks.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083299970545#>

The Red-Headed League  
red-headed Sherlockians  
Ann Byerly Marlowe  
Silver Spring, MD  
annmarlowe@juno.com

The Red-Throated League  
theatrical society of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota (old time radio scripts of Edith Meiser)  
Karen Ellery  
redthroatedleague@gmail.com  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNZafls6OcA-vTasv9oCAyA>

The Reichenbach Rangers  
academic (New Mexico Military Institute)  
Darlene Logan  
111 West Mathews Street  
Roswell, NM 88201-5723

The Retired Colonels  
people interested in Holmes and Doyle  
George Vanderburgh  
Eugenia, ON  
CANADA  
gav@markdalecable.com

Roast and Rounds, a Rude Meal Society  
Ill-mannered roast beef sandwich dining  
Brad Keefauver  
bkeefauver@gmail.com

The Scarlet Threads  
for Sherlockian blood donors  
Max Magee  
maxpmagee@gmail.com  
[www.facebook.com/groups/scarthreads/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/scarthreads/)

The Shamlock Holmeses  
those who wear their scholarship lightly  
Alex Mitchell  
Wellington  
NEW ZEALAND  
sherlock@paradise.net.nz

*SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY*

The Sherlock Holmes Wireless Society  
For licensed amateur radio operators  
Ron Fish  
ronf404@aol.com

The Sherlockian Chronographers Guild  
For the sharing of time-related Canonical ideas (related to clocks, watches, time zones,  
and possibly even time travel)  
Max Magee  
maxpmagee@gmail.com

The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild  
for those who study the chronology of the Canon  
Brad Keefauver  
bkeefauver@gmail.com  
<http://bkeefauver5.wixsite.com/sherlockchronoguild>

The Sherlockian Whisky and Tobacco Sodality  
For those who like their Sherlock Holmes with appropriate accessories (DC-area)  
Terry McCammon  
terry.w.mccammon@gmail.com

Sherlocktron  
Internet web-site  
Willis G. Frick  
San Clemente, CA  
<http://www.sherlocktron.com/>

The Solar Pons Society of London  
British scion of Praed Street Irregulars  
Roger Johnson  
Chelmsford, Essex  
ENGLAND  
roger\_johnson@hotmail.com

The Southumberland Waffleers  
Sherlockians who enjoy Waffle House  
Steve Mason  
mason.steve8080@gmail.com

The Speckled Band of Dartmoor Prison  
meets in a maximum security prison  
Richard Mackintosh  
2123 Old Spartanburg Road, PMB 340  
Greer, SC 29650-2704

SPODE (Sherlockians Preventing Oysters Destroying Earth)  
Sherlockians eating oysters (and other seafood) and the Grand Central Oyster Bar during  
BSI Weekend

Steve Doyle  
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SPODE chapters:

Bed of Iniquity  
Hanover, NJ SPODE Scion  
Bob Katz  
rkatz221b@gmail.com

The Black Pearls of the Borgias  
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Greg Ruby  
Greg@fourthgarrideb.com

The Blue Point Carbuncles  
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Mickey Fromkin  
ricefromkin@gmail.com

The Bubbly Creek Oyster Shuckers  
Chicago, IL SPODE Scion  
Bob Sharfman  
robertsharfman@gmail.com

Cap'n Basil's Mignonettes  
Madison, WI SPODE Scion  
Max Magee  
maxpmagee@gmail.com

LORE  
Williamsburg, VA SPODE Scion  
Ray Betzner  
rlbetzner@mac.com

The Pearls of the Ribston-Pippins  
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Regina Stinson  
pippinviolet@gmail.com

The Royslotts of Boston  
Boston, MA SPODE Scion

*SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY*

Slurp! Slurp! Slurp!  
Philadelphia, PA Spode Scion  
Greg Ruby  
Greg@fourthgarrideb.com

The White River Oyster Society  
Indianapolis, IN SPODE Scion  
Steve Doyle  
sdoyle221@aol.com

The Strangers' Room  
unofficial consulting scion  
Andrew Joffe  
Craryville, NY  
andrewgideon@yahoo.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/221596698387880/>

The Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane  
a society for Sherlockian tea- and tisane-lovers and lovers of Sherlockian teas and tisanes  
Courtney Powers  
TeaBrokersMincingLane@gmail.com  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/648134899299548>  
<https://twitter.com/BrokersTea>

Theatre-Goers, Homeward Bound  
watching Sherlockian Holmes productions online as a group  
Monica Schmidt  
sweeper887@gmail.com

The Vatican Cameos  
Catholic Sherlockians (Catholockians)  
Ann Lewis  
Indianapolis, IN  
annlewis@joesystems.com  
<http://annmargaretlewis.com/>

The Watsonians  
organizes the running of the Chicago "Silver Blaze" race  
Phil Cunningham  
pjc121@comcast.net

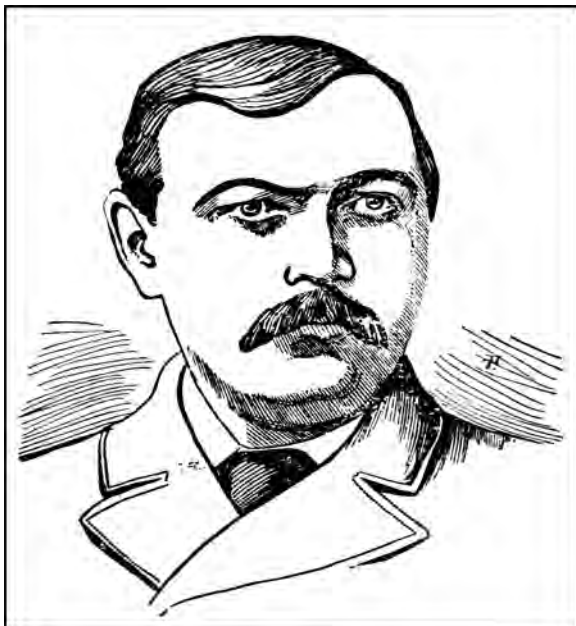
The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon  
annual luncheon during birthday weekend  
Shana Carter  
gilletteluncheon@gmail.com

*SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY*

The Wimsical Sherlockians  
Holmes/Wimsey aficionados' e-mail list  
Sandy Kozinn  
skozinn@optonline.net



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 history  
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](http://redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39). Copyright 2026 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 might 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 171st birthday during the (very) long weekend from Jan. 15 to 19, and reports on many of the goings-on will be posted soon at the Baker Street Irregulars' web-site <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/reports)>. In the meantime, here are a few brief paragraphs to tide you over; you can also hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the festivities at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast at <[www.bit.ly/ihose304](http://www.bit.ly/ihose304)>. Scott also reports on the weekend at <[www.tinyurl.com/2m5s4ppz](http://www.tinyurl.com/2m5s4ppz)>.

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](http://www.acdsociety.com)>. The BSI's Distinguished Speaker that evening was author (and Oscar winner) Graham Moore, whose explanation of the Sherlockian aspects of the career of the famous economist John Maynard Keynes will be published in the Baker Street Journal later this year.

On Friday the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon featured a performance of Andrew Joffe's skit "Our Old Holmes" (with Paul Singleton as Holmes, Andrew Joffe as Watson, and Sarah Montague as Mrs. Hudson). And the Susan Rice Mentorship Award (which recognizes "commitment to mentoring Sherlockians as a means of keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes") was presented to Julie McKuras.

Irregulars and guests gathered for dinner at the Yale Club, where Dick Olsen offered the traditional first toast to Ellen Pfeifer as "The Woman". The dinner agenda included the usual toasts, and rituals, and spectacular presentations by Ross Davies on "certain aspects of Sherlock Holmes' actual involvement with the Pinkertons," and by Ashley Polasek on the "collaborations, compromises, and occasional conflicts" she has encountered in bringing Sherlock Holmes to the stage. The entertainment also included a new song ("Brush up Your Sherlock") that was written and performed by Alex Katz and Karen Wilson.

Michael Meer was announced as the winner of the annual Morley-Montgomery Award (for the best contribution to the Baker Street Journal in 2024), for his article (in the winter issue) on the "Examination Paper" Conan Doyle wrote in 1893 on the methods of Sherlock Holmes. You can subscribe to the BSJ (four issues and the Christmas Annual) at <[www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd](http://www.tinyurl.com/3vxncdhd)>.

The BSI Birthday Honours were awarded to Shana Carter ("Carter"), Jim Cox ("Coxon"), Judi Ellis ("The Carlton Club"), Ron Fish ("The Hon. Ronald Adair"), Beth Gallego ("Lighthouses"), Bruce Harris ("Harris"), Louise Haskett ("Aurora"), Rosemary Herbert ("A Slim Youth in an Ulster"), Christian Monggaard ("Neville St. Clair") and Gary Thaden ("Augusto Barelli"). And the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was bestowed on Andrew Solberg.

Another Friday-evening event was the Gaslight Gala, held at Annie Moore's, honoring Watson's "pawky sense of humor" with cocktails, dinner, toasts, jokes, songs, a quiz, and a play. Planning for 2026 is under way.

Jan 25 #2 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 included the last collection of medals and awards designed and made by the late Maggie Schpak, who had provided spectacular raffle prizes for Dr. Watson for many years, and a mantel clock that was designed and crafted by Danna Mancini to look like two books, back to back, honoring "The Bruce Partington Plans" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles". Finally, for those who lasted that long, the last event of the birthday festivities was the traditional Adventuresses' Brunch on Sunday.

You can plan ahead: the next annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars is scheduled for Jan. 9, 2026. 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5tsz27)>.

An added feature of the birthday festivities was a performance at the Coffee House Club of Hal Glatzer's "A Musicale in Mrs. Hudson's Parlor" which celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 60th birthday with music-hall presentations by Insp. Lestrade, Mrs. Hudson, Henry Baker, Irene Adler and other friends). A recording will be available at Hal's channel at YouTube in mid-February (stay tuned).

Another nice feature of the festivities was the opportunity to visit the Grolier Club to view their exhibition "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Pictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers. There are three nice Sherlockian items in the exhibition: "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of The Strand Magazine, Sherlock Holmes' notes for his monograph "On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus", and Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*.

The exhibition closes on Feb. 15, and there's another nice exhibition "A First-Class Fool: Mark Twain and Humor" (open through Apr. 5); one of the items on display is Mark Twain's typewriter. The Grolier Club's web-site is at <[www.grolierclub.org](http://www.grolierclub.org)>. If you're wondering about Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*, the only known copy of the book was destroyed by fire in a Benedictine abbey in the Piedmont in 1327, reported in Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose* (according to the exhibition catalog, "the safe handling of this book requires protective clothing and gloves"). The catalog of the "Imaginary Books" exhibition, written by Reid Byers, is spectacular (scholarly, humorous, and in full color), and available from the Oak Knoll Press (\$65.00) <[www.tinyurl.com/5e6smbs5](http://www.tinyurl.com/5e6smbs5)>.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was not neglected during the festivities. You can watch the ACD Society's Doylean honors and its running of the Wessex Cup at <[www.tinyurl.com/mxfnc82v](http://www.tinyurl.com/mxfnc82v)>, as well as the annual meeting of The Literary Agents, held via Zoom on Friday, honoring the centenary of "The Land of Mist" and Christine Ferguson, editor of that book upcoming in the Edinburgh University Press series, at <[www.tinyurl.com/5cap5cpd](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cap5cpd)>.

Jan 25 #3 Daniel J. Morrow ("James Stanger of the Herald") died on Dec. 23, 2024. His long career in radio broadcasting inspired his dedication to Sherlockian radio programs, and in 1969 Dan was one of the founders of the Scandalous Bohemians of New Jersey. He contributed scholarship to the Baker Street Journal and society newsletters, and received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1977.

A non-trivial trivia question: many people celebrated the Chinese New Year this month. In the Chinese calendar each year is named for one of twelve animals in the Chinese zodiac cycle, and this year's zodiac animal is the snake. What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal?

Sonia Fetherston's *"Wiggins": Tom Stix & His Baker Street Irregulars* (126 pp., \$24.95), one of two new books from the Baker Street Irregulars Press, is the latest title in the Biography Series. It is a carefully-researched and well-written warm tribute to the fourth leader of the BSI, who in many ways brought the BSI firmly into the 20th century.

*That Ghastly Face*, edited by Ira Brad Matetsky, is the new addition to the Manuscript Series (224 pp., \$49.95); there's a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Blanched Soldier", accompanied by both 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 spectacular). Both of the new titles (and many others) can be ordered at <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/tag/books)>.

The three Sherlockian neckties offered by Frederick Thomas of London some years ago (Feb 16 #1) are still available, but (of course) more expensive now <[www.tinyurl.com/568xuhty](http://www.tinyurl.com/568xuhty)>.

Max Magee has noted that William S. Baring-Gould's *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967) can be borrowed (read on-line but not downloaded) from the Internet Archive <[www.tinyurl.com/52y7rtjx](http://www.tinyurl.com/52y7rtjx)>. The book is available in the Internet Archive's National Emergency Library, which was created in 2020, at the start of the pandemic, and became the target of a lawsuit filed by four major publishers against the Internet Archive. On Sept. 24 the Wired web-site reported <[www.tinyurl.com/rwbyjda4](http://www.tinyurl.com/rwbyjda4)> that a U.S. Court of Appeals had decided against the Internet Archive, but Baring-Gould's book is still available at the web-site, possibly because the book's out of print, which would make it difficult for the publisher to demonstrate damages.

If you'd like to read the Court's 64-page opinion, it's available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/36zpkb7r](http://www.tinyurl.com/36zpkb7r)>. Thanks to Ross Davies for knowing how to find this sort of thing.

Scott Monty has reported on planning for what might well take first prize for the most unusual Sherlockian event: the H&W Con, scheduled on Mar. 1-3 in Sioux City, Iowa <[www.tinyurl.com/ysmcm5fa](http://www.tinyurl.com/ysmcm5fa)>; fans of the 2018 "Holmes & Watson" film that starred Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly will gather for a celebration of the "hilarious and timeless comedy classic." Be sure to read Scott's report all the way to the end.

Jan 25 #4 "Why the British Love Belonging to Clubs" was the headline on an article (Dec. 31, 2024) <[www.tinyurl.com/mry9kaf7](http://www.tinyurl.com/mry9kaf7)> by Sean Walsh, at The Conservative Woman web-site, and he mentions one of his favorite clubs, found in "the fictional world of Sherlock Holmes." It's not the Diogenes Club, and you are welcome to guess what it was (or just go to the web-site and read the article).

The King's New Year Honours included a knighthood for Stephen Fry (for his work on mental health); he played Mycroft Holmes in "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011), recorded "Sherlock Holmes: The Definitive Collection" (2017), and is a patron of the Sherlock Holmes Collection in Portsmouth.

And Eddie Marsan received an OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire) for services to drama; his many credits include Inspector Lestrade in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009) and "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011).

There also is the New Zealand Royal Honours List (created in 1975), which included the Order of Merit for Lee Murray (for services to literature); she was one of the 2024 honorees of the ACD Society, for her short story "Māoriland Blue" in their "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project."

What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal? If your answer was that Holmes was born in the year of the tiger, you're wrong.

There was an interesting article at the Country Life web-site on Jan. 16 <[www.tinyurl.com/bjm7ffms](http://www.tinyurl.com/bjm7ffms)> about the history of the London double-decker bus, particularly interesting for the photograph of a horse-drawn double decker bus in Piccadilly about 1904, when Sherlock Holmes would have seen them, and (who knows) ridden in or on one.

SHERLOC is alive and well on Mars, still contributing to the exploration of the Red Planet. SHERLOC (it's an acronym) has its own entry at Wikipedia <[www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh](http://www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh)>. Just click on the image of the calibration target to see where it came from.

The National Park Visitor Centre in Princeton was under threat of closure in 2022 (Nov 22 #5), but it was rescued with a f440,000 government grant. The money has now been spent, and the Centre may be shut down, the Devon Air Radio web-site reported on Jan. 11 <[tinyurl.com/yc756djk](http://tinyurl.com/yc756djk)>. The Centre formerly was the Duchy Hotel <[www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttd](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cpdtttd)>, said to have been "once home to Conan Doyle as he wrote the Hound of the Baskervilles."

The Living Life Fearless blog as reported <[www.tinyurl.com/3u75axkj](http://www.tinyurl.com/3u75axkj)> that Manga Classics has launched a manga series of the Sherlock Holmes stories. A Study in Scarlet, adapted by Crystal S. Chan and with artwork by Julien Choy, released this month and available in comic-book shops and at Amazon (\$11.99). A Scandal in Bohemia and Other Stories is due in June. Manga Classics <[www.mangaclassics.com](http://www.mangaclassics.com)> has published a long list of titles, and seems to be the modern equivalent of the Classic Comics that so many members of an older generation relied on for an introduction to literature or for writing book reports without actually having read the books.

Jan 25 #5 There are many people who prefer ink-on-paper when it comes to books, and others who prefer digital (and plenty of people, of course, who happily live in both worlds). Smashwords <[www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com)> is an on-line retailer that offers almost a million ebooks (some of them free), and many (but not all of them) self-published. A recent search for ["conan doyle"] yielded 200 hits and ["sherlock holmes"] produced 906 (use quotation marks when searching).

The National Theatre's revival of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest" closed on Jan. 25, but National Theatre Live will make it available in cinemas world-wide beginning on Feb. 20; the production seems to be (momentarily) Sherlockian: watch the trailer to see Ncuti Gatwa (Algeron Moncrieff) in Sherlockian costume <[www.tinyurl.com/yfu5awfb](http://www.tinyurl.com/yfu5awfb)>.

What was Sherlock Holmes' zodiac animal? Holmes was born in the year of the ox. The new year in the Chinese lunisolar calendar does not begin on Jan. 1. In 1854 the year of the tiger began on Jan. 29, and Jan. 6 was in the last month of the year of the ox.

Ray Betzner was the Cameron Hollyer Lecturer at the Toronto Public Library on Nov. 30, 2024, on "Born in a (Toronto) Bookshop: Vincent Starrett and the World of Sherlock Holmes", and the lecture's now on-line, so you can watch the proceedings at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbSGzMnyzs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEbSGzMnyzs)>. Ray is an entertaining speaker, as well as an expert on Starrett.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder reviewed 2024 on their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog with an interview with Ross Davies (who's the editor of the Baker Street Almanac) <[www.tinyurl.com/5hf6mpze](http://www.tinyurl.com/5hf6mpze)>. It's just the thing for people who want more news than you get in this newsletter.

Peter Lovesey's article "Wobble in the Aggie", an interesting account of the career of his Sergeant Cribb in novels and on television in the winter 2024 issue of the Mystery Readers Journal <[www.tinyurl.com/bddsvcty](http://www.tinyurl.com/bddsvcty)>, ends with a surprising (and Sherlockian) reason why the television series ended prematurely.

It's not Sherlockian, except for many nice things said about Christopher Morley, but Evan Friss' *The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore* (New York: Viking, 2024; 403 pp., \$30.00) is a delightful read for anyone who remembers, or wants to know, what bookshops were like, in times past when there were lots of them.

"Sherlock Holmes' birthday is NOT January 6th after all," according to Erik Deckers, who has deduced what's quite likely (well, possibly) the correct date, and explains his reasoning in detail in a post to Scott Monty's "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <[www.tinyurl.com/3v2pdubv](http://www.tinyurl.com/3v2pdubv)>.

Erin O'Neill (the editor of the Sydney Passengers' journal *The Passengers' Log*) has reported on interesting artwork available from the Chris Beetles Gallery in London. The artists include Conan Doyle's father Charles Altmont Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/y5k5vxx5](http://www.tinyurl.com/y5k5vxx5)> and by Conan Doyle's uncle Richard Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/44ebxw96](http://www.tinyurl.com/44ebxw96)>.

Jan 25 #6 Fowlescombe Farm in south Devon will open eight full-service luxury suites this spring, according to a report at the web-site of The Caterer (Jan. 9) <[www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm)>. The ruined mansion on the estate, it seems, "may well" be the inspiration for "Baskerville Hall". The web-site of the Farm <[www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ntvrhnm)> has an account of the mansion's "legend of the hounds."

Sherlockian scholars have noted occasional mistakes in how nobility is described and addressed in the Canon, and an article in Country Life (Nov. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/5u6d5uez](http://www.tinyurl.com/5u6d5uez)> about "The End of Deference: Why the Right Title Matters" offers an instructive look at proper terms of address.

Almost twenty years ago (Dec 06 #1) Stanford University's Community Reading Project published some of the Sherlock Holmes stories weekly, by mail and on the Internet, in nicely annotated facsimiles of the Stories as they first appeared in The Strand Magazine. Max Magee notes that they're still available on-line at <<http://sherlockholmes.stanford.edu/readings.html>>. Don't neglect to click on "more stories".

Max also has noted something that may interest fans of the "Raffles" stories that were written by Conan Doyle's brother-in-law E. W. Hornung: the "Raffles Redux" web-site <[www.rafflesredux.com](http://www.rafflesredux.com)>, where you'll find annotated reprints of all the stories, as well as a play.

Reported: Kerry McGee's "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" from the Literary Adventure Society (\$55.00); it's a mail-order audio mystery with clues, souvenirs, and audio, and there's more information (and an audio sample) at their web-site <[www.literaryadventuresociety.com](http://www.literaryadventuresociety.com)>.

There are many (some people would say far too many) ratings of Sherlockian films on the Internet, but Bob Rivers' list of his "top ten" films for The Strand Magazine (Jan. 13, 2017) <[www.tinyurl.com/ycx8peas](http://www.tinyurl.com/ycx8peas)> is more interesting, because he gives his reasons for why he likes them.

Adrian Nebbett has reported discovering a film that's Sherlockian in a minor way: "The Curse of the Living Corpse" (1964), in which Paul Haney (as Chief Constable Barnes) is seen in Sherlockian costume. It's conveniently available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuy6tmw8NuU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuy6tmw8NuU)>.

Cromer, in North Norfolk, is an underrated seaside town with a huge pier and the best fish and chips in the UK, according to the headline on an article in the Daily Mirror (Dec. 28) <[www.tinyurl.com/5baf2z4c](http://www.tinyurl.com/5baf2z4c)>. The article also mentions Conan Doyle and Fletcher Robinson, who visited Cromer in 1901, when they stayed in the Royal Links Hotel and were invited to dinner at Cromer Hall. They then went on to Dartmoor, and a ride in a carriage driven by Harry Baskerville, and the result of all that was "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

Al Gregory <[gaslightandfog@verizon.net](mailto: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 Investiture Irregulars).

Jan 25 #7 CNN Travel had a story in 2017 headlined "All-White and Futuristic: Tianjin's Stunning New Library Looks Out of This World" <[www.tinyurl.com/3tsuhjp4](http://www.tinyurl.com/3tsuhjp4)>; the Tianjin Binhai Library is impressive, and the article also had a grand gallery of images of "the world's most beautiful places to read." However: there's more to the story, as noted in an article at the Atlas Obscura web-site in 2018 <[www.tinyurl.com/5nym2267](http://www.tinyurl.com/5nym2267)>.

*No Comfort for the Dead*, by R.P. O'Donnell (New York: Crooked Lane, 2024; 281 pp., \$29.99), is a pleasant Irish murder mystery, set in Castlefreke, a small village not far from Skibbereen; the detective is Emma Daly, the town librarian, who has read (and enjoys remembering) the Sherlock Holmes stories throughout her investigation.

The Beacon Society continues to administer the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program, and more than 150 people have completed all three exams and have received a Doctorate in Sherlockiana. The 2025 Recertification Exam is available on request from Steve Mason <[mason.steve8080@gmail.com](mailto:mason.steve8080@gmail.com)>, and there's more information about the program at <[www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym](http://www.tinyurl.com/2vt9saym)>. The society's goal is "providing teachers, librarians, children's museums, and children's theaters with local resources to bring the magic of Sherlock Holmes to life" <[www.beaconsociety.org](http://www.beaconsociety.org)>.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar Awards, and one of them is Nicholas Shakespeare's *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4) in the best critical/biographical category. You can see the complete list of nominees at <[www.tinyurl.com/muax2ej6](http://www.tinyurl.com/muax2ej6)>. The winners of the Edgars will be announced on May 1.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has always been imaginative: their Well-Read League <[www.tinyurl.com/3je6d8bf](http://www.tinyurl.com/3je6d8bf)> is an informal on-line book group, and now they have their Reformed Diogenes Club, which is planning an excursion to Phantom Peak in Canada Water (a Wild West Frontier Town in London <[www.tinyurl.com/carayzdw](http://www.tinyurl.com/carayzdw)>, far more convenient than Phantom Peak in Nunavut Territory in Canada, or Phantom Peak in Whatcom County, Wash., in the United States. One of the wonders of modern technology is official lists of geographic names, available on-line for both countries.

*Sherlock Holmes: Immortal Detective: Selected Writings of Donald A. Redmond*, Volume 2 (193 pp., \$26.95), one of two new titles from the Gasogene Press, is edited by Christopher Redmond and collects many of his father's articles, notes, and essays, from 1983 to 2001, both published and unpublished. Don was among the most literate, intelligent, and entertaining of Sherlockian researchers and authors; the nine-page bibliography at the end of the book shows just how widely his interests ranged. It is grand indeed to have his collected work so easily available.

And *The Sherlock Holmes Review: 2024 Sherlockian Annual* (96 pp., \$31.95), edited by Steven Doyle, is an anthology that ranges from a celebration of Eille Norwood to a tribute to Walter Klinefelter, with Rob Nunn providing "A Snapshot of Sherlockiana as Seen Through Interviews with 100 Sherlockians" and Ira Brad Matetsky discussing the suppression and resurrection of "The Cardboard Box". Gasogene's web-site's at <[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)>.

Jan 25 #8 "Watson" has now debuted on CBS-TV, and many people have (or haven't) seen it, and have (or haven't) enjoyed it. If you've not seen it, the premiere is available on Paramount+ and (thanks to Howard Ostrom for the report) on YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36)>. No spoilers here, but the show seems likely to please the CBS-TV viewers who made the CSI and NCIS series (and "Elementary") so popular. The next episodes will air weekly at 9:00 pm beginning on Feb. 16.

Theater news: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is on at the Doris Harper-White Playhouse in Flagstaff, Ariz., through Feb. 2 <[www.theatrikos.com](http://www.theatrikos.com)>; it also will be produced at the Jewish Community Center in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 20-Dec. 7 <[www.jccstl.com](http://www.jccstl.com)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is on at the State Theater in Olympia, Wash., through Feb. 9 <[www.harlequinproductions.org](http://www.harlequinproductions.org)>. It also is being performed at the Red Barn Theatre in Key West, Fla., through Feb. 22 <[www.redbarntheatre.com](http://www.redbarntheatre.com)>. And it will be produced at Osceola Arts in Kissimmee, Fla., May 30-June 15 <[www.osceolaarts.org](http://www.osceolaarts.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Sutter Street Theatre in Polson, Calif., through Feb. 16 <[www.sutterstreettheatre.com](http://www.sutterstreettheatre.com)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is coming up at the Performing Arts Center at Garrett College in McHenry, Md., Feb. 19-Mar. 2 <[www.performingartsgc.com](http://www.performingartsgc.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of Professor Moriarty" (a new play) is due at the Majestic Theater in Pottsville, Pa., Feb. 21-Mar. 2; their web-site is at <[www.majestictheater.net](http://www.majestictheater.net)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (Janet Yates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is planned at the Arts Center of Cannon County in Woodbury, Tenn., Feb. 26-Mar. 8 <[www.artscenterofcc.com](http://www.artscenterofcc.com)>.

Tim Kelly's version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" has been scheduled at the Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak, Mich., Feb. 27-Mar. 2; website's at <[www.stagecrafters.org](http://www.stagecrafters.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes: The Last Laugh" is due at St. Thomas Churchill Hall in Warrington, Ches., Apr. 25-26 <[www.facebook.com/soupproductionsuk](http://www.facebook.com/soupproductionsuk)>.

Nick Lane's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" is going be Nick Lane's third Sherlockian play, performed on tour in Britain by Blackeyed Theatre beginning in September <[www.tinyurl.com/y24fb6vn](http://www.tinyurl.com/y24fb6vn)>.

C. P. Stancich's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Greek Chorus" is due at the Arapaho Center in Lafayette, Colo., in November <[www.tclstage.org](http://www.tclstage.org)>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Ottawa Little Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 3-20 <[www.ottawalittletheatre.com](http://www.ottawalittletheatre.com)>. We can be sure there will be many more productions of this popular (and seasonal) play in 2025; there were at least 17 productions in 2024. And at least 38 productions of Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville".

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Feb 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

A bit more about the Grolier Club's exhibition of "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers (Jan 25 #2): the catalog twice references Walter Klinefelter (who was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, as "The British Barque *Sophy Anderson*, 1962), once for his *Books About Poictesme: An Essay in Imaginative Bibliography* (1937), and again for his *The Fortsas Bibliohoax* (1941). You'll find much more about Klinefelter, who was a friend of Vincent Starrett, in two entries (on May 9 and 13, 2024) at Ray Betzner's "Studies in Starrett" blog <[www.vincetstarrett.com](http://www.vincetstarrett.com)>.

And there's good news for those who weren't able to see the exhibition at the Grolier Club: according to the catalog, the exhibition will be at the Book Club of California in San Francisco, Mar. 17 to July 14, and then on tour through 2028, before returning to the Club Fortsas in Paris. If you would like to know more about the Club Fortsas you are welcome to visit <[www.reidbyer.com/fortsas](http://www.reidbyer.com/fortsas)>. Reid will offer some remarks at the opening on Mar. 17, in-person and on-line; register at <[www.tinyurl.com/yyy5fk94](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyy5fk94)>.

The Grolier Club's spectacular web-page for the exhibition may well still be available on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb](http://www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb)>, and well worth exploring. Don't neglect the menu with live links at the left, which will allow you to see close-up views, with commentary, of many of the books on display at the Grolier.

Matt Berry will provide the voice of Sherlock Holmes (in a hallucination) in the seventh episode of the "Watson" television series, according to a post at the TV Insider web-site (Feb. 10) <[www.tinyurl.com/yffjmsrh](http://www.tinyurl.com/yffjmsrh)>. And there will be at least ten episodes <[www.epguides.com/Watson](http://www.epguides.com/Watson)>.

Bonnie MacBird's *The Serpent Under: Treachery, Twists, and Terror in Baker Street* (New York: Collins Crime Club, 2025; 367 pp., \$26.99), the sixth in her series of novels about Holmes and Watson, lives up to the subtitle by offering readers a thriller as well as a mystery. It begins with a summons to Windsor and a commission from Her Majesty to investigate a bizarre murder, and ends in Baker Street with the mystery solved. You will find more about the book, and other titles in the series, at Bonnie's web-site <[www.macbird.com](http://www.macbird.com)>.

Howard Ostrom has reported Project Audion <[www.projectaudion.com](http://www.projectaudion.com)>, which was launched during the pandemic with the goal of recreating old-time radio broadcasts and making them available at YouTube. They have done many programs, two of them Sherlockian: "Murder in the Casbah" (1945) and "The Curse of Dr. Anselmo" (1945).

Their web-site also offers a link to a wide variety of scripts at the Generic Radio Workshop <[www.genericradio.com](http://www.genericradio.com)>, where there are free downloads of scripts that include the Rathbone, Conway, and Gielgud series [Sherlock Holmes]; the Orson Welles' version of the William Gillette play [Mercury Theatre]; the Jack Benny program with a 12-minute version of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" [Jack Benny Show]; and a broadcast of "The Lost Special" [Suspense].

Feb 25 #2 The fall issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Tom Ue's article on "Storytelling at its Finest", Jessie Amaolo's impressive account of the Library's Digital Archive, and Rebecca Nevset's discussion of Watson's descriptions of Anglo-Indian heroines. Copies of the newsletter are available from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G6, Canada) <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Go to <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW2APROQo4g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DW2APROQo4g)> to see Craig Fraley perform an intriguing Sherlockian card trick. One wonders where all the Sherlockian magicians are: the Sherlock Holmes Magic Circle no longer is active.

*Twelve Classic Christmas Stories: A Feast of Yuletide Tales* is edited by Timothy Larsen (Chicago: Moody, 2024; 328 pp., \$22.99); it's an anthology intended as "a Christian affirmation of yuletide joy and celebration," and includes "The Blue Carbuncle". The book is one of many titles published by the Moody Bible Institute.

G. Washington Coffee sponsored "Sherlock Holmes" radio programs from 1930 to 1935, with William Gillette, Richard Gordon, and Louis Hector starring as Holmes. And there really was a G. Washington: there's an interesting entry for him at Wikipedia <[www.tinyurl.com/233urjuu](http://www.tinyurl.com/233urjuu)>.

H. S. Carter's article on "Medical Matters in the Sherlock Holmes Stories" in the Dec. 1947 issue of the *Glasgow Medical Journal* is available on-line at <[www.pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5969659](http://www.pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5969659)>, noted by editor Terri Haugen in this month's issue of *Ineffable Twaddle*, the newsletter of the Sound of the Baskervilles.

An interesting letter written by F. Scott Fitzgerald was sold by a dealer at the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association of America's virtual book fair this month <[www.fairs.abaa.org/item/1593881128](http://www.fairs.abaa.org/item/1593881128)>. Fitzgerald mentions having written an "utterly imitative" Sherlock Holmes story, which may or may not have become his first appearance in print, "The Mystery of the Raymond Mortgage" (published in a school magazine in 1909, discovered by Fred Dan-nay, and published in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* (Mar. 1960).

The letter reminded Dan Stashower of something Conan Doyle wrote: "Every writer is imitative at first. My early work, as I look back on it, was a sort of debased composite photograph in which five or six different styles were contending for the mastery."

Jules Feiffer died on Jan. 17. He was a talented cartoonist who began his career at the *Village Voice* in 1956 and went on to win a Pulitzer Prize in 1986; he also was highly praised for his plays, movie scripts, and children's books. He drew a Sherlockian cartoon for the *Village Voice* (Apr. 24, 1978, p. 4), conveniently on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/2mwau34u](http://www.tinyurl.com/2mwau34u)>.

Sherlock Holmes paid fifty-five shillings for his Stradivarius violin, and it was worth at least five hundred guineas (at the time of "The Cardboard Box"). That was then. Last month the Joachim-Ma Stradivarius was sold at Sotheby's for \$10 million (\$11.3 million including the buyer's premium); you can watch the auction at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1HFGPSZeKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1HFGPSZeKQ)>. The estimate before the sale was \$12 to \$18 million, and Sotheby's had a promotional video at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbqmZBcf\\_98&t=1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbqmZBcf_98&t=1s)>.

Feb 25 #3 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](http://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.

Some news about the next 221B Con, which is coming up on Apr. 11-13 in Atlanta <[www.221bcon.com/news/ye2k7hionkue433bm9tzfc4go6br3y](http://www.221bcon.com/news/ye2k7hionkue433bm9tzfc4go6br3y)>.

Pattie Tierney's *Murder on the Menu: Recipes from Sleuthing Stars* (available free on Amazon Kindle Unlimited, or \$4.99 on basic Kindle) has Sherlockian contributors that include actors Steven Fry (Mycroft), John Thaw (Jonathan Small) and Rosalie Williams (Mrs. Hudson); authors Lloyd Biggle Jr., Loren D. Estleman, Otto Penzler, and Daniel D. Victor; and many others from the world of Sherlockians. A paperback version of the cookbook is due in late spring.

Jennie Paton found another Sherlockian card trick performed by Pit Hartling at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYklko62JPA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JYklko62JPA)>; with audio in French, but the closed captions are in English.

Geneviève Page died on Feb. 14. She began her acting career in France in the 1940s, and made her film debut in 1950, going on to star in "Foreign Intrigue" (1956), "El Cid" (1960), "Belle de Jour" (1967), and (as Gabrielle Valladon) in "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970).

If you wondered about the colorful dinosaurs that Dan Stashower and Lucy Worsley visited in the third episode of her series about Holmes and Conan Doyle, here's their history, with a contemporary illustration, thanks to the Public Domain Review <[www.tinyurl.com/yc5xbc9r](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5xbc9r)>. You also can visit them in London now <[www.tinyurl.com/3kn89ked](http://www.tinyurl.com/3kn89ked)>.

Paul Morrissey died on Oct. 28, 2024. He began his career in films in the 1950s, and by the late 1960s was a dedicated collaborator with Andy Warhol at the Factory, going on to direct films that included the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

More about the "Watson" series now running on CBS-TV: almost all the series was filmed in or near Vancouver; some viewers are wondering why they see so much of Pittsburgh. The answer's simple: Craig Sweeny, who created the series, was born in Pittsburgh and grew up there. If you've not seen the first episode, it may still be at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jxuss36)>.

Railway enthusiasts such as Ralph Edwards, Wayne and Francine Swift, and John Baesch, and others who enjoy the idea of private varnish (you're welcome to look that up) never got round to creating a Sherlockian society, but they'd certainly be delighted to hear about the Sky Railway, which was founded in 2020 from the ashes of the Santa Fe Southern Railroad; the website's at <[www.skyrailway.com](http://www.skyrailway.com)>. And so would John Bennett Shaw, since the railway runs between Santa Fe and Lamy, and it's almost as good an excuse to visit Santa Fe as was a visit to John Bennett Shaw and his spectacular library. Thank to Douglas Preston, you and everyone else in your party can receive a \$15.00 discount through Oct. 1 by using the codeword PENDERGAST when you purchase tickets.

Feb 25 #4 There have been all sort of ways attention was drawn to films over the years. Michael Meer has reported that when "Der Hund von Baskerville" was released in Dusseldorf in 1914, uniformed "messenger boys" wore sashes with the title of the film and walked the streets of the city accompanied by spotted Great Danes. And he has found film, so you can see for yourself <[www.tinyurl.com/bdexuuc8](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdexuuc8)>.

There also was some imaginative publicity for "The Lost World" (1925) when it was screened in Wellington, New Zealand, as shown in my seasonal souvenir for this year's birthday festivities in New York. If you've not seen it, just let me know and I'll be happy to send you a scan.

Welcome news for fans of the Granada series that starred Jeremy Brett: the "Sherlock Holmes" CD issued by Jay Records in 2000, with Patrick Gowers' music, is available again (£12.99) <[www.tinyurl.com/mwzap53e](http://www.tinyurl.com/mwzap53e)>.

Anthony R. Lewis died on Feb. 11. He was one of the founders of the New England Science Fiction Association and active in many World Science Fiction Conferences, and his short-story pastiche "The Adventure of the Illegitimate Alien" was included in the anthology *Sherlock Holmes in Orbit* (1995).

The Feb. 17+24 issue of *The New Yorker* celebrated the magazine's 100th anniversary, mentioning Sherlock Holmes in a retrospective article by Jill Lepore about the history of the magazine, and (perhaps more important) a "Looking Back" column with reminders from the "Goings On" feature of reviews from the Feb. 21, 1925, issue, one of which (written by Will Hayes Jr.) in its entirety, was: "Moving Pictures. *The Lost World*, Astor Theatre. Through camera trickery, dinosauri and other beasts of the prehistoric past live again. Interesting because it proves that the camera is a liar."

Peter Lovesey's last Peter Diamond novel is *Against the Grain* (Soho Crime, 2024), in which Diamond visits "the idyllic village of Baskerville (no relation to the Sherlock Holmes story), so he's told."

"Detective Chinatown 1900" is the third in a series of Chinese films that feature Liu Haoran (Qin Fu) as the detective. You can see him perform in Sherlockian costume in a trailer (with subtitles in English) that Aziz Adam has found at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivy8A3GmK6U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ivy8A3GmK6U)>.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have interviewed Ira Brad Matetsky, editor of *That Ghastly Face*, the latest volume (about "The Blanched Soldier") in the Baker Street Irregulars Press' Manuscript Series (Jan 25 #3); you can listen to the interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast, online at <[www.tinyurl.com/bdh7hmrn](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdh7hmrn)>.

The Electronic Freedom Foundation's "Privacy Badger" is an intriguing (and free) app that will help you avoid being tracked by third parties when you visit some web-sites <[www.privacybadger.org](http://www.privacybadger.org)>; it works nicely on most (but not all) browsers.

If you weren't able to see the new play "Holmes/Poirot" (by Jeffrey Hatcher and Steve Hendrickson) in St. Paul, Minn., last year, you can suggest it to your local theater; the play is now available for license from the Dramatists Play Service. You can also read the script; an ePub version is available (\$17.50) <[www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=6693](http://www.dramatists.com/cgi-bin/db/single.asp?key=6693)>.

Feb 25 #5 Further to Al Gregory's offer for sale of four letters written and signed by King Charles III that have serious Sherlockian content (Dec 24 #3), there's much more information about them (with illustrations) in a post by Scott Monty to the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/w6p89tzb](http://www.tinyurl.com/w6p89tzb)>. Three of the letters were written to Douglas Wilmer, and one to his widow, when Charles was still the Prince of Wales.

There's another Sherlockian connection for Prince Charles: in 1969, while he was a student at Trinity College, Cambridge, he performed as Sir Cumberbund Overspill in a short skit "The Hound of the Overspills". Alas, there is no recording of the skit, but you can read the script in the June 1969 issue of Bill Rabe's *The Commonplace Book*, a wonderful compilation of anything Bill thought interesting and happily photocopied for his CPB.

The Bookseller has reported (Feb. 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/hde67c89](http://www.tinyurl.com/hde67c89)> that Hoder & Stoughton has signed with Lucy Worsley for three new books, one of them a biography of Conan Doyle. Her U.S. publisher is Pegasus Books.

Yet another Sherlockian card trick, reported by Jennie Pagon, with a tutorial so you can perform it <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS7Ud9s8onw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS7Ud9s8onw)>.

Occasionally a book or play or film turns up with a Sherlockian title, but isn't Sherlockian: Jane Upton's new play "(the) Woman" certainly is one of them <[www.tinyurl.com/4r8fwrwn](http://www.tinyurl.com/4r8fwrwn)>.

Jim Ballinger has entertained the Bootmakers of Toronto (and others) for many years, and he has now composed (and performed) songs for all of the 60 stories; you can hear them all, and his other Sherlockian songs, at his YouTube channel <[www.youtube.com/@sherlocksongs221b/videos](http://www.youtube.com/@sherlocksongs221b/videos)>.

The nominees for the Agatha Awards from *Malice Domestic* include Elizabeth Crowens' *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskerville* (for best first mystery novel) (Feb 24 #8), James Ponti's *The Sherlock Society* (best children's/young adult mystery novel) (Aug 24 #4), and Evan Friss' *The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore* (best mystery nonfiction) (Jan 25 #5); the full list of nominees is at <[www.tinyurl.com/4y89y742](http://www.tinyurl.com/4y89y742)>. Donna Andrews, author of *The Hen of the Baskervilles* (Jul 13 #3) and the editor of the anthology *School of Hard Knox* (Oct 23 #2) will receive a lifetime achievement award.

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." New issues are published near the end of each month, and PDFs of current and past issues, with recent issues in full color and with live links, are always available at <[www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39](http://www.redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39)>. If you occasionally forget that a PDF of a new issue is available on-line, you're welcome to join the Google Group for monthly reminders; just let me know by e-mail <[chlau7103@comcast.net](mailto:chlau7103@comcast.net)>.

If you would like to run a word-search on a large file that has 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 posts it at the Beacon Society's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/2wnkcccu](http://www.tinyurl.com/2wnkcccu)>.

Feb 25 #6    Theatrics; Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is running at the Burt-ness Theatre in Grand Forks, N.D., through Mar. 2; web-site at <[www.burtness.und.edu](http://www.burtness.und.edu)>. It also will be performed at the Cape Rep Theatre in Brewster, Mass., Mar. 6-8 <[www.caperep.org](http://www.caperep.org)>; and at the Shoeni Theatre in Mendocino, Calif., Mar. 6-Apr. 6 <[www.mendocinetheatre.org](http://www.mendocinetheatre.org)>. Also at the Chemainus Theatre in Chemainus, B.C., May 2 to June 1; their web-site is at <[www.chemainusthetrefestival.ca](http://www.chemainusthetrefestival.ca)>. And at the Strand Theater in Watertown, N.Y., May 8-10 <[www.littletheatreofwatertown.com](http://www.littletheatreofwatertown.com)>.

The musical "The Remarkable Mister Holmes" (by Daniel Lincoln, David Ellenstein, and Omri Schein) will be performed at the Laguna Playhouse in Laguna Beach, Calif., Mar. 5-30 <[www.lagunaplayhouse.com](http://www.lagunaplayhouse.com)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Cannon Street Arts Center in Charleston, S.C., Mar. 6-29; web-site's at <[www.puretheatre.org](http://www.puretheatre.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at The Coro in Ulverston, Cum-bria, Mar. 11-14 <[www.thecoro.co.uk](http://www.thecoro.co.uk)>; at Barton College in Wilson, N.C., on Mar. 13-16 <[www.barton.edu/baskerville](http://www.barton.edu/baskerville)>; and at the Allen Contemporary Theatre in Allen, Tex., Mar. 14-30 <[www.allencontemporarytheatre.net](http://www.allencontemporarytheatre.net)>.

Kent R. Brown's "The Hound of the Baskervilles: A Comic Thriller Starring Shirley Holmes and Jennie Watson" will be performed at the Greenhills High School in Ann Arbor, Mich., Mar. 13-15 <[www.greenhillschool.org](http://www.greenhillschool.org)>.

"Steamin' Sherlock and the Hound of the Govanhillies" will be performed at Inn Deep in Glasgow, Mar. 25-27, during the Glasgow International Comedy Festival <[www.tinyurl.com/yzv5d9k3](http://www.tinyurl.com/yzv5d9k3)>. "A demonic dug, a famous detective duo, and some drunken debauchery-it's all going down in Govanhill."

"Sherlock Holmes and the Presidential Scandal" is due at the Greater Escambia Council for the Arts in Atmore, Ala., Apr. 24-May 4 <[www.gecarts.org](http://www.gecarts.org)>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is due at the Avon High school in Avon, Ind., Apr. 25-27 <[www.avonhs.booktix.com](http://www.avonhs.booktix.com)>. And at Saint Mary's Parish Hall in Brantford, Ont., June 6-8; their web-site's at <[www.ichthystheatre.ca](http://www.ichthystheatre.ca)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Thief of Antiquity" will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Winchester, June 11-12 <[www.blueappletheatre.com](http://www.blueappletheatre.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (a new musical comedy written by Humphrey Ker and David Reed, and with songs by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber) will be performed at the Birmingham Rep in Birmingham, West Midlands, Nov. 14-Jan. 11 <[www.birmingham-rep.co.uk](http://www.birmingham-rep.co.uk)>. There was an article about the show in the Guardian (Feb. 11) <[www.tinyurl.com/2v9jn9xp](http://www.tinyurl.com/2v9jn9xp)>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and Case of the Fallen Soufflé" will be performed at the Stage West Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 12-29; web-site at <[www.stagewest.org](http://www.stagewest.org)>.

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Mar 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

Some non-Sherlockian original artwork by Frederic Dorr Steele was offered by Heritage Auctions last month <[www.tinyurl.com/2v29ff7r](http://www.tinyurl.com/2v29ff7r)>; his illustrations for Ellis Parker Butler's short story "The False Gods of Doc Weaver" were sold for \$450, including the buyer's premium. The story appeared in the Sept. 1901 issue of *The Century Magazine*, and it's available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/4trawwrj](http://www.tinyurl.com/4trawwrj)>, allowing you can compare the artwork with what appeared in the magazine (and read the story, of course).

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London's excursion to India (Feb 24 #2) is getting prominent mention in the Indian press, including an article in the *Kolkata Telegraph* (Mar. 1) <[www.tinyurl.com/mrjtnsr5](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrjtnsr5)>.

Ray Betzner has reported Scott Heller's interview with Mark Greaney (who writes the "Gray Man" espionage series) in the N.Y. Times Sunday Book Review (Mar. 2). Heller asked: "You're organizing a literary dinner party. Which three writers, dead or alive, do you invite?" Greaney replied: "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir Winston Churchill, and David Sedaris. That would be a weird night."

The Deadline website reports that the series "Sherlock & Daughter" (with David Thewlis as Holmes) will debut on The CW on Apr. 16.

"I'm going to be doing an 'Enola Holmes 3' this year," according to Millie Bobby Brown, at the Collider web-site (Mar. 5) <[www.tinyurl.com/54w57nfr](http://www.tinyurl.com/54w57nfr)>. "We start filming in the coming weeks. I'm very excited." There's no word on when we might expect to see the third film on Netflix, but it's likely to turn up next year.

Ross E. Davies' *Casey at the Bat and the Supreme Court* (Washington: Green Bag Press, 2024; 163 pp., \$65.00 hardbound/\$35.00 softbound) is subtitled as a short and incomplete chronicle of connections; it is an interesting and amusing exploration of the now-legendary poem's history, baseball, and (as Ross promises in his preface) the "closenesses and distances between law and literature." It's also Sherlockian, closing with comment on Martin Gardner's *The Annotated Casey at the Bat*, and his explanation of the connection between Casey's Mudville and Sherlock Holmes. You can order the book at <[www.tinyurl.com/bdfhxa9m](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdfhxa9m)>.

But: if all you want is to know what that connection is, Gardner explained that the reason one cannot today find Mudville in Kansas today is that the town's civic leaders, hoping to escape its disgraceful image, changed its name to Moorville; that didn't work, and the town withered on the vine (so to speak) and vanished, which is why, now, Moorville can be found only in the text of "The Three Garridebs".

*The Letters of Noël Coward*, edited and with commentary by Barry Day (Alfred A. Knopf, 2007) has an interesting paragraph, in which Ian Fleming, Leslie Howard, David Niven, Roald Dahl, Alexander and Zoltan Korda, and Cary Grant are reported as having something in common with Coward: they were all recruited by William Stephenson to assist the British Security Coordination, the administrative headquarters for the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) and the Special Operations Executive (SOE). It was the SOE who called themselves the Baker Street Irregulars because they were headquartered in Baker Street.

Mar 25 #2 Rebecca Romney's *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend* (New York: Marysue Ricci/Simon & Schuster, 2025; 453 pp., \$29.99), is as much a memoir as it is an exploration of authors Austen admired; the introduction is nicely Sherlockian, as might be expected, since Rebecca is a member of the Baker Street Irregulars. She is also an expert book dealer, an energetic and informed collector, and a writer who kindly shares the fun she has had in her quest. Recommended.

Rebecca also has an on-going series of short videos covering a wide range of collectables (Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian), explaining various aspects of book collecting <[www.youtube.com/erebecca.romney/shorts](http://www.youtube.com/erebecca.romney/shorts)>.

Laurie R. King's *Knave of Diamonds* (New York: Bantam Books, 2025; 318 pp., \$30.00) is the 20th title in her series about Mary Russell, her (now) husband Sherlock Holmes, and her Uncle Jake, and it's a welcome addition to the series that began with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice*. It was Uncle Jake who gave young Mary her throwing knife, and taught her how to use it; she hasn't heard from him in years, but now (in 1925) Jake has returned and he involves Mary, and Sherlock, in a search for the Irish Crown Jewels (which were stolen from Dublin Castle in 1907 and never recovered). No spoilers here, but you'll have fun with the book.

Offered at Forum Auctions in London on Mar. 6: a book owned and signed by Walter Scott, and then owned by Conan Doyle <[www.tinyurl.com/3sjmy5yx](http://www.tinyurl.com/3sjmy5yx)>. Estimated at £200-£300, it sold for £750 (plus a 26% buyer's premium). Of interest for Doyleans was the laid-in bookplate of Nina Conan Doyle, the wife of Conan Doyle's son Denis. Has anyone ever seen her bookplate in another book? Could this be something truly new?

A Sir Arthur Conan Doyle bookplate with an elaborate family coat of arms is relatively common, and confusing to collectors who don't know that Adrian Conan Doyle obtained the family coat of arms from the Dublin Herald and added the bookplate to the books in his father's library after Adrian moved into the Château de Lucens; some of the books had been acquired by Adrian after his father's death.

R.P. O'Donnell, author of *No Comfort for the Dead* (Jan 25 #7) has posted to CrimeReads an excellent essay on "Sherlock Holmes in the World"; it's on-line at <[www.crimereads.com/sherlock-holmes-in-the-world](http://www.crimereads.com/sherlock-holmes-in-the-world)>.

Jan C. Prager ("Lowenstein of Prague") died on Nov. 18, 2024. Jan was a pioneer in environmental protection, first with the Sandy Hook Laboratory in Jersey, and then with the Environmental Protection Agency in Rhode Island. His grand sense of humor inspired him to use, on visits to the EPA headquarters in Washington, an official identity card issued to his miniature poodle Phineas T. Buzzerhound, and it took almost three years before an alert security guard actually looked at the card. Jan received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1975.

Mar 25 #3 Christopher Plummer's *In Spite of Myself: A Memoir* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008) is a detailed, and interesting account of the life and career of a noted actor who credits include appearances as Sherlock Holmes on television in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and on the screen in "Murder by Decree" (1979). He also toured in the one-man play "Barrymore" (1997), becoming one the very few actors who have played both Sherlock Holmes and an actor who played Sherlock Holmes



"Holmes discovered that we had come without our spoon-bait for jack," according to Watson (in "Shoscombe Old Place") "which absolved us from fishing for the day." While that may not be the most memorable of Watson's sentences in the Canon, it certainly presents a puzzle for readers who don't have access to annotations. The U.S. Postal Service has issued a sheet of five stamps showing freshwater fishing lures, one of them a spoon lure. "Spoon lures have been around since the 1800s and are named for the concave shape," according to their press release, which adds that "Spoons have remained popular because their unique movement and glimmer under water are so effective at catching fish," such as bass, pike and trout." And "jack" is a common name for pike.

Rebecca Rego Barry's *The Vanishing of Carolyn Wells: Investigations into a Forgotten Mystery Author* (New York: Post Hill, 2024; 332 pp., \$30.00) is a detailed account of the life and career of a best-selling author who wrote more than 80 mysteries and many other books from the 1890s into the 1940s, but now is largely ignored by those who write about the genre. There are many mentions of Conan Doyle and Holmes (she wrote two Sherlockian ballads and two pastiches), and Christopher Morley and Vincent Starrett.

Barry also reports an anonymous article in the Apr. 1905 issue of the *Century Magazine* on "President Roosevelt as a Reader" that praises Theodore Roosevelt as "one of the greatest readers we have among our literary men" and lists, among the many books he read in 1901-1903, Conan Doyle's "The White Company",

Harold E. Niver ("The Man on the Tor") died on Mar. 17. He contributed to the *Baker Street Journal* and many other Sherlockian society publications. He obtained a SHROK license plate and his many interests included music and especially William Gillette. Tyke and his wife Teddie founded the Men on the Tor in 1977, and impersonated the Gillettes at Gillette Castle on weekends beginning in 2001, and in Victorian costume celebrated their 50th wedding this year at the Castle. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1979.

Michael Cohen's *The Golden Era of Sherlock Holmes and His Contemporaries* (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2024; 258 pp., \$16.95) begins with the publication of the first Sherlock Holmes short stories in *The Strand Magazine*, and goes on to discuss the wide variety of authors whose detectives, amateur and professional, were inspired by Conan Doyle's success. Cohen's book is a detailed and informed guide to the genre. But (fair warning): he seems to have written for academics, offering plot summaries that will spoil things for those who would prefer to be surprised when they read the stories. Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's recent interview with Cohen at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/29hja47n](https://www.tinyurl.com/29hja47n)> offers much more about the book, and its author.

Mar 25 #4 Mark your calendar for July 26, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter (and play in) his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It's well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny <dendobry@ptd.net>. You can see colorful images at <[www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html](http://www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html)> from his similar event in 2021.

The Royal Mint happily offers a wide range of collectibles in addition to providing pocket change, and they have just added a £5 coin honoring John Lennon to their "Music Legends" series <[www.tinyurl.com/2hdrbdjt](http://www.tinyurl.com/2hdrbdjt)>; there's a Sherlockian connection for Lennon, of course: his self-portrait in Sherlockian costume will be found in his *A Spaniard in the Works* (1965), along with his Shamrock Wolms and Doctored Whopper parody "The Singularge Experience of Miss Anne Duffield".

Sharon Klinger died on Mar. 6. Her husband Les Klinger described her as his inspiration and as his head cheerleader, and he thanked her for proof-reading every word of his Edgar Award-winning *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories*. She was honored as *The Woman* by the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009.

Bill Seil has noted the availability (for 99¢) <[www.tinyurl.com/444mdj7c](http://www.tinyurl.com/444mdj7c)> of a ringtone of the theme music from the BBC "Sherlock" series.

Ed Rampell's review, in the *Progressive Magazine* (Mar. 19) of Francis MacDonnell's new book *Policing Show Business: J. Edgar Hoover, the Hollywood Blacklist, and Cold War Movies*, mentions what MacDonnell calls "the Sunset Street Irregulars" (movie industry insiders who spied and snitched on colleagues to Hoover's investigators).

If you missed Reid Byers' remarks at the opening of the exhibition of imaginary books at the Book Club of California (Feb 25 #1), they're on-line at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=M75FjR59Tes](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M75FjR59Tes)>. You will get to see two of the exhibition's Sherlockian items: Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy* and "The Giant Rate of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of *The Strand Magazine* (Jan 25 #2).

Many people hoping to find recruits interested in founding a Sherlockian society have in the past relied on the classified advertisements in their local newspapers, but now the Internet has essentially replaced the classifieds. But newspapers do have web-sites, and they can be useful, as was the *Albuquerque Journal* on Mar. 21 <[www.tinyurl.com/3bvvykt9e](http://www.tinyurl.com/3bvvykt9e)>.

The oil-on-canvas painting "Chimney-sweep" by Swedish artist Frans Wilhelm Odellmark (1880) is in a private collection, but you can see it at Wikimedia <[www.tinyurl.com/47yfxupj](http://www.tinyurl.com/47yfxupj)>. And in the March issue of *The Moor*, the journal of the Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden. It's a grand reminder of what Watson wrote (in "The Five Orange Pips") when he said that "the wind cried and sobbed like a child in the chimney." That child was of course a chimney-sweep, as readers of the story in the November 1891 issue of *The Strand Magazine* would have known.

Mar 25 #5 Simon Fisher-Becker died on Mar. 9. A British character actor, he began his career on television in the early 1990s, and went on to provide voices for audio and podcast series. He voiced Arthur Morstan in "The Ghost of of Chammersmith Manor" (2022), an episode in the Overton Audios "Sherlock Holmes" mini-series that starred Connor Chadwick (Holmes) and John N. Harper (Watson). The mini-series is on-line at YouTube, and the episode is at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hVnpvwHkHg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hVnpvwHkHg)>.

More about the "Watson" series now running on CBS-TV: it seems there will be a break in the broadcast schedule (one assumes there are some serious Sunday sports coming up). The next-to-last episode will air on Apr. 13, and the last episode will air in two parts on May 4 and 11. In the meantime, there's an interview with series costume designer Kerry Weinrauch at the ProductionHUB blog (Mar. 21) <[www.tinyurl.com/26szvpna](http://www.tinyurl.com/26szvpna)>, and another with Ritchie Coster (Shinwell Johnson) at the Ghostly Gallery podcast, on-line at You-tube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXrYPe30hyI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXrYPe30hyI)>. And there's more news: the network announced (Mar. 26) that the series has been renewed for a second season <[www.tinyurl.com/5f6kpukc](http://www.tinyurl.com/5f6kpukc)>.

Leonard Goldberg's *A Scandalous Affair* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2025, 251 pp., \$27.95), the eighth title in his series about Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who has learned much from her father and is now working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son (and her husband) Dr. John H. Watson Jr., is set in 1918, when they are set in pursuit of a truly evil villain who is blackmailing a high official in the British government. It is nicely done, and the author's web-site is at <[www.leonardgoldberg.com](http://www.leonardgoldberg.com)>.

Undershaw, formerly the home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and now used by the Stepping Stones School for children with special needs, made the news with a story in the Bordon Herald (Mar. 18) reporting that the school had been given an "outstanding" rating from Ofsted <[www.tinyurl.com/cbpasp43](http://www.tinyurl.com/cbpasp43)>. Ofsted is the British government's Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services, and Skills (definitely needing an abbreviation).

The Lego Group began manufacturing its interlocking toy bricks in Denmark in 1949, and according to Wikipedia, it's now the largest toy manufacturer in the world by sales. So far they have issued a "detective" figure that is in Sherlockian costume, but now there are rumors that this year there will be an official Sherlock Holmes booknook. Jennie Paton found some of the rumors on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/4j52b4wd](http://www.tinyurl.com/4j52b4wd)> <[www.tinyurl.com/3udecfcs](http://www.tinyurl.com/3udecfcs)>. Stay tuned for more news, if there is some.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), was created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20 #3), and in May 2024 they presided over Brettcon 2024: The 40th Anniversary Celebration in Guildford in Surrey (Feb 24 #1). The podcast continues, and it is well worth exploring, especially for their new posting of Gary Leach's interview with Brett in 1985 <[www.tinyurl.com/5ambbjt](http://www.tinyurl.com/5ambbjt)>. They've also commissioned a new run of the "Secret of Sherlock Holmes" T-shirts, designed by Leach, and previously available only at the Wyndham Theatre during the run of the play (1988-1989); they're available (while supplies last) at Etsy for \$29.99 <[www.etsy.com/listing/1870427276](http://www.etsy.com/listing/1870427276)> in various colors and sizes.

Mar 25 #6 It's (sort of) Sherlockian: a new eight-episode Netflix series "The Residence" offers a fictional murder scandal involving the staff of the White House, and began streaming on Mar. 20. "The Engineer's Thumb" is the title of the seventh episode, and there are other Canonical echoes. It was praised by most reviewers, and there's a trailer at <[www.tinyurl.com/hnxf3upk](http://www.tinyurl.com/hnxf3upk)>; as for why "The Residence" is Sherlockian, just see the interview with showrunner Paul William Davies at the Shondaland web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/3a66vtwr](http://www.tinyurl.com/3a66vtwr)>.

Theatrics: Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is running at the Collaborative Theatre Project Playhouse in Medford, Ore., through Apr. 13 <[www.ctpmedford.org](http://www.ctpmedford.org)>. It also will be performed at the Village Hall in Nayland, Suff., Apr. 2-5 <[www.villageplayers.co.uk](http://www.villageplayers.co.uk)>.

Ben Abbott's new play "Shut Up Sherlock" is on at the Great American Melodrama in Oceano, Calif., through Apr. 16 <[www.americanmelodrama.com](http://www.americanmelodrama.com)>.

Miriam Cyr's "A Case of the Heart" (an adaptation of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes") will have a staged reading at the Gloucester State in Gloucester, Mass., on Apr. 5 <[www.punctuate4.org](http://www.punctuate4.org)>.

Jacklyn Fazio's "Sherlock Holmes and the Familiar Face" will be performed again, during the Sherlock Holmes Weekends in Cape May, N.J., Apr. 5-6 and Oct. 25-Nov. 2 <[www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend](http://www.capemaymac.org/sherlock-holmes-weekend)>.

Stand-up comedian Robert Rule will perform "The Sherlock Files" at the Interchange Theater Co-op in Milwaukee, Wis., on Apr. 5; the web-site is at <[www.interchangetheater.com](http://www.interchangetheater.com)>.

Martin Parsons' "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Colin Baker and Terry Molloy as Holmes and Watson) will tour again in Britain, Apr. 7-19; the web-site's at <[www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk](http://www.crimeandcomedytheatrecompany.co.uk)>.

T. S. Forsyth's "Sherlock Holmes: The Sign of the Four" will be on tour in and near Sacramento, Calif, Apr. 24-May 2 <[www.placerrep.org](http://www.placerrep.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Kootenay River Theatre in Creston, B.C., Apr. 3-5 <[www.facebook.com/CrestonFootlighters](http://www.facebook.com/CrestonFootlighters)>. Also at the Civic Arts Theatre in Oswaldtwistle, Lancs., June 5-7; web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/5cpvxet9](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cpvxet9)>.

Joshua L Peugh's ballet "My Dear Watson" (with music by Brandon Carson) is scheduled at the Catherine B. Berges Theatre in St. Louis, Mo., May 30-31 <[www.saintlouisdanceheatre.org](http://www.saintlouisdanceheatre.org)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is due at the Gloucester Stage in Gloucester, Mass., Sept. 4-27 <[www.gloucesterstage.com](http://www.gloucesterstage.com)>.

Fiona Maher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Man Who Believed in Fairies" will be performed at the Greenwich Theatre in London, Oct. 10-11; web-site at <[www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk](http://www.greenwichtheatre.org.uk)>.

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

Apr 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press®

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 they then appeared in *The Murder of Mr. Ma* (Apr 24 #2). The second book in the series is *The Railway Conspiracy* (New York: Soho Crime, 2025; 394 pp., \$25.95), like the first, not Sherlockian but inspired by the Canon. Judge Dee and Lao Sheh are again in London in 1924, pursuing an interesting assortment of international villains.

An apartment at 2151 Sacramento Street in San Francisco sold has been sold for \$999,000 <[www.tinyurl.com/bph66psk](http://www.tinyurl.com/bph66psk)>, according to Samantha Wolov. In the 1920s the building was the home of Dr. Albert Abrams, and Conan Doyle visited Abrams (but never stayed there, as claimed now by the owner). The entry for Abrams at Wikipedia <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert\\_Abrams](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albert_Abrams)> is entertaining.

*Sherlock Holmes at Universal (1942-1946)*, Volume 1, by Scott Allen Nollen and Kris Allen Marentette (Orlando: BearManor, 2025; 395 pp., \$33.00), is a grand exploration of the Rathbone/Bruce films, with a chapter on the two made with 20th-Century Fox and then a chapter each for the first six made with Universal. The authors are dedicated enthusiasts who dig deeply into each film, discussing scripts and finished films, and offering hundreds of illustrations that include lobby cards and publicity portraits. They have interviewed actors and writers, and tell many stories about the people who worked on the series. One can assume that the second volume, covering the remaining six Universal films, will be just as through and interesting.

The Sub-Librarians of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association's meeting during the annual conference of the ALA in San Diego in 2024 included a panel discussion of "Writing Sherlock Holmes into the 21st Century" that featured Laurie R. King, Nicholas Meyer, and Leslie S. Klinger; a recording's now on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/4pf74v77](http://www.tinyurl.com/4pf74v77)>.

The times they are a-changing: it has been many years since the first mention of Jim Weiss' audiocassette recordings for children in this newsletter (Apr 92 #8). As technology changed, he moved from audiocassettes to CDs, and now he's moving from CDs to MP3. His long list of recordings includes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Sherlock Holmes for Children* (with narrations of four stories) and *Mystery! Mystery!* (which includes one of the Sherlock Holmes stories). You can purchase CDs (while they're still in stock) and MP3s, and listen to samples, at <[www.welltrainedmind.com](http://www.welltrainedmind.com)>, and learn more about his recordings at <[www.jimweiss.com](http://www.jimweiss.com)>.

This newsletter has appeared monthly for many years, but the Internet now allows you to read Sherlockian (and Doylean) news daily on Facebook. Howard Ostrom's "Sherlock on Screens" Facebook page has more than 8,000 members worldwide, covers more than just film and television, and offers (according to Howard) more Sherlockian news and photos on a daily basis than any other Sherlockian source of information. You can see it all easily at <[www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesonscreens](http://www.facebook.com/groups/sherlockholmesonscreens)>.

Apr 25 #2 The Andaman Islands are in the news again. Mykhailo Viktorovych Polyakov, an American YouTuber, faces up to eight years in prison if he is convicted for the crime of visiting North Sentinel Island, which is protected by the Indian government; the Sentinelese are believed to be one of the world's most isolated indigenous people. Polyakov is reported to have arrived on an inflatable boat with a coconut and a can of Diet Coke intended as gifts to the natives, but he wasn't able to find anybody. The BBC News story (Apr. 3) <[www.tinyurl.com/mr28k97t](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr28k97t)> is only one of many press reports on Polyakov's adventures.

Another comic strip: "Barney & Clyde" (by Gene and Dan Weingarten and David Clark) on Mar. 30 <[www.gocomics.com/barneyandclyde/2025/03/30](http://www.gocomics.com/barneyandclyde/2025/03/30)> dealt with copyright and (among others) Sherlock Holmes.

Max Bogdan at Craftsman Pipes offers hand-carved briar pipes for smokers and collectors, including a pipe showing Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes <[www.craftsmanpipes.com/product/sherlock-holmes-wood-tobacco-pipe](http://www.craftsmanpipes.com/product/sherlock-holmes-wood-tobacco-pipe)>. Our thanks to Adrienn Fray of the Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary for the report at their web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/ywnmx8j7](http://www.tinyurl.com/ywnmx8j7)>.

It's always interesting when something new about Conan Doyle turns up in the news: on Apr. 11 the Al Hakam web-site reported on news from 100 years earlier <[www.tinyurl.com/ncerducw](http://www.tinyurl.com/ncerducw)>. A Google search turned up a bit more <[www.tinyurl.com/3a797b5c](http://www.tinyurl.com/3a797b5c)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/3dr8dwdm](http://www.tinyurl.com/3dr8dwdm)>.

Gregory Urbach's *Dashiell Hammett vs. Sherlock Holmes: In Search of Jack the Ripper* (2024; 294 pp., \$16.99) opens with Hammett in London in 1929, researching *The Maltese Falcon*, and with some time travel he finds himself in London in 1888, joining forces with Holmes and Watson in pursuing Jack the Ripper; he gets to meet the Queen, and (of course) succeeds in ending the vicious serial killer's reign of terror.

The ACD Society's "The Terror of Blue John Gap Project" (presided over by Margie Deck and Nancy Holder) has reached page 10 of the manuscript of the story, halfway through the manuscript, and the Project's a fine demonstration of making scholarship available on-line; you can explore the results at <[www.acdsociety.com/bjg/10/bjg10.html](http://www.acdsociety.com/bjg/10/bjg10.html)>.

The ACD Society also has reported on the discovery of Conan Doyle's reply to the Toast to Literature at the 1901 annual meeting of the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club, and you can read what he had to say on that occasion at <[www.tinyurl.com/2p8y9bsy](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p8y9bsy)>. The society's web-site <[www.acdsociety.com](http://www.acdsociety.com)> is well worth exploring, including the link to A Common Newsletter.

Peter Lovesey died on Apr. 10. He was a prolific mystery writer, winning many honors and awards in Britain and the United States, and his work included Sherlockian pastiches and a bit of Sherlockian poetry. You'll find what he had to say about himself at <[www.peterlovesey.com/about](http://www.peterlovesey.com/about)>, but with no mention of his interest in the Olympics; in his article on "Conan Doyle and the Olympics" (*Journal of Olympic History*, Dec. 2001) he discussed the famous photograph of the end of the 1908 marathon that some believe shows Conan Doyle helping Dorando Pietri across the finish line, and was able to identify the two Olympic officials who did help Pietri (Jun 02 #4).

Apr 25 #3 The Japanese are still celebrating last year's 40th anniversary of the "Sherlock Hound" television series: Jennie Paton has reported that Wayô Records will issue the original soundtrack of the entire series, and the first animated film, on two LPs or two CDs, accompanied by an eight-page illustrated booklet <[www.tinyurl.com/uvu2hj58](http://www.tinyurl.com/uvu2hj58)>.

Many Sherlockian societies met via Zoom during the pandemic, and some continue to do so. Some of the societies record their meetings and make the recordings available on-line at web-sites or YouTube channels (or both). One of the societies is The Sherlocki-anns, who are fond of Irene Adler's younger sister Ann Adler <[www.travelwithsherlock.com/sherlocki-anns](http://www.travelwithsherlock.com/sherlocki-anns)> (the web-site includes a link to their YouTube channel). Some other societies record the speakers at in-person meetings and make the recordings available at their web-sites (one of them is The Red Circle; their web-site's at <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>. Are there other societies doing this?

"Kabukicho Sherlock" was a Japanese television anime series (Apr 19 #2 and Mar 20 #6) that has an entry at Wikipedia <[www.tinyurl.com/3ccrzt9](http://www.tinyurl.com/3ccrzt9)>. But there's nothing that explains the "pervert detective who loves rakugo" inscription on a tie-in hardcover notebook spotted by Jennie Paton in an advertisement at a Japanese website <[www.tinyurl.com/58pnmv7](http://www.tinyurl.com/58pnmv7)>.

The web-site of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has many useful features, including the Gazetteer <[www.gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk](http://www.gazetteer.sherlock-holmes.org.uk)>, an opportunity to "discover all about the important locations from the stories about Sherlock Holmes," with photographs of many of them. Another is the Scrapbook <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook)>, maintained by Ashley Mayo, who has indexed the Sherlock Holmes Journal and provided both text of the stories and text of what has been said about them (and about other general topics) in the SHJ.

Watson said you hear of the Shoscombe spaniels at every dog show (in Shoscombe Old Place"), and described them as "the most exclusive breed in England." They're not among today's most vulnerable breeds, according to an article in Country Life (Apr. 19) <[www.tinyurl.com/yc69yab9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc69yab9)>.

"Shall the world, then, be overrun by Sherlock Holmes television series? No, no, horrible!" isn't quite what Holmes once said (in "The Dying Detective"), but it does seem appropriate. Older series are streaming on the cable channels, "Watson" has been renewed for a second season by CBS-TV, and "Sherlock & Daughter" (now running on The CW) has received some nice reviews (for its actors, if not so much for its plotting). It's interesting that the Indian film industry, which continues to turn out modern detective-and-assistant features that proudly claim to have been inspired by Holmes and Watson, has a new film in pre-production: according to Variety (Mar. 25) <[www.tinyurl.com/bdh7jh7z](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdh7jh7z)>, director Deepa Mehta is developing "Sher" (which she describes as "a complete fun take on Watson"). Sherlock Holmes is dead, and Watson, in Calcutta, finds that Holmes has an illegitimate daughter, born from an affair with a young Indian woman while he was at Cambridge. One can't be entirely sure about the new film (as so often is the case when something's pre-production <[www.tinyurl.com/yc6yy4jy](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc6yy4jy)>.

Apr 25 #4 Sherlock Holmes called it "the great convict prison of Princetown" (in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"), but it's now HMP Dartmoor (HMP being an abbreviation for His Majesty's Prison). And it has made the news: the Observer reported (Apr. 12) <[www.tinyurl.com/mumjsfux](http://www.tinyurl.com/mumjsfux)> that the prison was closed last year after high levels of radon gas were discovered in the prison. It's unlikely that the prison will ever reopen, but the government is still paying Prince William's Duchy of Cornwall \$1.5 million a year to lease the land.

"An evening with Sherlock Holmes" will be held at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 17 (6:00-7:30 pm UK, and 1:00-2:30 pm EST); the event will be live-streamed, and you can register at <[www.tinyurl.com/33c4senc](http://www.tinyurl.com/33c4senc)>. There will be celebrity guests, live performances, a silent auction, and a lot more by way of entertainment. Ticket-holders also will have access to a recording at any time after the event.

James Polchin's *Shadow Men* (Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2024; 354 pp., \$29.00) is a detailed examination of a complicated Jazz Age crime in New York (not all that many people confess to murder, and are then tried and acquitted), with a chapter devoted to Conan Doyle, who in 1922 was in the U.S. lecturing on Spiritualism, and said during an interview that the case would have made an "ideal Sherlock mystery."

Tim Major's *The Defaced Man* (New York: Titan, 2022; 254 pp., \$14.95), one of many titles in Titan's series of "new adventures of Sherlock Holmes," is set in 1896, when Holmes' client is the photographer Eadweard Muybridge (one of the pioneers in the study of motion-picture projection), involved in a complicated mystery that Holmes (of course) eventually solves.

The U.S. Postal Service does a lot more than just deliver the mail (even though there's less and less mail to deliver now that so many people use the Internet). Their Criminal Investigation Group works hard to prevent people from defrauding the public, and you can listen to and read about some of their work to their "mailin' it" podcast; it's available on-line at <[www.usps-mailin-it.simplecast.com/episodes](http://www.usps-mailin-it.simplecast.com/episodes)>.

Brad Keefauver's *Holmes in an Hour or Two* (May 23 #5) is aptly subtitled "A Sherlock Holmes Fan's First Sherlockian Chronology, or Create Your Own Timeline of Sherlock Holmes's Life in the Shortest Time Possible," and you can listen to Brad talk about the book, and much more, in an interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/bdf2afwu](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdf2afwu)>.

The Torists International S.S. have announced that the 66th running of the Chicago Silver Blaze will be held on June 29. The Watsonians are waiting to determine the meeting place, as the track is still under construction." Stay tuned for details from Jonathan Shimberg <[www.toristintss@gmail.com](mailto:www.toristintss@gmail.com)>.

The Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial has started work on *The Complete Steele Portfolio*, reproducing all of his Sherlockian illustrations, from original artwork when possible, in 2027 <[www.tinyurl.com/59jkzjf6](http://www.tinyurl.com/59jkzjf6)>. They also are planning to upload to their YouTube channel in mid-May recordings of the lectures at their illustration seminar at the Salmagundi Club last year.

Apr 25 #5 The April issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota offers Phillip Bergem's article "Getting to Know Jerry Margolin" (explaining how much fun Jerry had as a collector, occasioned by his donation of his spectacular collection of original Sherlockian artwork to the University, and much more news from and about the collections). Copies of the newsletter are available on request from Timothy J. Johnson (#15-G Elmer L. Andersen Library, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <johns976@umn.com>.

Bruce Beaman has reported that some PBS stations are airing a six-episode series "Ghost Stories" that includes Mark Gatiss' dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Lot 249" (which was broadcast on BBC Two in December 2023), and you can watch it if you have PBS Passport. You may need to pretend that you are somewhere else (try ZIP code 54401). The other five episodes are dramatizations of stories by M. R. James, and all are nicely done.

Further to the item (Mar 25 #5) about a rumored Sherlock Holmes book nook from Lego, there is indeed more news: Ross Davies has kindly noted that a sketch has been posted to the Internet <[www.instagram.com/p/DIymXdbJzZE](https://www.instagram.com/p/DIymXdbJzZE)>. There's also video <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lGKODegE\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-lGKODegE_Q)>.

Modern technology can be nice indeed: Adrienn Fray has reported from Hungary that Owen Davies is posting to YouTube remastered 4K versions of the Jeremy Brett "Sherlock Holmes" series <[www.tinyurl.com/39683kjj](https://www.tinyurl.com/39683kjj)>. 4K is a horizontal resolution of about 4,000 pixels, which makes things crisp indeed on your computer monitor.

The Beijing Global Times reported (Apr. 23) <[www.tinyurl.com/ypfpdr2](https://www.tinyurl.com/ypfpdr2)> on the announcement that Chinese authorities have identified the tomb of Di Renjie, who was a renowned statesman of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). He is much better known in the west as Judge Dee, compared to Sherlock Holmes by Vincent Starrett, noted by Ray Betzner <[www.tinyurl.com/ynnfmzbv](https://www.tinyurl.com/ynnfmzbv)>. Judge Dee also has an informative entry at Wikipedia.

You can see the dust-jacket art and read a bit about Nicholas Meyer's next novel, *Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing*, due from the Mysterious Press on Aug. 26, at <[www.tinyurl.com/3czwkuu6](https://www.tinyurl.com/3czwkuu6)>.

There was a nice panel on "What's So Great about Sherlock?" at Malice Domestic, with Carla Coupe as moderator, and Hal Glatzer, Delia Pitts, and Dan Stashower as panelists. Delia reminded everyone how good the Netflix series "The Residence" (Mar 25 #4) is, noting how many echoes of the Canon there are, if you look for them.

Howard Ostrom's "A-Z List of Sherlock Holmes Performers" now has more than 10,000 entries (with more than 25,000 images), covering stage, screen, radio, television, the Internet, and much more; the new list will be available on-line later this year at <[www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html](https://www.nplh.co.uk/a-z-index.html)>. Howard decided at the end of 2024 to add new modern entries only for screen and television (there just is too much new material on stage, television, and the Internet), but he'll continue to pursue older entries that turn up as more and more resources are digitized and made available on-line.

Apr 25 #6 The Sherlock Holmes (the iconic pub in Northumberland Street in London) has reopened, after being closed for renovation. Their colorful website's at <[www.tinyurl.com/mr3c56ex](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3c56ex)>, and you can read press reports at <[www.tinyurl.com/396eh2r2](http://www.tinyurl.com/396eh2r2)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/bdd6fnxb](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdd6fnxb)>. The Sherlockian material, including the spectacular recreation of the sitting-room, has been carefully preserved, Roger Johnson reports (he and Jean Upton have been Sherlockian consultants for the pub for many years).

Theatrics: Tim Kelly's adaptation of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is running at the Hanover High School in Mechanicsville, Va., through May 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/445pcn44](http://www.tinyurl.com/445pcn44)>.

Ollie Jaye's "Sherlock Holmes and the Presidential Scandal" is on at the GECA Theater in Atmore, Ala. through May 4 <[www.gecart.org](http://www.gecart.org)>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is scheduled at the ISB Theatre in Brussels, May 9-10 <[www.tinyurl.com/37mf7n5x](http://www.tinyurl.com/37mf7n5x)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is scheduled at the Elmhurst History Museum in Elmhurst, Ill., May 9-18 <[www.greenmantheatre.org](http://www.greenmantheatre.org)>.

Yinneboma Peterson's "Sherlock Holmes' Mysterious Case in Camelot" will be performed in Grass Valley, Calif., on May 10 <[www.tinyurl.com/2fecjybw](http://www.tinyurl.com/2fecjybw)>. Holmes and Watson find themselves in Camelot alongside King Arthur, Merlin, and the Knights of the Round Table.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at Attic Productions in Fincastle, Va., May 15-25 <[www.atticproductions.info](http://www.atticproductions.info)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" will be performed at the Arizona Theatre Company in Tucson, Ariz., May 18-June 7 <[www.atc.org](http://www.atc.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Bellevue Little Theatre in Bellevue, Neb., June 6-22 <[www.theblt.org](http://www.theblt.org)>; and at Dudley Hall in Cleburne, Tex., July 18-Aug. 9 <[www.plaza-theatre.com](http://www.plaza-theatre.com)>.

Shari Prestwood's "Sherlock Holmes and the Haunted Theatre" is due at the Loxley Civic Center in Loxley, Ala., on June 8 <[www.commediadelarte.org](http://www.commediadelarte.org)>.

Margaret Raether's "Sherlock Holmes and the Precarious Position" is coming up at the Clackamas Repertory Theatre in Oregon City, Ore., June 26-July 20 <[www.clackamasrep.org](http://www.clackamasrep.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is going to be produced at the Avalon Theatre in Marysville, Ohio, June 27-29 <[www.silvrsceneplayers.com](http://www.silvrsceneplayers.com)>. Also at the Ghostlight Theatre in Sun City West, Ariz., Oct. 16-26; their web-site's at <[www.ghostlightaz.com](http://www.ghostlightaz.com)>.

"The Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, July 31-Aug. 11 <[www.tinyurl.com/5bvk2js6](http://www.tinyurl.com/5bvk2js6)>; their motto is "No script, Sherlock," and they're celebrating the 10th anniversary of the show's debut at the Fringe <[www.improvsherlock.com](http://www.improvsherlock.com)>.

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May 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

Nicholas Meyer's *Sherlock Holmes and the Real Thing* (New York: Mysterious Press, 2025; 248 pp., \$26.96) is (perhaps) the last in his long series of Sherlockian novels (his *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* was published in 1974, and he has been writing Sherlockian stories for many years more than Conan Doyle). It's a well-told tale of chicanery and forgery and murder in the world of fine art; the author confesses that he has been a forger since he began the series, and of course he has been thoroughly successful at it. His web-site's at <[www.nicholas-meyer.com](http://www.nicholas-meyer.com)>.

The LEGO Book Nook is now available, with 1,359 pieces (and instructions) <[www.lego.com/en-us/product/icons-10351-10351](http://www.lego.com/en-us/product/icons-10351-10351)>. There's also an informative video at <[www.tinyurl.com/2jfhfyvd](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jfhfyvd)>.

"Powwows: Celebrating Native American Culture" is the theme of a new sheet of stamps from the U.S. Postal Service <[www.tinyurl.com/yck7syu8](http://www.tinyurl.com/yck7syu8)>. It is possible that Jefferson Hope witnessed a powwow when he lived amongst the Indians (as noted in "A Study in Scarlet").

Benedict Cumberbatch Reads *Sherlock Holmes' Rediscovered Railway Mysteries* (an audiobook with four new stories by John Taylor), released by BBC Audio in 2015, is available (free) at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/3xasesht](http://www.tinyurl.com/3xasesht)>. Many people are now listening to audiobooks at YouTube, and many more Sherlockian recordings can be found there.

The CBS-TV series "Watson" has been renewed for a second season. If you had trouble recording and watching episodes when preceding sports programs ran long, the entire series is conveniently available on-line at the network's web-site <[www.cbs.com/shows/watson](http://www.cbs.com/shows/watson)>.

The restored (and most complete) version of "The Lost World" (1925), released on DVD by Image Entertainment in 2012 and by Flicker Alley on Blu-ray in 2017, is highly recommended to anyone who's not seen this classic film; it is still available from Flicker Alley <[www.tinyurl.com/yekt43r4](http://www.tinyurl.com/yekt43r4)>, discounted to \$34.95. There are many added features on the Blu-ray, and a trailer at the web-site.

Alex Hutchinson will give the next Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture at the Toronto Reference Library on Nov. 29, on "Conan Doyle's Lost World: Filling in the Blank Spaces on the Map" <[www.acdfriends.org/events.html](http://www.acdfriends.org/events.html)>. The web-site offers links to YouTube recordings of past lectures, 2022-2024.

Netflix has announced that production has started on "The Final Problem" <[www.tinyurl.com/2sny4juz](http://www.tinyurl.com/2sny4juz)>, a five-episode mini-series that's based on Arturo Pérez-Reverte's novel *El Problema Final* (Sep 23 #5). The mini-series will feature Jose Coronado as Benjamin Basil ("a washed-up actor who once played the most famous detective of all time on the silver screen"); there isn't yet an English translation of the novel, so it's possible that Netflix will air the mini-series here with English subtitles, or dubbed into English. There's a summary of the novel, in Spanish and English on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/6aeytf77](http://www.tinyurl.com/6aeytf77)>.

May 25 #2 Olivia Rutigliano was the guest speaker at the luncheon of the Red Circle of Washington on Mar. 8, discussing Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle. Olivia has posted an interesting excerpt from the talk at the Crimereads web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/39sy7y5c](http://www.tinyurl.com/39sy7y5c)>, and video of her entire presentation is conveniently available on-line at the society's YouTube channel <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku8N8B2c3B8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ku8N8B2c3B8)>.

Fans of Mary Russell can sign up for an e-mail newsletter called "The Buzz from Laurie R. King" and receive news about things like a new short story she has written about Mary's Uncle Jake, available if you pre-order *Knave of Diamonds* (Mar 25 #2) from selected stores <[www.tinyurl.com/4ewsz6hm](http://www.tinyurl.com/4ewsz6hm)>. You'll also be able to read the short story in Laurie's next collection, due in February 2027. If you'd like to subscribe to Laurie's newsletter, just go to <[www.laurierking.com](http://www.laurierking.com)> and click on the "join Laurie's newsletter" button at the top of the opening page.

J. Lawrence Matthews' *One Must Tell the Bees: Abraham Lincoln and the Final Education of Sherlock Holmes* (Books Fluent, 2021; 552 pp., \$39.99) is part biography, part mystery, and part historical fiction; Holmes, younger than in the Canon, is sent by his brother to America before the Civil War to work at the DuPont powder factory and winds up in Washington, where he meets the president and many other important men. He's part of the pursuit of J. Wilkes Booth and is rewarded by Lincoln, returns to England in time to write his memoirs, and dies quietly in his Sussex country cottage.

More about plans for a Sherlockian weekend in Chicago: The Torists International S.S. have scheduled a dinner meeting on June 28, and the Watsonians will hold the 66th running of the Chicago Silver Blaze on June 29 at the Club Hawthorne in Oak Brook Terrace, Ill. (you'll get a free program and \$2 for your first bet); this may well be the first running anywhere of a Silver Blaze at an off-track betting facility. Contact Jonathan Shimberg <[www.toristintss@gmail.com](mailto:www.toristintss@gmail.com)> for more information.

The Papal Conclave has elected Robert Preston as the new Pope, and he has chosen to serve as Leo XIV. Sherlockians will recall that Sherlock Holmes was twice of assistance to Pope Leo XIII (who served from 1878 to 1903), as noted in "The Hound of the Baskervilles" and "Black Peter".

Another recent conclave was the first Baker Street Irregulars' Canonical Conclave of Scion Societies, held in Indianapolis, Ind., on Apr. 26, and intended "to assist scion societies in sharing ideas, collaborating, networking, and thriving." It was well-attended and you can hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder discuss the goings-on at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/272cne87](http://www.tinyurl.com/272cne87)>.

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association (which has the record for the longest name of a Sherlockian society) will meet twice during the ALA's annual meeting. On June 28 at 4:00 pm at the Rosenbach Museum and Library, and on June 29 at 1:00 pm at the Philadelphia Convention Center <[www.tinyurl.com/w63ub68p](http://www.tinyurl.com/w63ub68p)>. The tour of the Rosenbach is limited to 30 participants, and advance registration is required <<https://forms.gle/9nAyzqUuVfdTmtQFA>>.

May 25 #3 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](http://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.

Jennie Paton has spotted Cults3D <[www.cults3d.com](http://www.cults3d.com)>, a digital marketplace for 3D models where creators can showcase their designs; some of them are free, and some not. There are more than 2 million designs available, and 110 of them if you do a search for [sherlock], in case you want an excuse to do some 3D printing.

"You don't happen to have a Raphael or a first folio Shakespeare without knowing it?" asked Sherlock Holmes (in "The Three Gables"). There's news about first folios, posted at the blog of the Folger Shakespeare Library <[www.tinyurl.com/2k7b89v4](http://www.tinyurl.com/2k7b89v4)>.

The 42nd issue (2025) of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle, with 60 pages of songs, recipes, articles, quizzes, and reports on the society and its members. The cost is \$15.00 postpaid (\$30.00 outside the U.S.) and checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles should be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467-2287.

"The name 'Nigel' has romantic origins—it means 'dark champion' in Celtic lore and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle titled one of his dashing medieval historical novels *Sir Nigel*," according to Nigel Jones in the Spectator (May 7) <[www.tinyurl.com/4r3xmff6](http://www.tinyurl.com/4r3xmff6)>. "But by the time of my birth," Jones added, "the name had become indelibly associated with cerebrally challenged upper-class twits with protruding teeth." He also notes that by 2022, only three Nigels were registered in the national birth statistics. How many Nigels do you know? There are two Nigels in my e-mail address book. One of them being Nigel Miles-Thomas, who has toured in "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act" (the one-man play written by David Stuart Davies), and of course Sherlockians are indebted to two other Nigels, Bruce and Stock, who have played Watson on screen, radio, and television.

Laura F. Keyes' specialty is "teaching history with live performance," and you can see the women she portrays at <[www.tinyurl.com/ywabr977](http://www.tinyurl.com/ywabr977)>. One of them is Irene Adler, and Brenda Rossini has reported that Irene will be at the Winnetka-Northfield Library District in Illinois on Aug. 26. It will be a virtual performance, so you won't need to be there; you can register for the free event at <[www.tinyurl.com/yw9b65vv](http://www.tinyurl.com/yw9b65vv)>.

One of the exhibitors at this year's Malice Domestic conference in Bethesda, Md., was Open Book Chocolates <[www.openbookchocolates.com](http://www.openbookchocolates.com)>, who offer hand-made chocolate bars with literary-inspired flavors. It's unfortunate that they've had to discontinue their Sherlock Holmes bar, but they have instead a Doctor Watson bar (Earl Grey tea & honey in milk chocolate) (2.1 oz., \$12.00) that's not yet offered at their web-site. But you can order it by e-mail <[openbookchocolates@email.com](mailto:openbookchocolates@email.com)>. It's tasty indeed.

May 25 #4 "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gosho Aoyama, developed into a long-running animated television series, and into animated films (May 04 #6); Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who is turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa and pursues evil-doers. The films continue to be popular in Japan, according to an article at the CBR web-site (Apr. 21) <[www.tinyurl.com/ykbpccmn5](http://www.tinyurl.com/ykbpccmn5)>, but not in the U.S. However, more than 1,100 episodes of "Detective Conan: Case Closed" are available with English subtitles on Crunchyroll.

The Elmer L. Anderson Library celebrated "Doors Open Minneapolis" on May 17-18 <[www.tinyurl.com/5n77phvp](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n77phvp)>, welcoming the public for tours of their underground caverns and their recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street.

There's a long list of audiobooks available to people who subscribe to Audible <[www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com)>, including 40 books in the long "Sherlock and Lucy" series written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley, and narrated by Edward Petherbridge and others; they're all also available free to those who subscribe to Audible Plus and Audible Premium Plus. Petherbridge's voice will be familiar to those who remember him as Sherlock Holmes in the 1991-1993 radio series "NPR Playhouse: The Cases of Sherlock Holmes". His website's at <[www.edwardpetherbridge.com](http://www.edwardpetherbridge.com)>.

Sherlockian magicians appear (and disappear) from time to time, and one of them is S. Brent Morris, who is a magician and mathematician and the first person in the world to earn a Ph.D. in card shuffling. You can hear about his career and research in episode 509 of John Gaspard's Eli Marks Podcast <<https://preview.mailerlite.com/u3t0j5f5x7/2742956204614489374/c3r0>>.

Many Sherlockians continue to help spread the gospel: Carlina de la Cova, a professor at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, is presiding over ANTH 221 (Forensics of Sherlock Holmes) <[www.tinyurl.com/4hftf9ts](http://www.tinyurl.com/4hftf9ts)>.

Yet another Sherlockian television series is under consideration: Deadline has reported (May 14) <[www.tinyurl.com/yxtv9e69](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxtv9e69)> on plans for a series to be based on Brittany Cavallaro's four "Charlotte Holmes" books, which have sold more than 250,000 copies worldwide, and feature teen-age descendants of Holmes and Watson. There's more about Cavallaro's series at her website at <[www.brittanycavallaro.com](http://www.brittanycavallaro.com)>.

Jennie Paton continues to recommend Spoonflower <[www.spoonflower.com](http://www.spoonflower.com)> as an excellent source of fabric and wallpaper with Sherlockian designs.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), was created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20 #3), and it has a conversation with Hugh Bonneville <[www.tinyurl.com/4djp9ncw](http://www.tinyurl.com/4djp9ncw)> about his new narrations of the "Sherlock Holmes Short Stories". Bonneville played Victor Savage in Granada's "The Dying Detective" (1994), as well as Robert Crawley (7th Earl of Grantham) in the long-running "Downton Abbey" series, and his recordings (for Noiser) <[www.noiser.com](http://www.noiser.com)> are nicely done indeed.

May 25 #5 James Chapman's *Screening Sherlock: A Cultural History of the Great Detective on Film and Television* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2025; 355 pp., £90.00) is the first book-length academic study of Holmes on the large and small screens. Chapman quotes from filmographies, academic articles, and many reviews in magazines and newspapers, and offers his own opinions on how Holmes has been presented over the decades, and the coverage of the book is extensive. He concludes with the suggestion that "if the history of Holmes on screen demonstrates anything, it is that new interpretations will appear with the regularity of seasonal fogs in Baker Street."

Brad Keefauver's "Sherlock Peoria" blog <[www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com](http://www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com)> is always interesting, and he recently attended, and reported on, the goings on at 221B Con in Atlanta and the Canonical Conclave of Sherlockian Scions in Indianapolis. You can also hear more about 221B Con at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog, where Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Johanna Draper Carlson, one of the volunteers who helped put on the Con <[www.tinyurl.com/6byj767f](http://www.tinyurl.com/6byj767f)>.

For fans of the well-received "fictional true crime" podcast "Sherlock & Co." <[www.tinyurl.com/67kh9em9](http://www.tinyurl.com/67kh9em9)> (if you're in or near Los Angeles on Aug. 2): Ed Locke has scheduled a four-hour meet-up with podcast co-creators Joel Emery and Adam Jarrell. Details at <[www.tinyurl.com/4xzvbn8](http://www.tinyurl.com/4xzvbn8)>.

And at Comic-Con in San Diego: on July 25 at 5:00 pm, Les Klinger will be moderating a panel featuring Laurie R. King, Nicholas Meyer, Craig Sweeny (showrunner of the "Watson" series), and likely Rob Doherty (showrunner of the "Elementary" series), discussing "Holmes: Past, Present, and Future". Comic-Con, which is considered to be "the largest convention of its kind in the world," fills the San Diego Convention Center to capacity with more than 130,000 attendees.

Vasilisa Larianova is a high-school student in France working on a thesis for an English oral exam, focusing on "How has the character of Sherlock Holmes been adapted and reinterpreted in cinema over time, and what makes him still popular nowadays?" She has a brief questionnaire she would like to send to Sherlockians, and she's at <[vasilisa.larianova27@gmail.com](mailto:vasilisa.larianova27@gmail.com)>.

Peter Lovesey died on Apr. 10 (Apr 25 #2), but it took quite a while for the Washington Post to publish an obituary (May 2) that noted: "His start in crime fiction had its own very English origins. In 1969, he was 'perusing the personals columns of the Times as Sherlock Holmes used to do, he recalled, and came across an advertisement for the crime novel contest by publishers Macmillan and Panther Books." And his entry, *Wobble to Death*, won the £1,000 first prize.

Michael and Jessica Kolence preside over the Grimm Life Collective, a horror-themed YouTube travel channel, and they recently posted a video about their search for Peter Cushing's grave, which they couldn't find, because it's unmarked. They did tour the nearby village where Cushing lived, and found many reminders of him <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DupZwqrq6c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DupZwqrq6c)>.

May 25 #6 *Bye Bye Blackbird* (Olney: Level Best, 2025; 277 pp., \$16.95) is a sequel to her *Hounds of the Hollywood Baskervilles* (Feb 24 #8); young and somewhat more experienced private detective Babs Norman and her partner Guy Brandt, in Hollywood in 1941, are hard at work investigating bizarre threats against people involved in making the movie "The Maltese Falcon". Basil Rathbone has a cameo appearance (in the book, not the film), and the author's web-site is at <[www.elizabethcrowens.com](http://www.elizabethcrowens.com)>.

Theatrics: the musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Crown Jewel" (by Janet Tates Vogt and Mark Friedman) is running at the Pulse Opera House in Warren Ind., through Aug. 3 <[www.pulseoperahouse.org](http://www.pulseoperahouse.org)>.

Magician Carlos David will present "Ghosts of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle" (the illusions that mystified Conan Doyle) at the American Oddities Museum in Alton, Ill., June 6-7 <[www.dinnerandspirits.com](http://www.dinnerandspirits.com)>.

Richard Conlon's "Sherlock Holmes and the Thief of Antiquity" will be performed at the Theatre Royal in Winchester, Hants., June 11-12; their web-site's at <[www.blueappletheatre.com](http://www.blueappletheatre.com)>. If you can't get to Winchester, you can book to watch a live-stream performance on June 12; that web-site's at <[www.tinyurl.com/37um3pud](http://www.tinyurl.com/37um3pud)>.

Stephen Dietz's "Sherlock Holmes: The Final Adventure" will be performed at the Morgan Theatre at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, June 21-July 26 <[www.usu.edu/lyricrep](http://www.usu.edu/lyricrep)>.

Jennifer Dick's new "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" (inspired by three of the storis) will be performed at the Kibble Palace Glasshouse in Glasgow, July 17-Aug. 2 <[www.bardinthebotanics.co.uk](http://www.bardinthebotanics.co.uk)>.

Molly Taylor's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Grosvenor Park Open Air Theatre in Chester, Ches., July 18-Aug. 31; their web-site's at <[www.storyhouse.com/whats-on/the-adventures-of-sherlock-holmes](http://www.storyhouse.com/whats-on/the-adventures-of-sherlock-holmes)>.

"A Highly Suspect Murder Mystery: The Death of the Great Detective" will be performed during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe at theSpace @ Surgeon's Hall in Edinburgh, Aug 1-23 <[www.tinyurl.com/7f64jnn3](http://www.tinyurl.com/7f64jnn3)>.

Bill Amos' "Sherlock Holmes and the Scarlet Avenger" (an adaptation of "A Study in Scarlet") will be performed at the Pennsylvania Theatre of Performing Arts in Hazleton, Pa., Aug. 14-17 <[www.ptpashows.org](http://www.ptpashows.org)>.

Mark Edward Lang's "Sherlock Holmes: Scandals!" ("Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Cardboard Box") will be performed at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., Oct. 23-25 <[www.eastlynnetheater.org](http://www.eastlynnetheater.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Ulmer Auditorium in Bluffton, S.C., Sept. 19-28 <[www.mayrivertheatre.com](http://www.mayrivertheatre.com)>. Also at the Genesian Theatre in Rozelle, N.S.W., Aug. 8-Sept. 13 <[www.genesiantheatre.com.au](http://www.genesiantheatre.com.au)>. And at the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre in Issaquah, Wash, Jan. 20-Feb. 22, 2026; and at the Everett Center for the Performing Arts in Everett, Wash., Feb. 28-Mar. 22, 2016 <[www.village theatre.org](http://www.village theatre.org)>.

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Jun 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

A pair of Waxflatter ornithopter wings made for the movie "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985) <[www.tinyurl.com/y8th58f6](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8th58f6)>, offered at Dominic Winter Auctions on May 22, estimated at £2000-£3000, went unsold. Unfortunately, it wasn't a complete ornithopter, one of which sold at Christie's in 2013 for £55,875.

Sherlock Holmes truly is a world-wide phenomenon. You can listen to "The Boscombe Valley Mystery" in Bangla broadcast by Radio Mirchl in Bangladesh at <[www.tinyurl.com/2z9bdwsk](http://www.tinyurl.com/2z9bdwsk)>.

If you neglected to purchase one (or more) of the Montblanc pen "writer's edition" tribute to Conan Doyle (Jul 21 #6), a set of three pens will be offered at PBA Galleries on July 24 <[www.tinyurl.com/bdupyef3](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdupyef3)>, estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500.

"Gracie and Pedro: Pets to the Rescue" (2024), an animated film for children, features Detective Doyle (voiced by James Kee) and his ferret Sherlock (voiced by Mike Nadajewski). It's available on various pay-per-view streaming channels, and (free) at <[www.dailymotion.com/video/x9gkl9c](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9gkl9c)>. In Britain it's "Gracie and Pedro: Mission Impossible", and the film's website's at <[www.gracieandpedro.com](http://www.gracieandpedro.com)>. If you're not sure whether you should watch the film, there's a review at <[www.tinyurl.com/52p6dr65](http://www.tinyurl.com/52p6dr65)>.

The next "Holmes in the Heartland" conference is scheduled at the Cheshire Inn in St. Louis on July 24-26, 2026. If you'd like to be on their mailing list, the contact is Rob Nunn <[parallelcaseatl@gmail.com](mailto:parallelcaseatl@gmail.com)>.

Michael McStay died on May 11. He had a long career in British television, wrote plays for BBC radio, and acted as well in French television. He played Inspector Schmidt in the television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady" (1991).

Terry Pratchett's *Hogfather* (1996) was the 20th title in his long-running series of "Discworld" books, and it was adapted for television in two episodes, broadcast in 2006. Howard Ostrom has reported a child in Sherlockian costume in the first episode: <[www.tinyurl.com/yckarvpx](http://www.tinyurl.com/yckarvpx)> (at 1:22:05). Wikipedia's entry for *Hogfather* <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hogfather](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hogfather)> will be helpful in keeping track of what's going on.

"An evening with Sherlock Holmes" held at Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home) on May 17 (Apr 25 #4) raised more than £14,000, according to a report in the Farnham Herald (May 20) <[www.tinyurl.com/ye2fms3x](http://www.tinyurl.com/ye2fms3x)>.

The Clermont Victoria is one of the London hotels of interest to Sherlockians, since it was formerly known as the Grosvenor Hotel and mentioned in "The Final Problem". You can read all about the Clermont Victoria in an article in *The Luxe Review* (Apr. 6) <[www.tinyurl.com/3r43ztuc](http://www.tinyurl.com/3r43ztuc)>. An additional note: the management of the Clermont has reported that their historical archives show that Conan Doyle stayed at the Grosvenor.

Jun 25 #2 Harry King Television <[www.harryking.tv](http://www.harryking.tv)> has announced a new series "True Sherlock" (it's now in pre-production with four two-hour episodes scheduled to be shot in Britain in Jan, 2026); the first episode will be titled "A Balls-Up in Bohemia", with Oil Higginson cast as Sherlock Holmes and Will Kemp as Moriarty. The series has an entry at the Internet Movie Data Base, but that doesn't mean it will actually be made; it's to be based on the "Unexpurgated Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" series of books written by Nicholas Sercombe, CEO of Harry King Television.

Little attention has been paid to AI in this newsletter, because there's so much of it that's thoroughly amateurish. Jennie Paton found an amusing birthday tribute to Conan Doyle at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSRzO3JIeTw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSRzO3JIeTw)>.

One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere: the British Library has kindly made the Qatar Digital Library available on-line. A search for [sherlock holmes] turns up four hits <[www.tinyurl.com/2u3zu29n](http://www.tinyurl.com/2u3zu29n)>. And a search for [conan doyle] turns up seven hits <[www.tinyurl.com/4p3z9965](http://www.tinyurl.com/4p3z9965)>. Alas: nothing consequential among all the hits.

CBS-TV's entertainment president Amy Reisenbach has told the Deadline web-site (May 26) <[www.tinyurl.com/39u6yu4z](http://www.tinyurl.com/39u6yu4z)> that the network's "Watson" series will return on Sundays in January 2026.

There seems to be nothing Sherlockian on display, but Britain's National Archives offers an interesting exhibition of material on loan from the archives of MI5 <[www.tinyurl.com/mry4w9sw](http://www.tinyurl.com/mry4w9sw)> and <[www.tinyurl.com/mwtpks7j](http://www.tinyurl.com/mwtpks7j)>. MI5 is the U.K. Security Service for domestic counter-intelligence; one of the items on display is double-agent Guy Burgess' briefcase, left behind at the Reform Club when he fled to Russia.

It's sometimes said that the best writing in newspapers will be found in the Sports section, and a fine example of that was Sally Jenkins' column (June 8) about the dangers encountered when using AI (in this case Sage) <[www.tinyurl.com/4c7c4zzx](http://www.tinyurl.com/4c7c4zzx)> or <[www.wapo.st/3Tdgt4V](http://www.wapo.st/3Tdgt4V)>.

Denny Dobry <[dendobry@ptd.net](mailto:dendobry@ptd.net)> will be glad to send more information about his open house, in Reading, Pa. on July 26, when visitors will have their last chance to play in his spectacular recreation of the sitting-room (before it is packed up to be shipped to the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis). There will also be an opportunity to browse the shelves at Denny's Parnassus on Wheels Book Fair.

Matt Hall reports that Watson's Tin Box has a new web-master (Liane Luini) and web-site <[www.watsonstinbox.org](http://www.watsonstinbox.org)>, and that Liane is uploading PDFs of the society's annual journal "Irene's Cabinet". The web-site also has a link to the spectacular Evidence Boxes prepared by the late Paul Churchill for all the 60 Canonical cases, with images and discussion of the evidence that Paul found or forged (and he was an expert at Sherlockian forgery). You should add Watson's Tin Box to the list of Sherlockian societies that have impressive web-sites. Another is the Sound of the Baskervilles, who have posted back issues of their newsletter Ineffable Twaddle, from Jan. 2008 to the present <[www.soundofthebaskervilles.com](http://www.soundofthebaskervilles.com)>.

Jun 25 #3 There's more news from Mars, where SHERLOC is hard at work exploring the Red Planet (Jan 25 #4). Just click on the image of the calibration target <<[www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh](http://www.tinyurl.com/3nmsx9nh)> to see an appropriate address (first from the left in the bottom row) and to see a familiar portrait (fourth from the left in the top row). Here's a well-illustrated story from the Space.com web-site (June 6) <[www.tinyurl.com/4thkrke5](http://www.tinyurl.com/4thkrke5)>.

It's worthwhile mentioning, every so often, that prices given in reviews of books are for hard-cover editions. The books often are also available in less-expensive soft-cover, e-book, and audio-book editions.

Work continues on the new Indian film "Sher" (Apr 25 #3), described as "a comic reimagining of the Sherlock Holmes universe centered around the detective's fictional Indian daughter." The Sri Lanka Financial Times reported (May 31) <[www.tinyurl.com/4ws8zvrX](http://www.tinyurl.com/4ws8zvrX)> that filming will take place at various Cinnamon Hotels & Resorts properties in Sri Lanka.

The Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes podcast ("devoted to revisiting and honoring the world's greatest portrayal of the world's greatest detective"), created in Jan. 2019 by Gus and Luke Holwerda (Dec 20 #3), is continuing to offer videos from Brettcon 2024 <[www.sherlockpodcast.com](http://www.sherlockpodcast.com)>.

John DeGaetano's *The Sherlock Holmes Cookbook* (2025; 176 pp., \$34.99), inspired by his "Sherlock Holmes: 10 Minute Stories" series, offers recipes for 27 three-course meals that will please those familiar with traditional British cuisine. There's commentary by Holmes, and the author's web-site is at <<https://johndgaetanoproductions.com>>.

Iban Barrenetxea is a Basque artist who has illustrated many books, among them a Spanish translation of "The Red-Headed League", which you can see at his web-site <[www.ibanbarrenetxea.com/picture/20452](http://www.ibanbarrenetxea.com/picture/20452)>. Click on links at the left to see his artwork for other books. Thanks to Dan Stashower for reporting Paul Huenemann's post to the Stranger's Room at Facebook.

Hampshire Life's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/45bd6mbt](http://www.tinyurl.com/45bd6mbt)> offered a nice self-guided (and well-illustrated) New Forest walking tour in and around Minstead, including a visit to Conan Doyle's grave-site.

An interesting photograph of Conan Doyle was offered by RR Auction on June 11 <[www.tinyurl.com/bdcmjsne](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdcmjsne)>. It shows him with Craigie Aitchison outside the Edinburgh High Court in 1928, likely on the day that Oscar Slater's conviction and sentence were overturned. It was estimated at \$8,000, and sold for \$10,139 (including the buyer's premium). Wikipedia offers a nice entry <[www.tinyurl.com/2frxc325](http://www.tinyurl.com/2frxc325)> on Aitchison, who worked with Conan Doyle to free Slater.

Frederick Forsyth died on June 9. He began his writing career as a British foreign correspondent and became a best-selling author after his book *The Day of the Jackal* was published in 1971 and was noted by Sherlockians to be about an attempt to assassinate French president Charles de Gaulle, using a rifle smuggled into the country in an aluminum crutch.

Jun 25 #4 The "Sherlock & Daughter" series on the CW has ended its first season celebrating good ratings but without any word on whether it will be renewed. If you haven't seen it, you still can, since it is streaming on Max (formerly HBO Max), along with the interesting Japanese 2018 "Miss Sherlock" series (with English subtitles) and the Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film from 2009.

Otto Penzler's The Mysterious Bookshop won first place in a USA Today poll of its readers who voted (early and often) for this year for the best independent bookstore <[www.tinyurl.com/msknvbr](http://www.tinyurl.com/msknvbr)>.

Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell novel *Knave of Diamonds* (Mar 25 #2) has been released, and her web-site is an excellent example of how an author can promote books. She offers (among other things) a reading-group guide that includes discussion of Irish comfort food and drink, with some useful recipes <[www.laurierking.com/books/knave-of-diamonds](http://www.laurierking.com/books/knave-of-diamonds)>.

Laurie also wrote an entertaining piece about "Historical Fiction and the Joy of The Characters Too Wild to Make Up" posted to CrimeReads (June 11) <[www.tinyurl.com/39vvbu8](http://www.tinyurl.com/39vvbu8)>.

One continues to hear of Sherlock everywhere, including Korea, where a new "Salon de Holmes" series has launched in the ENA channel, and will stream on Genie TV. Gong Mi-ri, who has enjoyed Conan Doyle's stories since high school, is one of four women who team up to foil a villain in the compound where they live; you can watch a teaser with English sub-titles on-line at <[www.dailymotion.com/video/x9k2mz4](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9k2mz4)>.

Seldom seen, because it hasn't yet been restored, is Stan Laurel's "The Sleuth" (1925) <[www.archive.org/details/BillSpragueCollectionTheSleuth](http://www.archive.org/details/BillSpragueCollectionTheSleuth)>, which features him in Sherlockian costume as Webster Dingle Detective. Some filmographers have confused this film with Arthur Stone's "Sherlock Sleuth" (1925), which seems to be Sherlockian only for its title; there's an excerpt at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9eInQXs4dk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w9eInQXs4dk)>.

"Little Ellis Island" has closed, the Associated Press reported on June 24 <[www.tinyurl.com/3e8txfzs](http://www.tinyurl.com/3e8txfzs)>. That's what people called the Roosevelt Hotel (which closed in 2020, and reopened in 2023 to as an immigrant registration center. According to the Washington Post, 237,000 immigrants came to New York since 2023, and 137,000 of them were registered at the Roosevelt (which before it closed was a welcome refuge for many Sherlockians during the January birthday festivities).

About Jack Reacher: "I'm a huge fan of Sherlock Holmes, always was," Lee Child said some years ago, adding that "In a couple of the books I've put in little Conan Doyle-style tributes to Sherlock Holmes, in the same kind of language Holmes would have used." (Jun 08 #6). Recently he said, "It was a very conscious homage on my part. In *Killing Floor* (the first book) I did an explicitly Shlock Holmes thing where Reacher says to Finley the cop, 'I see that you're divorced and you gave up smoking in April.' That was Reacher deducing like Holmes." That's according to Collider (Apr. 9) <[www.tinyurl.com/muh4crru](http://www.tinyurl.com/muh4crru)>.

Jun 25 #5 *The Misplaced Physician*, by Jeri Westerson (Edinburgh: Severn House, 2025; 207 pp., \$29.99), is the third book in her series about Tim Badger, formerly a member of Holmes' Baker Street Irregulars and now a private detective, and his partner Ben Watson; they're subsidized by Holmes, who is out of the country, and thus must on their own rescue John H. Watson from kidnappers (difficult, but of course they're successful). The author's web-site is at <[www.jeriwesterson.com](http://www.jeriwesterson.com)>.

Peter Melonas has been offering his imaginative Sherlockian artwork since 1982, and you can see (and purchase) his artwork on T-shirts at the Tee-Public web-site <[www.teepublic.com/t-shirts?query=peter+melonas](http://www.teepublic.com/t-shirts?query=peter+melonas)>.



The Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring the late Betty White. She appeared on an experimental television broadcast in 1939 and went on to stardom in a wide range of series that included comedies, soap operas, and game shows. In 1989 she made a public-service commercial broadcast in 1989 encouraging viewers to read more, suggesting the Canon as a possibility ("solve a mystery with Sherlock Holmes"), and mentioned that as a young girl her favorite books were "Alice in Wonderland" and "Sherlock Holmes". She died at the end of 2022, a few days before her 100th birthday.

Credit to the 80s Hollywood Stars page at Reddit for finding a nice photograph of the Baker Street Irregulars with Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson <[www.tinyurl.com/5dxpt5cb](http://www.tinyurl.com/5dxpt5cb)>.

James Michael Walker's *The Case of the Flying Corpse* (Groton: Glen Rippel, 2016; 318 pp., \$14.95) is subtitled as a Sherlock Holmes mystery, but it's really a William Gillette mystery, since it's Gillette who comes up with a solution. Charles Frohman visits Gillette while construction is underway at the castle, and the story begins with a body is found in the castle's courtyard; Frohman does nicely at being Watson to Gillette's Holmes. The book's billed as a tribute to the centennial of Gillette's moving into his castle in 1919, and there's a sequel:

In Walker's *The Floating Corpse* (2019; 366 pp., \$14.95) it's Frohman's son Collin who visits Gillette, in 1920, and they solve a complicated mystery that involves stolen money, stolen documents, and a series of murders; the author has fun with Gillette being Sherlockian, but the real Frohman never married, and thus had no son.

In plenty of time for next year: PBS-TV's "Masterpiece" offered some nice Sherlockian suggestions for Father's Day <[www.tinyurl.com/y4f3jb8a](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4f3jb8a)>.

Fancy Lamp is a British company created by Caitlin Derer and Joseph Latimer, and their series of Collectable Cities figurines includes Sherlock Holmes <[www.collectablecities.com/shop/p/sherlock-ii](http://www.collectablecities.com/shop/p/sherlock-ii)>. Completists should note that it's the second edition that's available now, with Holmes in a purple jacket and lilac trousers; the first edition had Holmes wearing a green jacket and pale green trousers. You can still get Holmes in green on a key ring, pin, and print <[www.collectablecities.com](http://www.collectablecities.com)>.

Jun 25 #6 "Poor old Buchan!" An interesting letter, written and signed by Conan Doyle, was offered at Swann Galleries on Mar. 7, 2024 <[www.tinyurl.com/2dwducju](http://www.tinyurl.com/2dwducju)>. Jack Buchan was indeed mentioned (and often) in *Dangerous Work*; he was a member of the crew of the whaler *Hope* during Conan Doyle's service as the ship's doctor. You can read one of the mentions at the web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/364p3a7a](http://www.tinyurl.com/364p3a7a)> of the University of Chicago Press. The book's still in print, and well worth reading.

"Dancing Naked on the Head of a Pin" was the title of an article posted at the Public Domain Review web-site (June 18); there's nothing Sherlockian, but it offers a nicely-illustrated look at an interesting aspect of Victorian pornography <[www.tinyurl.com/mrxrb4kr](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrxrb4kr)>.

Petrels are mentioned in two of the Canonical tales ("The Naval Treaty" and "The Reigate Squires") and last year the Australian Antarctic Territory issued a mini-sheet showing four petrels, with one of them a Wilson's storm-petrel, which is nicely appropriate: Watson says (in *Nava*), "You must regret the hour that you took in such a stormy petrel as I am," and Holmes says (in *Reig*), "You are the stormy petrel of crime, Watson."

Wilson's storm-petrel has its own entry at Wikipedia, where it is called one of the most abundant bird species in the world. It breeds in the Arctic, but in southern-hemisphere winter migrates north and is common in British waters.

*The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, edited by Andrew Glazzard (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2024; 362 pp., \$140.00) is the next volume in *The Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle*, and includes the text of the book (with Sidney Paget's illustrations), detailed introductions; comparisons of first serial appearances and first editions, a brief discussion of the manuscript of "A Scandal in Bohemia" (the only one whose location is known), and explanatory notes. It's a splendid critical edition of the book, and Glazzard isn't a newcomer to the world of Sherlockian scholarship: his *The Case of Sherlock Holmes: Secrets and Lies in Conan Doyle's Detective Fiction* (2018) is still available from the Edinburgh University Press.

The Edinburgh Press series continues with *The Stark Munro Letters*, edited by James Machin (2025: 327 pp., \$136.00), with similar scholarship and a detailed discussion of the autobiographical aspects of the novel, and attention paid to the manuscript (bequeathed to the British Library by Dame Jean Conan Doyle) and additional manuscript material acquired by the Library when the family archives went to auction in 2004. The book has been out of print for years, and this new edition offers readers a welcome opportunity to learn more about Conan Doyle.

An older generation will remember CliffsNotes, which is still in business as "the original (and the most widely imitated) study guide." One of the imitators is SparkNotes, reported by Jennie Paton, and here's what they do with "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <[www.tinyurl.com/y8ewa5nx](http://www.tinyurl.com/y8ewa5nx)>.

Jun 25 #7 Further to the report (May 25 #1) on the Spanish television series based on Arturo Perez-Reverte's novel *El Problema Final*, Don Pollock has noted that an English translation of the mystery is due from Mulholland Books in 2026. And so it is: you can pre-order now <[www.tinyurl.com/yb3eje25](http://www.tinyurl.com/yb3eje25)>, or wait impatiently until Feb. 10. The book stars Benjamin Basil ("a washed-up actor who once played the most famous detective of all time on the silver screen").

Peterson of Dublin continues to offer its wide range of handsome Sherlock Holmes pipes, but they also offer a flavorful Sherlock Holmes tobacco; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/3fehw7dt](http://www.tinyurl.com/3fehw7dt)>.

This year we celebrate the centenary of in-flight entertainment: it was in 1925 that "The Lost World" was screened on an Imperial Airways flight from London to the Continent. As noted earlier (Dec 17 #5) Alexis Barquin has an excellent entry on "The Lost World Above the World" at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <[www.tinyurl.com/y7loor1b](http://www.tinyurl.com/y7loor1b)>. Earlier this year the Abu Dhabi National had a story (Apr. 6) <[www.tinyurl.com/5u68khdz](http://www.tinyurl.com/5u68khdz)> with a photograph showing the projector and projectionists ready for action.

More Sherlockiana from Bob Hess' collection will be on offer at Potter & Potter Auctions <[www.potterauctions.com](http://www.potterauctions.com)> in their "Entertainment, Toys, & Collectibles" auction on July 10 (lots 269-283).

Jennie Paton has found Sherlock Holmes' recording of "Standing at a Standstill" on-line at <[www.vimec.com/1094278168](http://www.vimec.com/1094278168)>. Registered for copyright on Jan. 16, 1967, by James K. Scotland, who was noted as using the pseudonym Sherlock Holmes.

"Mrs. Holmes Taught Sherlock All He Knew: Uncovering the Truth about Victorian Women Detectives" is the title of an on-line lecture by Sara Lodge scheduled by the Buckinghamshire Historical Association on Jan. 21. You can register for the lecture at <[www.tinyurl.com/22y37jy6](http://www.tinyurl.com/22y37jy6)>. Sara Lodge is the author of *The Mysterious Case of the Victorian Female Detective*, from the Yale University Press in 2024 <[www.tinyurl.com/mr2pfvny](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr2pfvny)>. According to the publisher, "Lodge's book takes us into the murky underworld of Victorian society on both sides of the Atlantic, revealing the female detective as both an unacknowledged labourer and a feminist icon."

A report on a company called Unit 221B turned up recently on the Hounds of the Internet mailing list <[www.unit221b.com](http://www.unit221b.com)>. Click on "About" and then on "Our Mission" for more information.

*52 Weeks--52 Sherlock Holmes Novels*, edited by Paul Bishop (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2025; 359 pp., \$19.95), promises "traditional favorites and new discoveries," and offers in-depth reviews of a year's worth of books. All of the reviewers, old hands and newcomers to the Sherlockian world, do extremely well at explaining just why they recommend their choices. The editor believes that "one of the primary reasons pastiches are important is that they allow for the continuing evolution of Holmes and his world," and it's hard to imagine any readers of the anthology who fails to encounter something they haven't already read.

Jun 25 #8    Theatrics: as usual, there is plenty of news about upcoming drama. "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is being performed at the Lighthouse Theatre in Port Dover, Ont., through July 5, and will then move to the Roselawn Theatre in Port Colborne, Ont., July 9-20 <www.lighthouse theatre.com>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes and Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is being produced at the St. Croix Festival Theatre in St. Croix Falls, Wis., through July 6; web-site at <www.festival theatre.org>. It is also due at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo., Sept. 18-Oct. 5 <www.tinyurl.com/mr2xxv3r>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" can be viewed at Theatre West in Scottsbluff, Neb., through July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/hutj735b>. It also is coming up at the Genesian Theatre in Rozelle, N.S.W., Aug. 8-Sept. 13; their web-site is at <www.genesian theatre.com.au>. And it is scheduled at the Ulmer Auditorium in Bluffton, S.C., Sept. 19 to 28 <www.mayriver theatre.com>; the Francis J. Gaudette Theatre in Issaquah, Wash, Jan. 20-Feb. 22, 2026, and the Everett Center for the Performing Arts in Everett, Wash., Feb. 28-Mar. 22 <www.villagetheatre.org>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Lydney Town Hall in Lydney, Glos., July 4-6, and at the Larruparz Centre in Ross-on-Wye, Heref., July 11-13 <www.thedean theatre company.com>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a new dramatization by Two's a Crowd Productions) is scheduled at the Stamford Arts Centre in Stamford, Lincs., on July 5 <www.tacprod.co.uk>.

Enrico Lopez-Yañez's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" will be performed at the Chautauqua Auditorium in Boulder, Colo., on July 6 <www.tinyurl.com/hutj735b>; and at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 4 <www.orsymphony.org>.

"The Case of the Three-Eyed Elephant: A Sherlock Holmes Origin Story" (a new comedy by Laurence Akers, Ryan Starling, and Lewes Roberts) will have its premiere at the Sheringham Little Theatre in Sheringham, Norf., July 10-12 <www.sheringham little theatre.com>.

Thomas W. Olson's "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars" will be performed at the Uvalde Grand Opera House in Uvalde, Tex., July 18-20 <www.uvalde opera house.org>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be produced at the Egerton Millennium Hall in Egerton, Lancs., Sept. 5-6 <www.egerton players.co.uk>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be produced at the Repertory Theatre Company in Richardson, Tex., Sept. 5-14 <www.rct theatre.com>; and at the Holliston Town Hall in Holliston, Mass., Nov. 7-15 <www.washington street players.org>.

Martin Parsons' "The Sign of Four" will tour in Britain beginning on Sept. 23 <www.crime and comedy theatre company.co.uk>.

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Jul 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

"Reichenbach Revisited" is the title of the next excursion of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The Society's eighth excursion to Switzerland is scheduled for Apr. 30-May 4, 2026, and you'll find details (including the full program) at <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/reichenbach-revisited](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/event/reichenbach-revisited)>. Membership in the Society is required, but it's simple to join: just look for the "Join the Society" link at the right at the web-site.

The Deadline web-site reported (July 11) <[www.tinyurl.com/mr3f9pne](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3f9pne)> that the second season of "Watson" (previously scheduled for this January next year) will instead start on CBS-TV on Oct 13.

An "extremely-rare German 'Landsknecht' dagger, late 16th century" was offered at Olympia Auctions in London on June 25 <[www.tinyurl.com/mvpp322y](http://www.tinyurl.com/mvpp322y)> and sold for £20,000. It was described as being from the Conan Doyle Collection but actually was owned by Adrian Conan Doyle when he lived at the Château de Lucens in Switzerland and was proud of his large collection of arms and armor.

"Tom and Jerry Meet Sherlock Holmes" is a 50-minute animation released on DVD in 2010, with voices by Michael York (Sherlock Holmes), John Rhys-Davies (Dr Watson), and Malcolm McDowell (Professor Moriarty), and you can watch it (subtitled in Vietnamese) at <[www.dailymotion.com/video/x8p5ov4](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x8p5ov4)>.

Thanks to Max Magee for providing a link to an interesting article about "Black Peter" <[www.tinyurl.com/4e97uk55](http://www.tinyurl.com/4e97uk55)>. Bill Reusch (aka The Chemist) was the author of the article, presented at a meeting of the Greek Interpreters of East Lansing in 2011; he is a professor emeritus in the Dept. of Chemistry at Michigan State University <[tinyurl.com/mr3sympu](http://tinyurl.com/mr3sympu)>.

Dorothy K. Stix ("Martha") died on May 30. She was the daughter-in-law, wife, and mother of Sherlockians, and happily put up with all of their enthusiasms. She was especially helpful to her husband Tom when he was Wiggins (head of the Baker Street Irregulars). There's much more about Dorothy in Sonia Fetherston's "Wiggins": *Tom Stix & His Baker Street Irregulars* (published earlier this year by the BSI Press). She was honored by the BSI as *The Woman* in 1971, and received her Investiture in 1997.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed Jessie Amaolo (curator of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) for the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <<https://tinyurl.com/4t6aa5pt>>, with discussion of the Collection's digital archives. They're a continuing project, and well worth exploring <[www.tinyurl.com/mte36rmw](http://www.tinyurl.com/mte36rmw)>.

It's not Sherlockian, but a new PBS-TV series "Civics Made Easy" is well worth watching <[www.pbs.org/show/civics-made-easy](http://www.pbs.org/show/civics-made-easy)>. Older folks will recall being taught Civics in school, and learning how government works (or sometimes doesn't work). Civics is one of many subjects absent from the curriculum in schools today, and it is grand indeed that this series with twelve short episodes is available for a new generation. Recommended.

Jul 25 #2 "How home of Sherlock Holmes Is Centre of Cybercrime Mystery with Scam Packages Being Sent to Baker St. Address Every Day" was the headline on a story in the Sun on May 29. It seems that the Sherlock Holmes Museum is being targeted as a fake returns hub for junk product from Chinese and Indian web retailers. The story (with a video) may still be available at <[www.tinyurl.com/52csfdd8](http://www.tinyurl.com/52csfdd8)>.

The spring issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has James Machin's discussion of the new Edinburgh University Press edition of *The Stark Munro Letters* (which he edited), Jessie Amaolo's exploration of the history of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and Hartley Nathan's report on the shared lives of Conan Doyle and Kipling. Copies of the newsletter can be requested from Cliff Goldfarb (Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G8, Canada) <[cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca](mailto:cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca)>.

Time for another mention of Laurie R. King's new Mary Russell novel *Knave of Diamonds* (Mar 25 #2): she was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolfer for their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast, talking about her novel, the Russell series, and much more <[www.tinyurl.com/2jdhwvww](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jdhwvww)>.

And there's more: BBC Radio 4 broadcast (in 2000) a dramatization of "The Beekeeper's Apprentice" (with Monica Dolan as Mary Russell and James Fox as Sherlock Holmes), and you can listen to all four 30-minute episodes at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=su933GXYDCM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=su933GXYDCM)>.

The delightful exhibition of "Imaginary Books: Lost, Unfinished, and Fictive Works Found Only in Other Books" from the collection of Reid Byers at the Book Club of California in San Francisco closed this month, and Byers reports that it will be in storage at the Club Fortsas for a few months, and will open again on Jan 20 for four months at the Glickman Library at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. As noted earlier, there are three nice Sherlockian items in the exhibition: "The Giant Rat of Sumatra" in the June 1909 issue of *The Strand Magazine*, Sherlock Holmes' notes for his monograph "On the Polyphonic Motets of Lassus", and Aristotle's *Poetics II: On Comedy*.

The Grolier Club's spectacular web-page for the exhibition still is available on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb](http://www.tinyurl.com/54x76xcb)>, and well worth exploring. Don't neglect the menu with live links at the left, which will allow you to see close-up views, with commentary, of many of the books that were on display at the Grolier. Reid Byers' remarks during the opening of the exhibition at the Book Club of California are on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/s4he9xef](http://www.tinyurl.com/s4he9xef)>.

In case you're wondering about the Club Fortsas, it's at 145 rue Lafayette in Paris, and its web-site <[www.clubfortsaas.org](http://www.clubfortsaas.org)> is well worth exploring.

Andrew Gulli's *The Strand Magazine* was launched in 1998, and it's now published quarterly. It's web-site at <[www.strandmag.com](http://www.strandmag.com)> has many features, including a Mystery Center blog that's archived beginning in March 2013. There's a convenient search engine, offering access to articles, reviews, and much more, Sherlockian and non-Sherlockian.

Jul 25 #3 David Foster's *Baker Street: The Curious Case Files of Sherlock Holmes* (Milwaukee: Genius Book Publishing, 2025; 282 pp., \$55.00) is an excellent colorful and informed exploration of Sherlockian books, film, and television, offering reviews and commentary on the Canon, pastiches, homages, and parodies, and a special section by David Marcum on August Derleth's *Solar Pons*, all accompanied by full-color illustrations showing book covers, dust jackets, advertisements, production stills, lobby cards, and posters, in English and many other languages. The book is available from the publisher <[www.geniusbookpublishing.com](http://www.geniusbookpublishing.com)> discounted to \$33.00.

More film news from India: Jennie Paton has reported "Sarakkho Holmes" released this year, about a young Bengali private detective living in modern-day London, in an adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles". You can watch a teaser at <[www.imdb.com/video/vil994770457/?ref=tt\\_vids\\_vi\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/video/vil994770457/?ref=tt_vids_vi_1)> in Bengali (with subtitles in English).

There are other Indian films that use "Sherlock" in the title but are not in any way Sherlockian; one of them is "Sherlock Shyam" (originally in Malayalam, but released this year dubbed into Hindi), and you can watch it at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRWRfpBUsi0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRWRfpBUsi0)>. This sort of thing is not at all new: in the early years of the 20th century it was quite common to see the word "Sherlock" in the title of any sort of detective film.

Intrada has celebrated the 40th anniversary of the "Young Sherlock Holmes" film with a newly remastered 3-CD set of Bruce Boughton's music (\$39.99) <[www.tinyurl.com/yvzu7da2](http://www.tinyurl.com/yvzu7da2)>. The web-page includes a link to a track list and a trailer.

Sherlock Hemlock is a favorite character on "Sesame Street", although he isn't seen as often as he used to be. The Muppet Wiki offers an excellent web-page for Sherlock Hemlock <[www.tinyurl.com/5n6ufcwn](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n6ufcwn)>, and Jennie Paton has noted a segment from 1986 in which Elmo, wearing a deerstalker, joins an investigation <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CnfDV5HV-g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CnfDV5HV-g)>.

The Red-Throated League of the Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota have been performing radio plays for years, at Sherlockian conferences in Minneapolis and in other venues, and video recordings of ten of their performances can be seen at their YouTube channel <[www.tinyurl.com/2n6n4wh7](http://www.tinyurl.com/2n6n4wh7)>.

Arthur Conan Doyle, *Sherlock Holmes*, and *Devon: A Complete Tour Guide and Companion*, by Brian W. Pugh, Paul R. Spiring, and Sadru Bhanji (London, MX Publishing, 2010) (Sep 10 #5), has been reissued as an audiobook, read by J.T. McDaniel. An interesting guidebook, carefully researched, and it's about much more than Dartmoor, also discussing Arthur Conan Doyle, George Turnavine Budd, George Newnes, and Bertram Fletcher Robinson. The listing at Amazon offers a link to a sample from the reading.

The luxury hotel Landmark London (in Marylebone Road) is offering a Sherlock Holmes-inspired Investigator Package for families. It's "fun for all ages," according to a review at the Women's Health web-site (July 2); read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/3c8d78f3](http://www.tinyurl.com/3c8d78f3)>.

Jul 25 #4 The Marylebone Hotel's bar has a new cocktail recipe: "An homage to the most famous resident of Baker Street, 'Sherlock' is a modern highball inspired by the sharp intellect, theatrical flair, and Victorian back drop of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's legendary detective. Red-breast 12 brings depth and spice, paired with The King's Ginger, originally created for Edward VII, Holmes' real-life contemporary. Mezcal and Mu-yu Vetiver Gris add smoke and sandalwood complexity, a nod to Holmes' iconic pipe. Topped with a Pinot Noir air and served beneath a smoked cloche for a final flourish of mystery and theatre, 'Sherlock is an elegant, enigmatic serve, where tradition meets intrigue in every sip." The hotel's in Welbeck Street, not at that far from Marylebone Road and Baker Street <[www.tinyurl.com/3m45yvv4](http://www.tinyurl.com/3m45yvv4)>.

The Deadline web-site reported (July 16) <[www.tinyurl.com/885u8fsx](http://www.tinyurl.com/885u8fsx)> on a new Scottish-Canadian animation "The Rejects" (still in development); it features "Dr. John Watson, reimagined as a brilliant yet insecure, openly gay, ex-military doctor whose heart gets broken by Sherlock Holmes, prompting him to assemble a new team of overlooked legends including Friar Tuck and Tantor the Elephant to stop a threat even Holmes couldn't handle."

There will be a Sherlockian panel at Bouchercon in New Orleans, on Friday (Sept. 5): "Elementary! The Sherlock Effect" (moderated by Liese Sherwood-Fabre, with panelists Elizabeth Crowens, Kate Hohl, Kathleen Kaska, Leslie S. Klinger, and Nicholas Meyer). Bouchercon (the long-running and always-interesting annual conference for mystery fans) <[www.bouchercon.com](http://www.bouchercon.com)> will be in Calgary (Cross-Border Crimes) on Oct. 21-25, 2026; Washington, D.C. (Mystery Most Monumental) on Sept. 1-5, 2027; and Indianapolis on Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2028.

David Killick died on July 4. He had a long career in supporting roles in British stage, screen, and television, and he was heard as Lord Colney in "The Judgement of Sherlock Holmes" (a four-episode audio-book released by Big Finish in 2014).

"Khitrovka: The Sign of Four" was a Russian film, released in 2023, and it was issued on Blu-ray (with English sub-titles and added features) as "In the Moscow Slums" earlier this year. It's now also available for purchase or rental (with English subtitles) on Amazon Prime Video. The film is inspired by the story, but without Holmes and Watson; there's more information (and a trailer) at <[www.tinyurl.com/5bf748zs](http://www.tinyurl.com/5bf748zs)>.

The BBC News web-site posted an article (July 13) about a cricket match in 1887 <[www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgmw4xl0njlo](http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgmw4xl0njlo)> in which Conan Doyle played on one of the teams. The article is especially interesting for a link to an excerpt of a Radio Surrey broadcast of the match.

Singer/song-writer Billie Eilish was hailed by some as "the reigning queen of electropop" when she released her debut album "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?" (2019), and one of the songs in the album was "You Should See Me in a Crown" (echoing Andrew Scott's performance as Moriarty in the "Sherlock" television series). The song also was released as a single in 2018, and you can watch her in performance at <[www.tinyurl.com/36hya95c](http://www.tinyurl.com/36hya95c)>.

Jul 25 #5 "Salon de Holmes" (a new South Korean one-hour television series) is about a young girl who reads detective stories instead of text-books in school, and dreams about becoming a detective. Of course she does, pursuing criminals in her apartment complex. It's not available (yet) with subtitles in English, but in the meantime you can read about it in articles at the ChosunBiz web-site (June 10) <[www.tinyurl.com/meesm6zt](http://www.tinyurl.com/meesm6zt)> and (July 16) <[www.tinyurl.com/4afx3ejv](http://www.tinyurl.com/4afx3ejv)>.

Holmes and Watson are on the same team . . . with Jones . . . the team is the Denver Nuggets <[www. https://tinyurl.com/yv8jfv38](https://tinyurl.com/yv8jfv38)>.

What was Mark Gatiss' favorite episode in the "Sherlock" series? To find out, go to <[www.tinyurl.com/yyaytu4c](http://www.tinyurl.com/yyaytu4c)> to see what he had to say in an interview on "The Radio Times Writers' Room", reported by Radio Times (July 15). You can watch the interview at <[www.tinyurl.com/ypyxahd5](http://www.tinyurl.com/ypyxahd5)>.

There was a "Sherlock Holmes" electric locomotive used on the Metropolitan Line in London from the early 1920s until it was withdrawn from service in 1962, and a new one was put in service 2018 (Jun 18 #2). An ACE Trains O-gauge model of the original locomotive, produced in 2016, went to auction this month, with an estimate of £180-£240 <[www.tinyurl.com/489j537c](http://www.tinyurl.com/489j537c)>. and it sold for £340.

Save the date: the Baker Street Irregulars have scheduled this year's BSI Trust on-line lecture for Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm EDT. The guest speaker will be Susan Dahlinger, on "Marry Him or Murder Him: William Gillette's Sherlock Holmes". Details will be announced soon.

If you missed past BSI Trust lectures (or if you want to see them again), they are now available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/r747ycwt](http://www.tinyurl.com/r747ycwt)>, from the BSI Archives at the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Ind.

Mark Gatiss (who is fondly remembered by fans of "Sherlock") continues to find interesting things to do: his six-episode series "Bookish" has been acquired by PBS-TV <[www.tinyurl.com/38wnkfe5](http://www.tinyurl.com/38wnkfe5)>. You can watch an interview about the series at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=atOB9W2ELd4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atOB9W2ELd4)>, and the series is available at Daily Motion <[www.dailymotion.com/video/x9nlsum](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9nlsum)>.

There's an interesting interview with Paul Bishop, editor of *52 Weeks--52 Sherlock Holmes Novels* (Jun 25 #7), who talks about himself, and how the book came together, with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/286dmjzr](http://www.tinyurl.com/286dmjzr)>.

Once upon a time film and television commercials could be much longer than a minute or so. Jennie Paton has found "Sherlock Holmes and the Murder at Hillside House" at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/2sksv34s](http://www.tinyurl.com/2sksv34s)>; it's an 18-minute British commercial for Panasonic video recorders, apparently made in the 1990s (we'd welcome information about who the actors were). It's not the longest Sherlockian advertising film; the 33-minute "The Case of Fantastical Passbook" was filmed for the Abbey National Building Society in 1979; alas, it's not available on the Internet.

Jul 25 #6 Nicholas Shakespeare's biography *Ian Fleming: The Complete Man* (Apr 24 #4) has been followed by Fleming's *Talk of the Devil* (New York: William Morrow, 2025; 304 pp., \$30.00) is a collection of interesting essays, short stories, articles, and letters, about travel and treasure, espionage, writing, and much more, all showing talent above and beyond his James Bond novels. You'll find nothing Doylean or Sherlockian in the book other than passing mentions in Adam Gopnik's Introduction, but you'll be able to see why Fleming called himself a writer rather than an author.

Save the date: The Torists International S.S. will hold their "It's Always 1895: An Exploration of the Life and Work of Vincent Starrett" conference in Chicago on Oct. 23-24, 2026. You can enroll on their mailing list by sending a message to <starret1895@gmail.com>.

Randall Stock continues to update his census of copies of the first edition of Vincent Starrett's classic pastiche *The Unique Hamlet*. Available on-line <[www.bestofsherlock.com/unique-hamlet.htm](http://www.bestofsherlock.com/unique-hamlet.htm)>, the census is a grand example of how to easily edit and share research results with fellow collectors.

Sonia Fetherston continues to add to the collection of Sherlockian-themed greeting cards and postcards that she has donated to the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota. There now are more than 1,250 cards in the collection, some of them as old as the late 1800s. The cards will eventually be digitized so that they can be seen on-line, but in the meantime you can search at <<https://umedia.lib.umn.edu>> to see their wide range of other digitized Sherlockiana.

The U.S. Postal Service has issued a set four stamps honoring SpongeBob SquarePants, created by Stephen Hillenburg for Nickelodeon in 1999; you can see them at <[www.tinyurl.com/2ewx3nes](http://www.tinyurl.com/2ewx3nes)>. Jennie Paton discovered a fan video that's marginally Sherlockian <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Niw-csFKx5U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Niw-csFKx5U)>.

Pat Murphy's *The Adventures of Mary Darling* (San Francisco: Tachyon, 2025; 315 pp., \$18.95) brings Holmes and Watson into J. M. Barrie's world; it's the story of what happens when the mother of Wendy, John, and Michael decides to rescue her children from Neverland, and (as the author promises at her web-site) <[www.patmurphy.net](http://www.patmurphy.net)> "Peter Pan and Sherlock Holmes don't stand a chance against Mary Darling." It's Mary's story (Holmes and Watson are among the many people she encounters, and it's all great fun.

Go to <[www.vimeo.com/1099352409](http://www.vimeo.com/1099352409)> to see Catherine Cooke's guided tour of Undershaw (Conan Doyle's former home, now the Stepping Stones School for children with special education needs). The video was made for the "Evening with Sherlock Holmes" (Apr 25 #4) that included a celebration of the completion of MX Publishing's "New Book of Sherlock Holmes Stories" series (52 volumes with more than 1,000 traditional stories) that was edited by David Marcum. The evening, and royalties on the series, have raised more than £100,000 for the school. The series still is available by subscription in cloth or paper binding <[www.tinyurl.com/mtxkwt4p](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtxkwt4p)>.

Jul 25 #7 Barbara Holdbridge died on June 9. She was one of the founders of Caedmon Records in 1952. It was the first commercially-viable spoken-word record company, and their first recording featured Dylan Thomas reading his own poems. They went on to issue Basil Rathbone reading five Canonical stories, T. S. Eliot reading his "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats" and other poems, Pat Carroll reading Walter R. Brooks' "Freddy the Detective", and Nicol Williams (as Holmes) and George Rose (as Watson) in a dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles".

The set of three Montblanc pens honoring Conan Doyle, offered at PBA Galleries on July 24 (Jun 25 #1) (estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500) sold for \$1375. Four different pens issued in 2021, priced from \$1,150 to \$4,600 (Jul 21 #6), and a video about the set's still on-line <[www.tinyurl.com/46kzdf4](http://www.tinyurl.com/46kzdf4)>.

A large Sherlockian collectible was available this month: one of the bombs used in the film "Sherlock Holmes: Game of Shadows" (2011); papier-mâché about three feet tall <[www.tinyurl.com/bd73ekt6](http://www.tinyurl.com/bd73ekt6)>, and it sold for £60..

This year's Edinburgh Festival Fringe (Aug. 1-15) will offer six Sherlockian performances <[www.tinyurl.com/bdfnx7wt](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdfnx7wt)>: Nigel Miles-Thomas' one-man performance in "Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act", "Sherlock's Secret Challenge: An Outdoor Escape Game to Explore the City", the Ghostwriters' "Adventures of the Improvised Sherlock Holmes", Benjamin Cooper Sullivan's one-man show "The Cadaver Palaver", "A Highly Suspect Murder Mystery: The Death of the Great Detective", and "Baker Street Ladies".

Nicholas Meyer has embarked on a full-scale tour of the United States, to promote his new Sherlock Holmes novel *The Real Thing* (May 25 #1), and his schedule is readily available at <[www.nicholas-meyer.com/events](http://www.nicholas-meyer.com/events)>. He has great stories to tell, about the new books and much more.

The Spectator World web-site (July 23) <[www.tinyurl.com/yy44dm5](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy44dm5)> offered an interesting article by Gareth Rubin about his new novel *Holmes and Moriarty* (Sep 24 #5),

Academia <[www.academia.edu](http://www.academia.edu)> was founded in 2008, and invites everyone and anyone to upload academic papers to the web-site, which now has more than 55 million papers. It's easy to search for (and to download) papers that have [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] or anything else in the title or in the paper.

Jennie Paton has reported web-site promotion for "Sherlock Holmes: Night Stalker" (billed as the world's first AI game) <[www.tinyurl.com/b485jb5t](http://www.tinyurl.com/b485jb5t)> to be released later this year (no price stated); you can watch a trailer at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oc5pt--Q3g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oc5pt--Q3g)>.

Jack Anderson's *The Return of Moriarty* (New York: Crooked Lane, 2025; 342 pp., \$29.99) is an imaginative novel set in Switzerland and Bavaria in the summer of 1891, after the battle at the Reichenbach; Holmes is dead, and Moriarty has survived. There's lots of intrigue and many mysteries to be solved, with well-written characters, and a nice surprise at the end.

Jul 25 #8 A goodly number of Sherlockians were happy to attend the open house at Denny Dobry's home in Reading, Pa., on July 26, when visitors were able for the last time to visit his splendid recreation of the sitting-room (before it was packed up and sent to the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis). If you've not visited Denny, Bob Stek had a nice article about the sitting-room at the "Reinventing Home" web-site in 2020 <[www.reinventinghome.org/sherlocks-home](http://www.reinventinghome.org/sherlocks-home)>. Bob also has written about Sherlock and Mycroft's parentage <[www.tinyurl.com/4c3e2xk5](http://www.tinyurl.com/4c3e2xk5)>.

Theatrics: Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" is being performed at the Yorkshire Playhouse in York, Neb., through Aug. 3 <[www.yorkshireplayhouse.com](http://www.yorkshireplayhouse.com)>.

Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves' new "Sherlock Holmes: The Woman in Black" is on at the West Valley Playhouse in Woodland Hills, Calif., through Aug. 3; web-site at <[www.wvplayhuos.com](http://www.wvplayhuos.com)>.

Deivan Steele's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Vanishing Hour" is running at the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott, Ont., through Aug. 9 <[www.tinyurl.com/yur3ubx7](http://www.tinyurl.com/yur3ubx7)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" can be seen at the Theater at Monmouth in Monmouth, Me., through Aug. 22 <[www.theateratmonmouth.org](http://www.theateratmonmouth.org)>. It also will be performed at the Concord City Auditorium in Concord, N.H., Feb. 13-15 <[www.communityplayersofconcord.org](http://www.communityplayersofconcord.org)>.

Gary McCormick's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Map to Murder" is due at the Boone Tavern in Berea, Ky.; on Aug. 1 <[www.boonetavernhotel.com](http://www.boonetavernhotel.com)>; and at the Shelby County Private Library on Aug. 16 <[www.tinyurl.com/mtfeau9m](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtfeau9m)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" has been scheduled at the Hanesbrands Theatre in Winston-Salem, N.C., Sept. 5-14 <[www.ltofw.org](http://www.ltofw.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Twin Cities Players Play-house in St Joseph, Mich, Oct. 17-Nov. 2 <[www.twincitiesplayers.org](http://www.twincitiesplayers.org)>. Also at the 4th Street Theatre in Moberly, Mo., Nov. 7-23 <[www.4thstreettheatre.org](http://www.4thstreettheatre.org)>.

Penny Saunders' new ballet "Sherlock" will be produced at the Peter Martin Wege Theatre in Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 24-26 <[www.grballet.com](http://www.grballet.com)>.

Ann Chlovechok's "Sherlock Holmes and the Problem of the Two-Faced Spec-ter" is scheduled during the Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cambridge, Ohio, Nov. 7-8 <[www.tinyurl.com/z4vptps](http://www.tinyurl.com/z4vptps)>.

C. P. Stancich's "Sherlock Holmes and the Greek Chorus" will be performed at the Arapaho Center in Lafayette, Colo., Nov. 7-13 <[www.tclstage.org](http://www.tclstage.org)>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled at the Theatre Knoxville Downtown in Knoxville, Tenn., Nov. 8-Dec. 14 <[www.theatreknoxville.com](http://www.theatreknoxville.com)>. It's also due at the Commonwealth Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Nov. 8-Dec. 21 <[www.commonwealththeatre.org](http://www.commonwealththeatre.org)>; and at the Williamston Theatre in Williamston, Mich., Nov. 13-Dec. 21 <[www.williamstontheatre.org](http://www.williamstontheatre.org)>.

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Aug 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press®

The Exhibits Development Group's spectacular "International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes" premiered at the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland on Oct. 10, 2013, and then toured widely in the U.S., Canada, and Australia (eventually renamed as "Sherlock Holmes: The Exhibition"). Now its tour has come to an end, and most of the exhibition is for sale (not included: Warner Bros. artifact props, and select items from the University of Minnesota). If you haven't seen the exhibition (or want to be reminded of what you did see), go to <[www.tinyurl.com/3x22phjv](http://www.tinyurl.com/3x22phjv)>. Their asking price for the exhibition is \$1.8 million.

"Eight of the UK's most impressive private libraries, as seen in the pages of Country Life" was the title of an article retrieved from the magazine's archives and posted at its website on Aug. 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/mrckmzhn](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrckmzhn)>. The photographs are magnificent, and so are the libraries.

Naisha Roy has won this year's Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature. The prize was established in 2017 by Lucas Aykroyd, an award-winning writer and public speaker in Vancouver, B.C., and it is indeed named in honor of the heroine of "A Scandal in Bohemia". There's more information about the prize, and links to all the winning entries, at Lukas Aykroyd's website <[www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships](http://www.lucasaykroyd.com/scholarships)>.

Plan ahead: the Parallel Case of St. Louis have announced that their next Holmes in the Heartland conference will be held on July 24-26, 2026. The preliminary announcement is on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/4jxwswp9](http://www.tinyurl.com/4jxwswp9)>.

The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of stamps honoring the television series "Monty Python's Flying Circus" (1973) and the film "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" (1973) <[www.tinyurl.com/4daay82f](http://www.tinyurl.com/4daay82f)>. There's nothing Sherlockian about the stamps, but Michael Palin appeared as Sherlock Holmes in a "The Case of the Scarlet Membrane" skit on "Saturday Night Live" on NBC-TV (1979), and John Cleese as Holmes in "Elementary, My Dear Watson" on BBC-1 (1973) and in "The Strange Case of the End of Civilisation as We Know It" on ITV (1977).

Gareth Rubin's *Holmes and Moriarty* (Sep 24 #5) was published in the U.K. last year, and in the U.S. this year. Now his long article about how he wrote the novel ("it wasn't elementary," he explains) is available in the *Spectator World* (July 23) <[www.tinyurl.com/yy44dm5](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy44dm5)>.

Claire Andrews' *A Beautiful and Terrible Murder* (New York: Little, Brown, 2025; 410 pp., \$19.99) has Irene Adler, Sherlock Holmes, and James Moriarty (all students at Oxford), a series of brutal murders, and some interesting twists and turns. Irene is a student at Lady Margaret Hall (which admitted women in 1879 but didn't grant degrees) and (disguised as a young man) at Oxford itself, which of course makes things complicated for everyone (stay tuned for a sequel, due next year). Andrews wrote about her new book (and other classics she has reimagined at the CrimeReads web-site on Aug. 7 <[www.tinyurl.com/53nxvk4f](http://www.tinyurl.com/53nxvk4f)>.

Aug 25 #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](http://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.

Matt Berry voiced Sherlock Holmes in one episode during the first season of the CBS-TV series "Watson", and Variety has reported (Jul 30) that Robert Carlyle will play Holmes in a recurring guest-star role in the second season <[www.tinyurl.com/eemp6y4p](http://www.tinyurl.com/eemp6y4p)>. According to show-runner Craig Sweeny, "When Watson's best friend and former partner makes as shocking reappearance in his life, Watson is forced to confront their shared past-and a secret that may lie buried within Watson's own body."

The British artist Louis Wain is famous for his drawings of cats, and you will find his postcard portrait of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes at <[www.ebay.com/itm/256470198325](http://www.ebay.com/itm/256470198325)>. An article at the Country Life web-site this month <[www.tinyurl.com/56em9pny](http://www.tinyurl.com/56em9pny)> reports in colorful detail on this year's "Louis Wain & the Cat Show" in London.

Sherlockians (and others) have long enjoyed speculating about the scene in "Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country" (1991) in which Leonard Nimoy (as Spock) said, "An ancestor of mine maintained that if you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." Credit that to Nicholas Meyer, who directed and co-wrote the film, and has explained that the quote from the Canon was deliberate. The speculation, of course, is about whether Spock's ancestor was Arthur Conan Doyle or Sherlock Holmes, and Nick has never said which ancestor it was.

But: the "Star Trek" universe has been expanded over the years in new television series, and David Opie, in an article at the Radio Times web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/kpvw5whm](http://www.tinyurl.com/kpvw5whm)> (July 31), reported that the writers of the episode ("A Space Adventure Hour") offer their own solution to the mystery: Ethan Peck (as Spock) says, "As my ancestor Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would write, 'The game's afoot.'" The series streams on Paramount+, and the episode is the fourth in the third (current) season.

The Deadline web-site reported (July 30) <[www.tinyurl.com/5u33pcaz](http://www.tinyurl.com/5u33pcaz)> that Remarkable Entertainment is developing a reality game-show television competition with the working title "Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock: The Detective Academy", and the series will "test player's powers of deduction and logic as they attempt to solve puzzling crimes from the world of Sherlock Holmes." Remarkable's web-site is at <[www.remarkable.tv](http://www.remarkable.tv)>.

Our Postal Service is celebrating its 250th anniversary this year (yes: it is one year older than the country), and last year it delivered more than 44 billion pieces of first-class mail; that's the lowest number since 1968 (the peak year was 2001, with more than 103 billion pieces). Annual statistics since 1926 are available at <[www.tinyurl.com/4j55v5jj](http://www.tinyurl.com/4j55v5jj)>. And you can credit (or blame) e-mail for those numbers; there are some statistics about e-mail at <[www.yaguara.co/how-many-emails-are-sent-per-day](http://www.yaguara.co/how-many-emails-are-sent-per-day)>.

Aug 25 #3 The LEGO Sherlock Holmes Book Nook <[www.tinyurl.com/bddfe92h](http://www.tinyurl.com/bddfe92h)> (\$129.99) (Mar 25 #5) is now on store shelves and receiving a lot of publicity on the Internet, but I've not heard from any Sherlockian who has one and is willing to admit how many hours it took to assemble it. There also is a Briksmax lighting kit <[www.tinyurl.com/zu8tup3m](http://www.tinyurl.com/zu8tup3m)> (\$59.99) available for people who want to be fancy. Scott Monty and Bruce Wolder have an interview about the Book Nook at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast with LEGO group design master Antica Bracanny and graphic designer Crisy Dymant <[www.tinyurl.com/45545pd7](http://www.tinyurl.com/45545pd7)>.

The giant rat of Normanby made the news this month: here's an article from the Guardian (Aug. 4) <[www.tinyurl.com/msp8t8f7](http://www.tinyurl.com/msp8t8f7)>. The rat (deceased) was 22 inches long, and Normanby is in Yorkshire, many miles from Sumatra.

If you've not read Neil Gaiman's pastiche "A Study in Emerald" (2003), it is available on-line as a PDF, with illustrations and layout by Jouni Koponen, at Gaiman's web-site <[www.neilgaiman.com/Cool Stuff/Short Stories](http://www.neilgaiman.com/Cool%20Stuff/Short%20Stories)>, kindly reported by Doug Chapman. Wikipedia has detailed entry about the story <[www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Study\\_in\\_Emerald](http://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Study_in_Emerald)>; there are spoilers, so read the story first.

David MacGregor adapted his trilogy of Sherlockian plays ("Elusive Ear", "Fallen Soufflé" and "Ghost Machine") into novels, published in English by MX Publishing, and now available in Italian <[www.mxpublishing.com](http://www.mxpublishing.com)>.

The Telly Visions web-site reported (Aug. 12) <[www.tinyurl.com/ye28a8kz](http://www.tinyurl.com/ye28a8kz)> that the French television series "Mademoiselle Holmes" will be broadcast on PBS Passport on Sept. 12. The series has completed two seasons on TF1 in France, is set in Paris and stars Lola Dewaere as Charlotte Holmes, the great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes. "Charlie is a timid French police officer living with her grandfather—until an accident awakens in her the deductive brilliance and bold spirit of her famous ancestor."

"What happens when your favorite fictional character starts sending you e-mails?" is a question answered in an appropriately modern way by Muhammad Sabeel at the Geeks web-site on Aug. 14 <[www.tinyurl.com/mzadusek](http://www.tinyurl.com/mzadusek)>.

The speakers at his year's "Worldwide Doyle" celebration at the Portsmouth Library were Jonathan Cranfield, Clifford Goldfarb, Sheldon Goldfarb, and Burt Wolder; the talks were recorded and now are available at the "Doings of Doyle" channel at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle](http://www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle)>. Recordings from 2023 and 2024 can be seen at the "Created Playlists" link for "Worldwide Doyle".

Registration is open for this year's Baker Street Irregulars' on-line BSI Trust lecture on Sept. 20 at 2:00 pm EDT, when Susan Dahlinger will speak about "Marry Him or Murder Him: William Gillette's Sherlock Holmes". The lecture is free, but registration is required, and you can register now at <[www.bsitrust.org/2025/07/register-2025-lecture.html](http://www.bsitrust.org/2025/07/register-2025-lecture.html)>. If you have a conflict, don't despair: the lecture will be recorded and posted later at the BSI Trust web-site (as lectures from previous years are now).

Aug 25 #4 James Ponti's *The Sherlock Society: Hurricane Heist* (New York: Aladdin, 2025; 305 pp., \$18.99) is the second in his middle-grade (ages 8-12) series about four Florida youngsters who have decided to become detectives and find themselves trying to solve a decades-old case. The book is entertaining, and nicely written, and the author's web-site is at <[www.jamesponti.com](http://www.jamesponti.com)>. There's a free reading-group guide available at <[www.simonandschuster.net](http://www.simonandschuster.net)>.

Not quite the Agra treasure: an antique Agra rug was offered at Chiswick Auctions in London on June 4 <[www.tinyurl.com/4jhh86mf](http://www.tinyurl.com/4jhh86mf)>, estimated at £400-£600. It went unsold when bidding didn't meet the reserve.

Many Sherlockians have visited the Sherlock Holmes Pub in London, and even had a drink or two, or more, and a meal (and if you haven't, you should, to have an opportunity to see the magnificent recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Roger Johnson and Jean Upton have been responsible for preserving and maintaining the sitting-room for thirty years and tell some interesting stories about the pub and the sitting-room in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/3rkzpxw3](http://www.tinyurl.com/3rkzpxw3)>.

The Literary Adventure Society <[www.literaryadventuresociety.com](http://www.literaryadventuresociety.com)> offers a series of interactive audio mystery games, many featuring Sherlock Holmes and some Loveday Brooke. The company has an informative web-site, with a "New & Events" button that links to enthusiastic reviews in the Washington Post and MD Theater Guide.

John P. Knud-Hansen ("This Lascar Scoundrel") died on Aug. 23. He had a long career as a urologist, and shared the leadership of the Denizens of the Bar of Gold in Cambridge, Md. He was awarded his (nicely appropriate) Investiture in the Baker Street Irregulars in 2019.

Sherlockians have long been indebted to Clarkson N. Potter, publisher of William S. Baring-Gould's *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* (1962) and then his *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes* (1967) and other Sherlockian books. The company now is an imprint of Penguin Random House, and offers "The Great Sherlock Deck", a set of 60 playing cards <[www.tinyurl.com/7un76e8v](http://www.tinyurl.com/7un76e8v)> designed by Timothy W. Cushing (\$20.00) and praised by Ron Charles for the Washington Post Book Club on Aug. 15 <[www.tinyurl.com/4x2sv4fn](http://www.tinyurl.com/4x2sv4fn)> (you will need to scroll down).

Cook's travel agency is mentioned in the Canon (in "Lady Frances Carfax"), and a measure of just how successful the company was is the article at the Country Life web-site this month about Sennowe Park, the imposing mansion built by Thomas Cook's grandson <[www.tinyurl.com/3msmdks5](http://www.tinyurl.com/3msmdks5)>.

The "Elementary" television series, launched on CBS-TV in 2012 (with Jonny Lee Miller and Lucy Liu as Holmes and Watson), was thoroughly popular during its long run, and still has many fans. Marisa Mercurio posted about the series at the CrimeReads web-site on Aug. 14 about the many virtues of the series <[www.tinyurl.com/3rkzpxw3](http://www.tinyurl.com/3rkzpxw3)>.

Aug 25 #5 Larry Millett, author of several novels that featured Sherlock Holmes solving mysteries in St. Paul, Minn., turned his attention to Shadwell Rafferty, and now has new detectives in *Mysterious Tales of Old Minneapolis* (Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2025; 283 pp., \$24.95), which offers three novellas, one of them featuring Oscar Wilde, and all full of the history of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

"Remapping the London of Sherlock Holmes" is the title of a series of six weekly walks (originally described by Charles O. Merriman in the 1970s), arranged by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London beginning on Sept. 20. More information's available at <[www.tinyurl.com/4k7z9upp](http://www.tinyurl.com/4k7z9upp)>.

Charing Cross is mentioned often in the Canon, and this month Country Life posted a story <[www.tinyurl.com/yc7nbodm](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc7nbodm)> about the original (and its sisters).

"The Incredible Murder of Cardinal Tosca" (a Canadian two-hour radio program, based on the play by Alden Nowland and Walter Learning, broadcast by the CBC in 1978) starred John Neville as Sherlock Holmes, and John Christopher has kindly reported Anthony D.P. Mann's discovery of the recording on-line at <[www.archive.org/details/tosca-2/Tosca2.mp3](http://www.archive.org/details/tosca-2/Tosca2.mp3)>. Neville also was Holmes on screen in "A Study in Terror" (1965) and on stage in Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (in Canada in 1975).

What other actors have played Holmes on stage, screen, and radio? And for a quadruple play, on stage, screen, radio and television?

The new "Sherlock Holmes: Il Musical", co-authored by Enrico Solito, had a thoroughly successful tour in Italy in 2024 and 2025, and it will be touring again starting in October; details at <[www.tinyurl.com/mwt8td98](http://www.tinyurl.com/mwt8td98)>. You can watch video from the first tour at <[www.tinyurl.com/7j6kj4hr](http://www.tinyurl.com/7j6kj4hr)>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Night Stalker" is billed as the first Sherlockian computer game driven by AI <[www.tinyurl.com/4hxnnsn](http://www.tinyurl.com/4hxnnsn)>, and a preliminary version was unveiled this month at Gamescom in Cologne, is scheduled for release later this year, and Johanna Goebel has already posted an enthusiastic review at the EarlyGame web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/2mf75m7m](http://www.tinyurl.com/2mf75m7m)>.

Todd Mason's "Socialist Jazz" blog has a weekly post of reviews of "Forgotten Books" <[www.socialistjazz.blogspot.com](http://www.socialistjazz.blogspot.com)>. On Aug. 11, Curtis Evans (aka The Passing Tramp) posted a long and interesting review of John Dickson Carr and Adrian Conan Doyle's *The Exploits of Sherlock Holmes* (1954).

Charles Napier Hemy's oil-on-canvas painting of "The Shore at Limehouse" <[www.tinyurl.com/yy99twjc](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy99twjc)> will be offered at Bonhams in London on Sept. 24, estimated at £10,000-£15,000. A similar painting of "The Riverside, Limehouse" <[www.tinyurl.com/2u5n7as7](http://www.tinyurl.com/2u5n7as7)> was sold in 2023 for £69,000. The paintings don't show houses in Upper Swandam Lane, as seen from the river (because there was and is no Upper Swandam Lane in London), but they offer a nice view of what the neighborhood looked like much after the time of "The Man with the Twisted Lip".

Aug 25 #6 Painting in watercolor and oils was a hobby begun in the last year of Conan Doyle's life, according to the catalog listing of the Conan Doyle Collection when it was at auction at Christie's in London in 2004. One of the five water-color paintings in lot 131 will be offered on Sept. 18 at International Autograph Auctions Europe in Estepona in Spain, estimated at €1,000-€1,500 <[www.tinyurl.com/bdheewvy](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdheewvy)>.

Steven Doyle reports (in the Sept. issue of the *Illustrious Clients News*) on his recent visit to Reading, Pa., to visit Denny Dobry's recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, and on Denny's copy of John H. Watson's *Fundamentals of the Art of Surgery* (1927). It's the American edition, published by Paul B. Hoeber in New York (the British Library reports that the first edition was published by Heinemann in London in 1926). The author was a qualified doctor, M.M.B.S. (Lond.) F.R.C.S. (Eng.), and his book has been digitized and is conveniently available to read or download at Google Books <[www.tinyurl.com/4swh5j8w](http://www.tinyurl.com/4swh5j8w)>. If you're wondering about the initial, this doctor's middle name was Harry.

"Arthur Conan Doyle—The Hound of the Baskervilles" (a two-part radio program scheduled on the BBC World Service in its "World Book Club" series) will be available beginning on Sept. 6. Val McDermid and Mark Jones are featured; details at <[www.wspartners.bbc.com/episode/w3ct74s3](http://www.wspartners.bbc.com/episode/w3ct74s3)>.

The first page of the manuscript of "The Crooked Man" (only four pages are known to have survived) will be offered at RR Auction on Sept. 20, with an estimate of \$50,000+ <[www.tinyurl.com/hcu8j5fa](http://www.tinyurl.com/hcu8j5fa)>. Randall Stock has a fine web-page on the manuscript at <[www.tinyurl.com/yte4jf8z](http://www.tinyurl.com/yte4jf8z)>. The fourth page of the manuscript was offered at auction last year, but went unsold; Randall's report on that is at <[www.tinyurl.com/4twprudy](http://www.tinyurl.com/4twprudy)>.

Nicholas Rowe first appeared as Sherlock Holmes on the screen in "Young Sherlock Holmes" (1985), and was seen (briefly) in the same role in Ian McKellen's "Mr. Holmes" (2015). Jennie Paton has reported an interesting interview with Rowe at Lance Steen Anthony Nielsen's "Outcasts Creative" channel at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H-HStdIq-E](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H-HStdIq-E)>.

Douglas Elliott ("Canadian Pacific Railway") died on Aug. 26. Doug was a Canadian, and an energetic member of the Bootmakers of Toronto, and then moved to Australia, where he continued his Sherlockian pursuits. He wrote *The Curious Incident of the Missing Link: Arthur Conan Doyle and Piltdown Man* (published by the Bootmakers in 1988) and edited *Australia and Sherlock Holmes* for the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 2000.

The 30th-anniversary limited edition of Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (Jul 24 #4) has shipped, and it's handsome indeed, illustrated by Grace Aldrich, signed by the author and artist, and with an additional introduction, an interview with Laurie, and scans of the first five pages of her manuscript, all for \$140.00. You can preview the artwork and order from MidWorld Press at <[www.tinyurl.com/26tdfbvt](http://www.tinyurl.com/26tdfbvt)>. And you can watch Laurie's conversation with MidWorld's Travis Dunn at his YouTube channel at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2W6XEgSqUk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2W6XEgSqUk)>.

Aug 25 #7 In theaters: as usual, there is plenty of news about upcoming Productions. Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is running at the Marquette Theater in New Orleans, La., through Sept. 14 <[www.crescentcitytage.com](http://www.crescentcitytage.com)>. And it's due at the Duncan Smith Theater in Holmdel, N.J. Nov. 7-23 <[www.holmdelthetrecompany.org](http://www.holmdelthetrecompany.org)>.

Chris Gibbs' "Not Quite Sherlock" is running at DANSpace in Halifax, N.S., through Sept. 6 <[www.halifaxfringefestival.ca](http://www.halifaxfringefestival.ca)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the ..." will be performed at the Side Door Theatre in Wollongong, N.S.W., on Sept. 18 <[www.tinyurl.com/2x65szb7](http://www.tinyurl.com/2x65szb7)>. "Everyone's favorite piece of classic British literature as you've never seen before! ... Probably."

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the May River Theatre in Bluffton, S.C., Sept. 19-28 <[www.mayrivertheatre.com](http://www.mayrivertheatre.com)>; and at the Palace Playhouse in Georgetown, Tex., Oct. 10-Nov. 9 <[www.georgetownpalace.com](http://www.georgetownpalace.com)>.

Fiona Maher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Man Who Believed in Fairies" will be performed at the Malvern Theatre in Malvern, Worc., Oct. 3-4; web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/mutxa4yz](http://www.tinyurl.com/mutxa4yz)>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Hendersonville Theatre in Hendersonville, N.C., Oct. 4-5 <[www.hendersonvilletheatre.org](http://www.hendersonvilletheatre.org)>.

Jules Tasca's "An Evening with Sherlock Holmes" is on at the Stained Glass Theater in Joplin, Mo., Oct. 9-19 <[www.sgtjoplin.square.site](http://www.sgtjoplin.square.site)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be performed at the Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg in Mechanicsburg, Pa., Oct. 10-26 <[www.ltmpa.com](http://www.ltmpa.com)>.

Tommy Kelley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Crime of the Century" will be performed at the K Palace Theater in Huachaca, Ariz., Oct. 10-26; web-site at <[www.thekpalacetheater.com](http://www.thekpalacetheater.com)>.

Tim Kelly's version of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" is due at the Pontotoc Community Theater in Pontotoc, Miss., Oct. 17-19; their web-site is at <[www.pontotoccommunitytheater.org](http://www.pontotoccommunitytheater.org)>. Kelly, who died in 1998, wrote more than 350 plays; a Tim Kelly Collection has been established at the University of Wyoming's American Heritage Center.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is due at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Nov. 4-15 <[www.repertorynp.co.nz](http://www.repertorynp.co.nz)>; and at the Stage West Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 3-28, 2026 <[www.stagewest.org](http://www.stagewest.org)>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" (performed by Tim Marriott) will be coming to the U.S., at the Lackland Performing Arts Center in Hacketts-town, N.J. Nov. 6-16 <[www.tinyurl.com/mr46cfk6](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr46cfk6)>.

Aug 25 #8 And there's more: Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at the Commonweal Theatre in Lanesboro, Minn., Nov. 8-Dec. 20 <[www.commonwealththeatre.org](http://www.commonwealththeatre.org)>; at the Engine Room in Bendigo, Vic., Nov. 20-29 <[www.synchronicity.org.au](http://www.synchronicity.org.au)>; at the Taproot Theatre in Seattle, Wash., Nov. 26-Dec. 27 <[www.taproottheatre.org](http://www.taproottheatre.org)>; and at the Boise Little Theater in Boise, Idaho, Nov. 28-Dec. 20 <[www.boiselittletheater.org](http://www.boiselittletheater.org)>.

Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" also is due at the Cumberland Theatre in Cumberland, Md., Dec. 4-21 <[www.cumberlandtheatre.com](http://www.cumberlandtheatre.com)>; at the Wells Theatre in Norfolk, Va., Dec. 4-28 <[www.vastage.org](http://www.vastage.org)>; and at the Carnegie Stage in Carnegie, Pa., Dec. 11-21 <[www.kinetictheatre.org](http://www.kinetictheatre.org)>. And at the Barn Theatre in Welwyn Gaarden City, Herts., Dec. 12-20 <[www.barntheatre.co.uk](http://www.barntheatre.co.uk)>. This may be the most-produced Sherlockian play this year.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be produced at The Masquers in Manitowoc, Wis., Nov. 6-9 <[www.themasquers.org](http://www.themasquers.org)>; and at the Toland Theatre in La Cross, Wis., Dec. 4-7 <[www.uwltheatreanddance.ludus.com](http://www.uwltheatreanddance.ludus.com)>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" will be produced at the Gateway Center for the Arts in DeBary, Fla., Nov. 7-16 <[www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org](http://www.gatewaycenterforthearts.org)>.

Pat Whymark's new "Sherlock Holmes Smells Evil" will tour in East Anglia, Dec. 10-Jan. 18 <[www.commongroundtc.co.uk/xmas-show-25-26](http://www.commongroundtc.co.uk/xmas-show-25-26)>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" will be produced at the 2nd Space Theatre in Fresno, Calif., Jan. 2-Feb. 22 <[www.gcplyer.com](http://www.gcplyer.com)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Stephen Canny and John Nicholson) will be performed at the Majestic Theater in West Springfield, Mass., Jan. 8-Feb. 15 <[www.majestictheater.com](http://www.majestictheater.com)>.

Bill Van Horn's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective" is scheduled at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 13-Feb. 15, 2026; the web-site's at <[www.walnutstreettheatre.org](http://www.walnutstreettheatre.org)>.

"221B: A Sherlock Holmes Opera" (by Glen Cortese and Brian Clay Luedloff) will be performed at the Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra in Schenectady, N.Y., on Jan. 25 <[www.sssony.org](http://www.sssony.org)>.

The Aquila Theatre's new "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will open at the Hylton Performing Arts Center in Manassas, Va., on Jan. 25, and then go on tour through Apr. 10 <[www.aquilatheatre.com](http://www.aquilatheatre.com)>.

Emily Morrison's new musical "Sherlock Holmes" due at the Missoula Children's Theatre in Missoula, Mont., on Feb. 13 <[www.mctinc.org](http://www.mctinc.org)>.

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Sep 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

The Red Circle of Washington will celebrate its 75th anniversary on November 15 with two events: the U.S. premiere of "Silent Sherlock" (the British Film Institute's presentation of its high-quality restored, preserved, and digitized versions of three of the 1920s short films that starred Eille Norwood), and an informal dinner at a conveniently nearby restaurant. There's more information at the society's web-site <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>, including a link to a long article about Norwood as Holmes that ran in the July 1921 issue of *The Strand Magazine*.

The film was screened at the BFI's London Film Festival last year (Sep 24 #1), and 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 that screening was in the *Guardian* on Aug. 28 <[www.tinyurl.com/bdbmjmtu](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdbmjmtu)>, with comment by Roger Johnson (then 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. In the meantime you can 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](http://www.tinyurl.com/4y2efnzd)>.

When in Belize (formerly known as British Honduras, in Central America): you will be able to visit Challenger Falls, the country's second tallest (at an estimated 800 feet) waterfall, which was recently discovered in the Sittee Forest Reserve and named in honor of Professor Challenger of *The Lost World* <[www.belizewithalvin.com/challenger-falls-belize](http://www.belizewithalvin.com/challenger-falls-belize)>.

"Curious Competitions: The Most Eccentric Heritage Games" was a non-Sherlockian but thoroughly amusing post <[www.tinyurl.com/ytawabrkr](http://www.tinyurl.com/ytawabrkr)> at the web-site of the British Library.

The first translation of a Canonical story into Klingon was "The Blue Carbuncle" (1977) <[www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtspvkt)>. Now there's a second: "A Scandal in Bohemia" (2025), with at least three more stories to come; details, including sample pages, are available at <[www.tinyurl.com/yys6w4pr](http://www.tinyurl.com/yys6w4pr)>. "The Red-Headed League" will be next <[www.klingon.wiki/En/SherlockHolmes](http://www.klingon.wiki/En/SherlockHolmes)>. One can only hope that someday someone will record something from the Canon in Klingon.

American Theater magazine has posted its list of the most-produced playwrights of the 2025-2026 season <[www.tinyurl.com/y248wvtc](http://www.tinyurl.com/y248wvtc)>, and you will see some familiar names (Kate Hamill, Ken Ludwig, and Jeffrey Hatcher).

SHERLOC is alive and well on Mars, and has helped identify potential bio-signatures on the Red Planet. SHERLOC is the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman & Luminescence for Organics & Chemicals instrument on the Perseverance rover, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration announcement (Sept. 10) is on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/u3a6ye5t](http://www.tinyurl.com/u3a6ye5t)>. There's much more about SHERLOC at NASA's web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/9bdzdvs](http://www.tinyurl.com/9bdzdvs)>.

Sep 25 #2 What actors (in addition to John Neville) have played Holmes on stage, screen, and radio? And on stage, screen, radio and television? Lenny Picker was first in with the second actor who scored a triple play: William Gillette (on stage, screen, and radio). Basil Rathbone managed a quadruple (stage, screen, radio, and television).

"Sherlock Holmes: The True Story" (2003), a Canadian documentary about Joseph Bell, including interviews with Owen Dudley Edwards and Ely Liebow, is now available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm3UuJb7EXk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm3UuJb7EXk)>; kindly reported by Jennie Paton.



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a stamp honoring William F. Buckley Jr. A committed conservative, he wrote more than 50 books and more than 5,600 biweekly columns "On the Right" for the National Review, which he founded in 1955 with an announcement that it "stands athwart history yelling Stop!" He loved language, and "A Scandal in Transylvania" (by Brad Linaweaver, in the conservative magazine New Guard in May 1977) had Buckley and D. Keith Mano in pursuit of Professor Gorevarty.

Further to the report (Aug 25 #3) on the French television series "Made-moiselle Holmes" (which started this month on PBS Passport), there is a trailer (with English subtitles) at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/mtdc2aam](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtdc2aam)>. PBS Passport is a membership benefit for people who donate to their local PBS television station.

"There was excellent wild-duck shooting in the fens," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Gloria Scott"). The Royal Mail has issued a sheet of stamps that show ten duck species and breeds found throughout the UK. You can see the stamps at <[www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/ducks](http://www.shop.royalmail.com/special-stamp-issues/ducks)>.

Fans of Laurie R. King, and her books, may wish to subscribe to her posts at Substack (which she describes as a blog-slash-newsletter outlet where people can post anything they think people might want to read). You can subscribe at <[www.laurierkingwriter.substack.com](http://www.laurierkingwriter.substack.com)>, and there's no charge. As might be expected, she has interesting posts.

Laurie also has a YouTube channel <[www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing](http://www.youtube.com/user/LaurieRKing)> with some interesting material, including a reading of "The Blue Carbuncle" by Laurie and seven other members of the Baker Street Irregulars.

British playwright Nick Lane's credits include three Sherlockian plays, the most recent being "Sherlock Holmes and the Hunt for Moriarty" (now on tour in Britain). He was interviewed recently by George Maguire for the Culture Calling web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/2sh494vh](http://www.tinyurl.com/2sh494vh)> (kindly reported by Jennie Paton).

Laura F. Keyes performs at "Historic Voices" ("teaching history with live performance") <[www.laurafkeyes.com](http://www.laurafkeyes.com)>, and one of the women she portrays is Irene Adler; you can see that performance at the Winnetka-Northfield Public Library at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbLi7Gtckic&t=5s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbLi7Gtckic&t=5s)>.

Sep 25 #3: M. Kenneth McQuage ("The Plumstead Marshes") died on Sept. 4.

Ken was a psychologist and an enthusiastic member of Sherlockian societies in Baltimore and Washington. In 1988 he created (and sold) what might well have been the world's first and perhaps only Sherlockian weathervane, modeled after the Hurlstone weathervane (in the Granada version of "The Musgrave Ritual"). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1989.

Matt Hall often reports at his interesting blog "221B Cooes" on discoveries such as the very first mention of Conan Doyle in the press. The Conan Doyle was not Arthur, but rather his sister Annette, in 1879, and you can read all about it at <[www.tinyurl.com/5cse8kaa](http://www.tinyurl.com/5cse8kaa)>.

Witney Siebold posted a long article to the SlashFilm web-site (Sept 14) <[www.tinyurl.com/33su2t64](http://www.tinyurl.com/33su2t64)> about Gene Roddenberry's 1977 television film "Spectre", in which Robert Culp and Gig Young played a world-famed American criminologist and his usually tipsy doctor friend. Jennie Paton has found the film at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU\\_yg13NxiM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QU_yg13NxiM)>, and you can watch the film looking for Canonical echoes.

And there really is a Sherlockian connection. According to Susan J. Beasley (Call of the Hunt #37, 1988) Roddenberry and quite a few of the cast members of the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" series cast were Sherlockians, and Roddenberry wrote a screenplay in which he intended to involve Holmes and Watson, starring Leonard Nimoy as Holmes. Nimoy did not want to do the series, and when the Conan Doyle estate refused permission for the series, Roddenberry changed the names of the lead characters, and made the film as a pilot for a series. It was broadcast in the U.S. on NBC-TV and had a theatrical release in Britain, and that was that.

There was lots of press coverage of the Trumps' trip to Great Britain this month, including video on the Royal Family Channel at YouTube of the visit Queen Camilla and FLOTUS Melania made to inspect the Queen's Dolls House at Windsor Castle <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTKa-MT4UM8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTKa-MT4UM8)>. At 5:46 you can see them looking at Conan Doyle's "How Watson Learned the Trick".

George R. R. Martin, best known for his *A Song of Ice and Fire* series (on which the "Game of Thrones" was based), blogged on Mar. 13, 2013, about books he recommended <[www.grm.livejournal.com/316785.html](http://www.grm.livejournal.com/316785.html)>; it is nice indeed that one of them is Conan Doyle's *The White Company*.

The Susan Rice Mentorship Board has issued a call for nominations for the 2026 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 2026. More information about the criteria and the history of the award can be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/susanriceaward](http://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](mailto:susanricementorshipaward@gmail.com)>.

Sep 25 #4 It has been many years since the last discussion (Oct 86 #2) of books whose titles (almost) match Canonical stories. One of them was Jonathn Stagge's Golden Age mystery *The Scarlet Circle* (1943), which was reprinted this year by the Mysterious Press, with a new forward by Otto Penzler <[www.tinyurl.com/34eedawn](http://www.tinyurl.com/34eedawn)>.

Shigeru Tsuyuguchi died on Apr 28. He had a long career on stage, screen, and television in Japan, and dubbed the voice of Sherlock Holmes when the Granada series was broadcast in Japan.

Further to forecasts of choreographer Penny Saunders' new two-act ballet "Sherlock Holmes" (due in Boise, Idaho., Oct. 10-12; Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 24-26; and Nashville, Tenn., May 1-3), there was a one-hour presentation ("Sherlock Unraveled: An Inquiry, Observation, and the Creative Process") by Ballet Idaho on Sept 19, and it's conveniently available on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/2vjzbcf](http://www.tinyurl.com/2vjzbcf)>.

Glen Miranker's splendid "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" exhibition has a new and improved web-site <[www.sherlockin221objects.org](http://www.sherlockin221objects.org)>, with images from all three venues where it was shown, videos, and much more. Recommended.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London has announced a new publication: *Occasional Papers Number One*, edited by Ashley Mayo (130 pp., £14.99/\$18.99). an anthology of articles submitted to the Sherlock Holmes Journal that deserve more space than the SHJ could make available. It has been published via Amazon Print on Demand, so it can be purchased everywhere without prohibitively-expensive shipping costs; it also is available via Kindle, for the modern generation, and those challenged with lack of shelf space. It seems likely that more societies will publish this way, making their books available to a much wider audience, and avoiding concern about print runs, warehousing, and fulfillment.

The Society is continuing its long annual tradition of publishing attractive Christmas cards, and this year's card will feature colorful artwork by Michael Foreman; it's available now (or will be soon) at their web-site <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop-2](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/shop-2)>.

The University of Minnesota Libraries have issued a call for applications for a new curator of their Sherlock Holmes Collections and Upper Midwest Literary Archives <[www.tinyurl.com/y4wcty7p](http://www.tinyurl.com/y4wcty7p)>. The new curator will succeed Tim Johnson, who has been curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections since 1998, and will be retiring soon. The discussion of responsibilities and qualifications is impressive indeed.

The August issue of the newsletter of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota features Phillip Bergem's warm tribute to Tim Johnson, Tim's farewell "Update from the Collections", John Bergquist's "50 Years Ago" memories of Michael Harrison, 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, Univ. of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455) <[johns976@umn.com](mailto:johns976@umn.com)>.

Sep 25 #5 The Rosenbach Museum in Philadelphia is continuing its "Bibli-oventures" tour of the Canon (formerly Sherlock Holmes Mondays and now Sherlock Monthly). All of the programs (including the eight episodes devoted to "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that were formerly available only to subscribers) can be found at <[www.tinyurl.com/349ss53r](http://www.tinyurl.com/349ss53r)>. Edward G. Pettit hosts the series, assisted by a wide variety of knowledgeable and entertaining Sherlockians.

The second season of "Watson" starts on CBS-TV on Oct. 13, and there's a teaser at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xTM0LuHubQ&t=30s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xTM0LuHubQ&t=30s)>. You'll get to see Robert Carlyle as Sherlock Holmes.

It was 125 years ago that Conan Doyle bowled W. G. Grace. There was a nice story on Aug. 28 in the Telegraph, which has a paywall, but you can also read all about it at Yahoo Sports <[www.tinyurl.com/yc4vfapr](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc4vfapr)>. There's a seldom-seen photograph of Conan Doyle in proper cricket whites, and other contemporary artwork.

Posted to Facebook by Rich Holland <[www.tinyurl.com/39sn2r3h](http://www.tinyurl.com/39sn2r3h)>. The spectacular visual pun was just too amusing to pass up. Compliments to Rich.

Pierre Bayard, the author of *Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong* (Sep 08 #7), writes with both style and scholarship. His *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read* (2007) is Sherlockian only for a chapter about Umberto Eco's *The Name of the Rose*, but Bayard also pays tribute to Oscar Wilde, who is credited with saying, "I never read a book I must review; it prejudices you so." Bayard doesn't give a source, and it seems that there isn't one; an Internet search suggests that if Wilde did say that he may have read something similar in *Bon-mots of Sydney Smith and R. Brinsley Sheridan* (1893), or perhaps in Georg Christoph Lichtenberg's even earlier *Sudelbücher* (late 1700s). Wilde is one of the 100 top authors cited at the Quote Investigator web-site, and often is credited for things others said.

Charles Napier Hemy's oil-on-canvas painting of "The Shore at Limehouse" <[www.tinyurl.com/yy99twjc](http://www.tinyurl.com/yy99twjc)> (Aug 25 #5) was sold at Bonhams for £17,590 (including the buyer's premium). Arthur Conan Doyle's watercolor painting of an English country cottage <[www.tinyurl.com/bdheevvy](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdheevvy)> (Aug 25 #6) sold at International Autograph Auctions Europe for €9,375 (including the buyer's premium).

Figurama is a Japanese company that specializes in figurines inspired by anime films and television <[www.figurama-collectors.com](http://www.figurama-collectors.com)>, and they've announced plans for an attractive (and expensive) tribute to "The Adventures of Sherlock Hound" <[www.tinyurl.com/mrnkfzt3](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrnkfzt3)>. Thanks to Jennie Paton for reporting video at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ1lN0GF5sg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xQ1lN0GF5sg)> and lots of artwork at <[www.tinyurl.com/bd7h3s67](http://www.tinyurl.com/bd7h3s67)>. The first six episodes of the series were directed by the legendary Hayao Miyazaki, and you can watch the first season at Hulu and at YouTube.

Sep 25 #6    Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is now being performed at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, through Oct. 5 <[www.tinyurl.com/52xtmcwj](http://www.tinyurl.com/52xtmcwj)>.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles" (by Steven Canny and John Nicholson) is on stage at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater in Orlando, Fla., through Nov. 2 <[www.orlandoshakes.org](http://www.orlandoshakes.org)>. It will also be produced at the New Vic Theatre in Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs., Feb. 14-Mar. 14, 2026; their web-site is at <[www.newvictheatre.org.uk](http://www.newvictheatre.org.uk)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be produced at East Central College in Union, Mo., Oct. 2-5 <[www.tinyurl.com/mu85ya33](http://www.tinyurl.com/mu85ya33)>; and at the Old Church Theatre in New Rockford, N.D., Oct. 3-12 <[www.dprca.com](http://www.dprca.com)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" is due at the Knutzen Family Theatre in Federal Way, Wash., Oct. 3-26 <[www.centerstagetheatre.com](http://www.centerstagetheatre.com)>; and it will be produced at the Fells Point Corner Theatre in Baltimore, Apr. 24-May 17 <[www.fpct.org](http://www.fpct.org)>.

Peter Royston's "Sherlock Holmes and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow" will be produced at Makers Central in Tarrytown, N.Y., Oct. 10-19; their web-site is at <[www.anywherethatrecompany.com](http://www.anywherethatrecompany.com)>

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be produced at the Coldwater Cavalier Auditoria in Coldwater, Ohio, Oct. 23-26 <[www.facebook.com/ColdwaterHSDrama](http://www.facebook.com/ColdwaterHSDrama)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" has been scheduled at the Long Beach Performing Arts Center in Long Beach, Calif., on Oct. 15-Nov. 2 <[www.ictlongbeach.org](http://www.ictlongbeach.org)>. Also (in English with traditional and simplified Chinese subtitles) at the Gateway Theatre in Richmond, B.C., on Oct. 16-25 <[www.gatewaytheatre.com](http://www.gatewaytheatre.com)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Suicide Club" will be produced at the Little Theatre in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., Oct. 16-26 <[www.nsbplayers.org](http://www.nsbplayers.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" is scheduled at Oxnard College in Oxnard, Calif., Oct. 16-18 <[www.tinyurl.com/4x2ntf2n](http://www.tinyurl.com/4x2ntf2n)>.

Tim Kelly's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Farmstead Arts Center in Basking Ridge, N.J., Oct. 17-26 <[www.farmsteadarts.org](http://www.farmsteadarts.org)>.

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be produced at the Helen Hooker Theater in Topeka, Kans., Oct. 17-Nov. 1 <[www.topekacivictheatre.com](http://www.topekacivictheatre.com)>.

John E. Lee's new "Sherlock Holmes vs. Dracula" will have its world premiere at the Chautauqua Playhouse in Carmichael, Calif., on Oct. 17-Nov. 9 <[www.cplayhouse.org](http://www.cplayhouse.org)>.

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Oct 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

Information about many of the events (formal and informal) planned for the birthday festivities in New York in January 2026 can be found at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/fmfbuadh](http://www.tinyurl.com/fmfbuadh)>. 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. A registration form will be posted on Nov. 14. Scott Monty's nicely helpful forecast of BSI and non-BSI events (with valuable advice for all and sundry) is available at <[www.bsiweekend.com](http://www.bsiweekend.com)>.

If you would like to share seasonal souvenirs dinners during the birthday festivities, you can send 220 copies (for the BSI and *The Women*) to Alex Katz (11 Van Beuren Road, Morristown, NJ 07960-7008), and 60 copies (for the Gaslight Gala) to Michael Bush (426 Myrtle Avenue, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-1704); they must be received by Dec. 9. Please avoid sending heavy and/or oddly-shaped items that would be difficult to pack and that might rip the bags.

The Gaslight Gala will be held on Jan. 9, at Annie Moore's. Details about the festivities will be found at <[www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com](http://www.gaslightgalanyc.wordpress.com)>.

Plan well ahead: the BSI's next special conference (similar to "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" at Bear Mountain in 2022) is scheduled for July 9-11, 2027, in San Francisco. Come one, come all, and stay tuned for more information.

Print-on-demand works quite well: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London's *Occasional Papers Number One* (Sep 25 #4) arrived quickly, and it was nice to avoid expensive shipping. The seven articles include two reprints from other journals, and an impressive discussion of "That Murky Graveyard, the River Thames" by the late Kelvin I. Jones. Easily available from Amazon.

Ashley Mayo, who edited the *Occasional Papers*, also presides over the Society's scrapbook <[www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook](http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/scrapbook)>, a splendid resource for exploring the scholarship in the Sherlock Holmes Journal. He has cross-referenced and indexed more than 1,200 items from the SHJ, and provides the text of the Canon with convenient links to full text from the commentary in the SHJ.

Further to the item (Sep 25 #3) on the call for nominations for the 2026 Susan Rice Mentorship Award, there's an excellent report on Susan and the award at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <[www.tinyurl.com/5n8wmcnv](http://www.tinyurl.com/5n8wmcnv)>.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is included in the (British) National Portrait Gallery's "Writers Revealed" exhibition <[www.tinyurl.com/4573hfke](http://www.tinyurl.com/4573hfke)> now at the Busan Museum in the Republic of Korea <[www.tinyurl.com/28nsm4z7](http://www.tinyurl.com/28nsm4z7)> through Jan. 18. The Gallery's catalog <[www.tinyurl.com/mvvy7usa](http://www.tinyurl.com/mvvy7usa)> has entries for 15 portraits of the Conan Doyle family, including Sir Arthur, Denis (and Nina), Adrian (and Anna), and Jean. The exhibition previously was at the Home of the Arts in Paradise, Australia, and in February 2026 it will open at the Shanghai Library in China.

Oct 25 #2 Otto Penzler's *Mysterious Obsession* (first published in 2019) has just been reissued in a fifth printing (New York: Mysterious Press 2025; 163 pp., \$40.00). He tells the story of his splendid collection of mystery and detection, and his career as a collector, book-seller, and publisher, and some of the treasures that were on the shelves of his magnificent library. Holmes and Conan Doyle, and some of Otto's Sherlockian friends, are mentioned from time to time, and, his stories are always great fun <[www.tinyurl.com/2hp5eeh2](http://www.tinyurl.com/2hp5eeh2)>.

It's not Sherlockian (unless you want an excuse to read the three Sherlock Holmes stories in which pearls are mentioned), but you're welcome to watch "The Birth of the Pearl" (1901) <[www.tinyurl.com/xxwzwnz3](http://www.tinyurl.com/xxwzwnz3)>, filmed only a year after "Sherlock Holmes Baffled" was made. Compliments to the Public Domain Review and the Library of Congress.

Tim Marriott has been touring to enthusiastic reviews since 2020 in Bert Coules' one-act one-man play "Watson: The Final Problem", and you can see his current schedule at <[www.smokescreenprods.com](http://www.smokescreenprods.com)>. You can also read the script (Gloucester: Choir Press, 2025; 24 pp., \$14.99/£7.99) to share the fun they have had with the play. Bert's talents will be familiar to those who has enjoyed his dramatization of the entire Canon, and a series of new stories, broadcast by the BBC Radio.

Further to the news (Sep 25 #1) of the screening of "Silent Sherlock" at AFI Silver on Nov. 15, the U.S. premiere of the film will be on Nov. 13 at the San Francisco Silent Film Festival <[www.tinyurl.com/cccz5jhfc](http://www.tinyurl.com/cccz5jhfc)>. And it will be screened at the Electric Palace Cinema in Hastings, East Sussex, on Dec. 21 <[www.electricpalacecinema.com/whats-on/silent-sherlock](http://www.electricpalacecinema.com/whats-on/silent-sherlock)>.

Many Sherlockians have visited the statue of Sherlock Holmes on the sidewalk outside the Baker Street station in London, but very few people have reported visiting the public conveniences across the road and viewing the Sherlockian murals that were (and perhaps still are) inside the loos, nor (apparently) has anyone photographed them. There's no mention of them in a post to the Country Life web-site (Oct. 16) <[www.tinyurl.com/472jnh2h](http://www.tinyurl.com/472jnh2h)> that was headlined "A Bum Deal on a Bog-Standard Property?" but the post is great fun.

Sherlock Holmes continues to be popular in China. There were exhibitions at the Chengdu Museum, Dec. 2024 to Apr. 2025 <[www.tinyurl.com/ms6pje77](http://www.tinyurl.com/ms6pje77)>, with video at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=edDU211UDyc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edDU211UDyc)>; and at the Shandong Museum in Jinan earlier this year, according to the China Daily (July 22) <[www.tinyurl.com/yc745vw3](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc745vw3)>.

New Scientist magazine has a back-page Feedback feature ("a sideways look at the latest science and technology news"), and Geraldine Beare has noted Johan Gotthardt Olsen's discussion (Sept. 27) of acronyms in which he complimented the creators of SHERLOC and WATSON, now on Mars on the Perseverance rover (Sep 25 #1) and Facebook's regret that Perseverance did not also have on board a Monitor Of Raman Iridescence And Radiation Tomography Yardstick.

Oct 25 #3 James R. Benn's *A Bitter Wind* (New York: Soho Crime, 2025; 370 pp., \$28.95) is the 20th book in his series about Billy Boyle, an Irish-American police detective in Boston who winds up serving in Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters during World War II. The title is a nod to the Canon, but the book is Doylean rather than Sherlockian, and the Doyle is Squadron Officer Jean Conan Doyle, an intelligence officer in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force, with whom Boyle works in a case involving espionage and murder. Jean ended her military career as Air Commandant, the highest rank in the Women's Royal Air Force, and in 1963 she was elevated to Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire and became Dame Jean. There is much more about the author and his books at <[www.jamesrbenn.com](http://www.jamesrbenn.com)>.

Further to the forecast (Aug 25 #6) of the BBC World Service's "World Book Club" program "Arthur Conan Doyle: The Hound of the Baskervilles", you can listen to Harriett Gilbert interview Denise Mina and Mark Jones about the story at <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct74s3](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3ct74s3)>.

Richard R. Rutter ("Mike Scanlan") died on Sept. 20. A co-founder of the Knights of the Gnomon in 1978, he was an enthusiastic member of the Sherlockian community on the west coast, and the world-wide community of the admirers of the long series of books about Oz. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983.

Penny Saunders' new two-act ballet "Sherlock Holmes" has had its premiere in Boise, Idaho, and there was a nice review (with images) in *Pointe* magazine on Oct. 10 <[www.pointemagazine.com/sherlock-ballet/#gsc.tab=0](http://www.pointemagazine.com/sherlock-ballet/#gsc.tab=0)>.

Old hands will recall the Sherlock Holmes Memorabilia Company (Aug 92 #2). For many years they welcomed customers at 230 Baker Street in London, and issued colorful mail-order catalogs. Justin Shulman happily reports that they're still in business, now on-line, as the Sherlock Holmes Company, at <[www.sherlockholmes.com](http://www.sherlockholmes.com)>.

Wilfrid de Freitas has published a nicely-illustrated sales-list of Sherlockiana and Doyleana from the collection of the late Doug Wrigglesworth <[www.defreitasbooks.com/general/DW.html](http://www.defreitasbooks.com/general/DW.html)>.

You're never too young to encounter Sherlock Holmes. *A Merry Little Mystery*, with words by Layla Sutton and pictures by Noel Clark (Sourcebooks Wonderland, 2025; 24 pp., \$9.99) is a board book for children up to three years old, starring Little Sherlock and his pup Watson in a lift-the-flaps Christmas mystery.

The "Masterpiece Mystery" web-site celebrated Banned Books Week (Oct. 5-11) with an article <[www.tinyurl.com/y98xr4m](http://www.tinyurl.com/y98xr4m)> about mysteries that have been banned over the years, including *A Study in Scarlet*.

Rachel Corbett's *The Monsters We Make: Murder, Obsession, and the Rise of Criminal Profiling* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2025; 235 pp., \$28.99) begins with a chapter on Conan Doyle and his attempt to identify Jack the Ripper, and continues to modern times and discussion of the successes and failures of what's now called "behavioral analysis" or "predictive policing."

Oct 25 #4 Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed Billy Wilder's film "The Private life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), but here's a chance to see something that didn't make it into the edited version that was shown in theaters and on television: Jennie Paton has found "The Case of the Naked Honeymooners" at YouTube <[www.tinyurl.com/mrxnbnr34](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrxnbnr34)>.

The Point-à-Callière in Montréal will have an immersive "Sherlock Holmes" exhibition on Nov. 27-Mar. 8 <[www.tinyurl.com/3dztuy36](http://www.tinyurl.com/3dztuy36)>. It will be similar to but not the same as the touring Exhibits Development Group exhibition.

For fans of the "Watson" series on CBS-TV who are now happily watching the second season: the first season is available in a box of four DVDs, with added features (\$31.99). Amazon <[www.tinyurl.com/4v9n8v9m](http://www.tinyurl.com/4v9n8v9m)> offers the set at a discount (\$25.19).

The Sussex World noted (Oct. 17) <[www.tinyurl.com/2f56v2jp](http://www.tinyurl.com/2f56v2jp)> that the Crowborough Beacon Golf Club celebrated its 130th anniversary this month, and the story mentioned that Conan Doyle became a committee member in 1909 and was elected as Captain in 1910, and that Lady Doyle was Ladies Captain in 1911.

"Person to Person" was a 30-minute series broadcast by CBS-TV, hosted by Edward R. Murrow, and on Jan. 11, 1957, his guests included Basil Rathbone and his family. Video seems not to be available on-line, but Howard Ostrom has found a transcript at <[www.tinyurl.com/yw6b6dfn](http://www.tinyurl.com/yw6b6dfn)>.

Many will remember seeing the German film "Der Mann, der Sherlock Holmes war" (1937). It starred Hans Albert, Heinz Rühmann, and is available at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiVz990y2uY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OiVz990y2uY)> with subtitles in English. It's also now a musical scheduled at the Harztheater in Halbertadt, Nov. 3-6, and then on tour in Germany <[www.tinyurl.com/5y78t9kp](http://www.tinyurl.com/5y78t9kp)>. Jennie Paton has reported a promotional video <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjF6Z\\_s30\\_k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vjF6Z_s30_k)>.

The "Sherlock Holmes" CD issued by Jay Records in 2000, with Patrick Gowers' music for the Granada series that starred Jeremy Brett, is available again as a CD (£12.99) and as a 12" vinyl record (£22.99); their web-site is at <[www.tinyurl.com/2cjma77u](http://www.tinyurl.com/2cjma77u)>.

Philip Cunningham, who is compiling a census of known copies of "Conferment by Needle", the pamphlet published by Michael Murphy in 1980, with a letter from Vincent Starrett offering T. S. Eliot honorary membership in the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic), and Eliot's return letter of gratitude and affirmative response. Copies of the census are available on request via e-mail from Philip (pjcl21@comcast.net). and he would be happy to hear from anyone who can add to the census.

"The Hound of the Baskervilles", "Sherlock Holmes versus Dracula", and "Sherlock Holmes's Christmas Casebook" are just three of many plays that the Don't Go into the Cellar company is touring in Britain, all starring Jonathan Goodwin. Details at <[www.dontgointothecellar.com](http://www.dontgointothecellar.com)>.

Oct 25 #5 KD Sherrinford's *The Whistle of Revenge* (Extasy Books, 2024; 331 pp., \$12.75) is the fourth title in her "Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler" series; Holmes and Adler are again in Italy, with their two children, masquerading as the Saporis and in peril from Jack Stapleton, who survived the Grimpen Mire and, seeking vengeance, has kidnapped Holmes and Adler's son Nicco. Sherrinford has a colorful Facebook page at <[www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr2d9scf)>, and you can read more about the author and her books at <[www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhw](http://www.tinyurl.com/35hpeyhw)>.

A set of three Montblanc pens honoring Conan Doyle, offered at PBA Galleries on July 24 (Jun 25 #1) (estimated at \$1,500-\$2,500) sold for \$1,375. Another (or perhaps the same) set, estimated at \$1,200-\$1,800, will be offered at PBA Galleries on Nov. 13 <[www.tinyurl.com/2p9zmnrcr](http://www.tinyurl.com/2p9zmnrcr)>.

Clifton House in Peterhead (in Aberdeenshire in Scotland) is on the market with an asking price of £465,000 according to the Aberdeen Press and Journal (Oct. 1) <[www.tinyurl.com/37cj9k7k](http://www.tinyurl.com/37cj9k7k)>. Young Arthur Conan Doyle likely visited the house when it was owned by John Gray, captain of the whaling ship *Hope* on which Conan Doyle served as the ship's surgeon in 1880.

Planning by the Parallel Case of St. Louis for their next Holmes in the Heartland conference (July 24-26, 2026) continues, and their list of speakers is up at their web-site <[www.shorturl.at/B3onQ](http://www.shorturl.at/B3onQ)>.

Samantha Eggar died on Oct 15. She started acting on the stage in London in 1959 and went on to a long career in films and television; her credits include Miss Mary Raines in the film "The Molly Maguires" (1970) and Mary Watson in "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1975). Both of the films can be watched at YouTube.

"The butler did it" is a sentence that's popularly attributed to Mary Roberts Rinehart, even though there aren't any criminal butlers in any of her books. The earliest felonious butler seems to have been Brunton (in "The Musgrave Ritual"). Jeffrey Hatcher's new play "The Butler Did it" is not Sherlockian, but it will have its world premiere at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul, Minn., Jul 17-Aug. 1, 2026 <[www.tinyurl.com/mw4h7hp5](http://www.tinyurl.com/mw4h7hp5)>.

The Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark celebrated its 75th anniversary with a weekend of festivities earlier this year, and you can hear Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interview Christian Monggaard about how the Danes have appreciated Holmes at the long-running "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/bdcrcmcy](http://www.tinyurl.com/bdcrcmcy)>.

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](http://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/Search" at the upper right to see what's available.

Oct 25 #6    Theatrics: David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" is due at the New Plymouth Repertory Theatre in New Plymouth, New Zealand, Nov. 4-15; their web-site's at <www.repertorynp.co.nz>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is scheduled at the Mod Theatre in Glendale, Calif., Nov. 6-16 <www.tinyurl.com/jpmxkynb>; the Tryon Little Theatre in Tryon, N.C., Nov. 13-23 <www.tinyurl.com/73kv9c63>; and the First Presbyterian Church in Tahlequah, Okla., on Nov. 14-23 <www.tcpok.com>.

Eric Coble's "Sherlock Holmes: The Baker Street Irregulars" will be performed at the Hoover High School in North Canton, Ohio, Nov. 7-8; web-site at <www.northcantonschools.org/266144\_2?articleID=39051>.

Nicholas Ewen's "Sherlock and the Baker's Daughter" has been scheduled at the Brownwood Lyric Theatre in Brownwood, Texas, Nov. 9-12; their web-site is at <www.tinyurl.com/43sm8zv4>.

David Hansen's "Sherlock Holmes Meets the Bully of Baker Street" will be performed at the GracePoint Church in Plant City, Fla., Nov. 13-15; web-site at <www.tinyurl.com/3knxccc9>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is scheduled at Dominican University in River Forest, Ill., Nov. 13-16 <www.tinyurl.com/pys7m46s>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Elusive Ear" will be performed at the Pavilion Theatre in Castle Hill, N.S.W., Nov. 14-Dec. 6 <www.paviliontheatre.org.au>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be at the Lyric Stage in Boston, Mass., Nov. 14-Dec. 21 <www.lyricstage.com>; and at the Mesquite Arts Theatre in Mesquite, Texas, Nov. 28-Dec. 14 <www.mesquiteartstheatre.org>. It's also due at the Robert Lee Brault Playhouse in Green Bay, Wis., Dec. 4-14 <www.gbcommunitytheater.com>; and the James Lee Community Center Theatre in Falls Church, Va., Dec. 12-20 <www.providenceplayers.org>. Also at the Lakeview United Church of Christ in Maineville, Ohio, Dec. 12 to 20 <www.lumosplayers.com>; and at the Garfield Center for the Performing Arts in Chestertown, Md., Dec. 4-20, 2026 <www.garfieldcenter.org>.

Mary Jane Hansen's "The Baker Street Adventuress: Sherlock Holmes on the Air" will have its world premiere at the Saratoga Music Hall in Saratoga Spring, N.Y., Nov. 14-23 <www.itheatresaratoga.org>; the adventuress is Edith Meiser, and the play includes one of her programs.

Micah Cover's new "The Last Case of Dr. Watson" will be performed at the Count's Den in Los Angeles, Calif., Nov. 14-20 <www.thecountsden.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Terrace Plaza Playhouse in Washington Terrace, Utah, Jan. 9-Feb 07, 2026 <www.terraceplazaplayhouse.com>.

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Nov 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press®

Thomas R. Hutchinson's script for "The Adventure of the Three Garridebs" (1937), the first Sherlock Holmes television broadcast, was published in Lenox R. Lohr's *Television Broadcasting: Production, Economics, Technique* (McGraw Hill, 1940) and reprinted in Peter Haining's *The Mammoth Book of Movie Detectives & Screen Crimes* (Carroll & Graf, 1998); both are available from on-line book dealers. The program was broadcast live by NBC, so no recording is available.

It has been a while since a report of a Sherlockian jigsaw (purists complain about the phrase "jigsaw puzzle"), and this one's thoroughly minor, by White Mountain Puzzles offers a "Café Bookstore" (\$19.99) with a small image of a Sherlockian book <[www.tinyurl.com/5ayk8uzt](http://www.tinyurl.com/5ayk8uzt)>.

Fans of Sherlock Snoopy will welcome GameMill Entertainment's new computer game "Snoopy & The Great Mystery Club" which was released on Oct. 10. You can watch a trailer for the game at <[www.tinyurl.com/yn8ntfwh](http://www.tinyurl.com/yn8ntfwh)>.

"First Came the Louvre Heist, Then Came the Memes" was the headline on a story at the NPR web-site (on Oct. 25) <[www.tinyurl.com/kkan9b58](http://www.tinyurl.com/kkan9b58)> that included a photograph of Laurence Deloision (as Arsène Lupin) with Thierry Gilibert (as Sherlock Holmes), members of the Cercle Holmésien de Paris.

Cliff Goldfarb was the first to report a Sherlockian connection to the new Burevestnik nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed cruise missile unveiled by Vladimir Putin last month! Burevestnik is the storm petrel in Russia, and stormy petrels are mentioned in "The Reigate Squires" and "The Naval Treaty".

Scott Monty has updated his "Tips for Making the Most of the BSI Weekend" page at "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <[www.tinyurl.com/2u93veed](http://www.tinyurl.com/2u93veed)>. It's recommended for old hands as well as new. The "Big Apple" can be intimidating at times, but it needn't be.

Jennie Paton has reported a "Sherlock Holmes Meets Dorothy" animation, and wondered why Holmes is shown with antlers <[www.tinyurl.com/32aczahj](http://www.tinyurl.com/32aczahj)>. See below for a possible answer to the question.

The Lilly Library's web-page for on-line exhibitions offers an interesting list of 15 exhibits <[www.tinyurl.com/27cftkyv](http://www.tinyurl.com/27cftkyv)>, and the last (and most interesting one) is "The History of The Baker Street Irregulars Through 221 Objects" <[www.tinyurl.com/ydkf94xp](http://www.tinyurl.com/ydkf94xp)>. It's well worth a tour, to see what sort of material can be found in the BSI Trust Archives.

"75 Years of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark" (edited by Jens Byskov Jensen) is the title of the Baker Street Journal's 2025 Christmas Annual, which is available only to those who subscribe to the BSIJ. There is still time for you to subscribe for 2025: 5 issues including the Christmas Annual) <[www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2001/05/01/subscribe-bsj](http://www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/2001/05/01/subscribe-bsj)>; \$46.00 to the U.S., and \$60 international, and the deadline is Dec. 5.

Nov 25 #2 Boston. April 8.—After reading Sir Conan Doyle's "The Hounds of the Baskervilles," which tells of a ghostly dog that tears the throat of Sir Hugo Baskerville and leaves him dead on the moor, Marcus J. Long, sixty-five, chopped to pieces all the keys and strings of the piano, smashed a \$1,000 violin and then committed suicide by inhaling illuminating gas." Spotted in the Fort Wayne Daily News, Apr. 8, 1909, by an anonymous contributor to The Stranger's Room at Facebook.

"Eccentric, Awe-Inspiring, and a Home-from-Home for Literary Giants" was the headline on a post to the Country Life web-site about the London Library celebration of its 180 years of history <[www.tinyurl.com/38thxnd](http://www.tinyurl.com/38thxnd)>. And yes, there's a mention of "The Illustrious Client".

Prunella Scales died on Oct. 27. Perhaps best known for her role as Sybil Fawlty on television in "Fawlty Towers" (1975/1979), she began her career as an actor on stage in 1951 and went on to star on stage, film, and television. Her credits included Glynis in the Peter Cook/Dudley Moore film "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1978).

The Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, was a grandfather of William S. Baring-Gould and a character in Laurie R. King's *The Moor* (2007), as well as the author of *The Book of Were-Wolves* (1865). The Public Domain Review has provided a link to the book on-line at <[www.tinyurl.com/4rfn6n8c](http://www.tinyurl.com/4rfn6n8c)>.

Javier A. Gonzalez's *A Study in Chronology: A Study of the Chronology of the Sherlock Holmes Canon* (2023; 456 pp., \$20.00) (available only from Amazon) was discovered by Bruce Harris and reported to the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild last month as "something to celebrate," and is a splendid addition to the literature about Canonical chronology, Gonzalez discusses the conclusions of early chronologists as well as his own, and is knowledgeable and readable.

Jennie Paton wondered why Sherlock Holmes is shown with antlers in an animation <[www.tinyurl.com/32aczahj](http://www.tinyurl.com/32aczahj)>, and Matthew Elliott suggested that AI was asked to show Sherlock Holmes in a deerstalker.

Thomas A. Dandrew II ("The Naval Treaty") died on Oct. 31. He was a tenth-grade English teacher for almost 40 years, and avid sports fan, founder of Altamont's Agents, and editor of all 61 issues of their newsletter *Naval Signals*. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1978.

George Sanger (mentioned in "The Veiled Lodger") had a colorful life and wrote an autobiography *Seventy Years a Showman* (published in 1910 with a long introduction by Kenneth Grahame) that is well worth reading. It is nice that it's conveniently available at the Internet Archive.

Ann Marlowe has reported a Marx Brothers film "Humor Risk" (1921) in which (according to the Internet Movie Data Base) "Harpo played the hero, a detective named Watson." There's a long entry about the long-lost and never-released film at Wikipedia, and one can only hope that it will turn up somewhere, eventually. See also Marxology <[www.tinyurl.com/4uvtpf29](http://www.tinyurl.com/4uvtpf29)>.

Nov 25 #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](http://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.

Department of intriguing non-Sherlockian book titles: A. M. Muffaz's *The Society of Vegetarian Cannibals* (PS Publishing, 2025).

Search your attic: Adrian Nebbett has discovered Milton Bradley's "Alfred Hitchcock Presents Why" board game (released in 1958, and reissued with different box art in 1961 and in 1967). One of the characters was Shylock Bones (in Sherlockian costume), and you can see an image of the pieces in an article about the game as <[www.tinyurl.com/yv8x447y](http://www.tinyurl.com/yv8x447y)>.

It has been many years since the last mention of Billy Childish and Thee Headcoats (May 97 #3). Don Crane, leader of the British rhythm-and-blues band Downliner Sect, wore a deerstalker (which he called a headcoat) and influenced Billy Childish, whose garage-rock records include "Sound of the Baskervilles" and "My Dear Watson". Their latest album is "The Sherlock Holmes Rhythm 'n' Beat Vernacular" <[www.tinyurl.com/4sjvfmxs](http://www.tinyurl.com/4sjvfmxs)>, and you can sample one of their songs at the web-site of the Damaged Goods record label <[www.tinyurl.com/3e5pkmkc](http://www.tinyurl.com/3e5pkmkc)>.

"Dear Holmes" (spotted by Aziz Adam) is a mysteries-by-mail challenge that has been around for a while, favorably reviewed in newspapers and on-line <[www.dearholmes.com](http://www.dearholmes.com)>.

Propstore's auction on Dec. 7 will include material from BBC One's "Sherlock" television series (with Cumberbatch and Freeman): lot 935 includes eight newspapers, a sign, and a production-made copy of The Strand Magazine <[www.tinyurl.com/mp4c5hs5](http://www.tinyurl.com/mp4c5hs5)>, estimated at £1500-£3000. The cover of the magazine says that it is the Oct. 1895 issue, and a wrap-around band advertises "The Blue Carbuncle" (the magazine's inside pages, needless to say, are blank). The auction house doesn't say which episode showed the magazine, so the fortunate auction winner will need to watch the series.

News from Crowborough: the local railway station now displays a sign that notes that the town was the home of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The sign was unveiled on Oct. 30 <[www.tinyurl.com/y9espe22](http://www.tinyurl.com/y9espe22)>. The Travel and Tour World web-site <[www.tinyurl.com/yuu37tf5](http://www.tinyurl.com/yuu37tf5)> story included an artistic rendering of The Great Detective at the station (but if you read to the end you'll find that the image was created with AI).

Crowborough also made news when the government announced last month that the Crowborough Training Camp would be repurposed to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers. A post to the Conservation Woman web-site on Nov. 5 <[www.tinyurl.com/4nzd4jse](http://www.tinyurl.com/4nzd4jse)> reported strong local opposition to the plan. The Training Camp is not far from the Beacon Golf Club, where Conan Doyle served as the Club's captain in 1910 (Oct 25 #4).

Nov 25 #4 *Millie of the Manor*, written by Karina Evans and illustrated by Andrea Bell (New York: HarperAlley, 2025; 204 pp., \$15.99), is an imaginative and charming graphic novel for children ages 8-12, about a young girl who enjoys reading Sherlock Holmes stories, suffers from severe social anxiety, and is able to overcome that problem at a murder-mystery birthday party.

A few copies of the 30th-anniversary limited edition of Laurie R. King's *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (Aug 25 #6), signed and illustrated, and with scans of the first five pages of the manuscript, are still available from Midworld Press (\$140.00) <[www.tinyurl.com/nhaept6n](http://www.tinyurl.com/nhaept6n)>.

The summer issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers Cliff Goldfarb's discussion of postcard sellers Raphael Tuck & Sons, new Sherlockian scholarship, and Jesse Amaolo's news about new additions to the Collection. You can request a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb at the Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON M4W 2G6, Canada <[cgoldfarb221@gmail.com](mailto:cgoldfarb221@gmail.com)>.

"Sherlock Holmes: Cracking the Case" (a new exhibition that opened at the Pointe-à-Callière in Montréal on Nov. 27 and will close on Mar. 8); their web-site is at <[www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/detail/sherlock-holmes](http://www.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/exhibitions/detail/sherlock-holmes)>. The exhibition is similar to but not the same as the long-running touring "International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition" created by the Exhibits Development Group.

The 46th annual "Saturday with Sherlock Holmes" (at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore on Nov. 1) offered, as usual, an excellent assortment of Sherlockian presentations. If you missed the festivities, you are welcome to watch the event on-line at <[www.youtube.com/live/fp0hkVVRcgk](http://www.youtube.com/live/fp0hkVVRcgk)>.

Scott Bond ("The Copper Beeches") died on Nov. 13. He was a talented artist whose work was published widely, and included many years of full-page cartoons in the *Baker Street Journal*. Scott was an energetic and enthusiastic member of Sherlockian societies in Philadelphia and then Columbus. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1983, and the BSI's prestigious Two Shilling Award in 2000.

William Oser'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) will be offered again at Anglia Car Auctions in Norfolk on Dec. 6, estimated at £12,000-£15,000 <[www.tinyurl.com/4c6np9xz](http://www.tinyurl.com/4c6np9xz)>. The painting was offered last year (Dec 24 #1), but went unsold.

Reported: *Murder on the Menu: Recipes from Sleuthing Stars*, edited by Pattie Tierney (Feb 25 #3) is now available as a trade paperback from Amazon (286 pp., \$12.99) with recipes from contributors such as actors Steven Fry (Mycroft), John Thaw (Jonathan Small) and Rosalie Williams (Mrs. Hudson); authors Lloyd Biggle Jr., Loren D. Estleman, Daniel D. Victor, Otto Penzler; and many others from the world of Sherlockians.

Nov 25 #5 "Silent Sherlock" (the first three Eille Norwood short films from the 1920s digitally restored by the British Film Institute), was screened in 2024 by the BFI in London, and this month by the San Francisco Silent Film Festival and by the American Film Institute at the AFI Silver theater in Silver Spring, Md. You can see just how spectacular the restoration is in an excerpt available at the BFI's Facebook page <[www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1805541223439173](https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1805541223439173)>, and there's more information about the restoration project, the films, and Eille Norwood, at <[www.redcircledc.org](http://www.redcircledc.org)>. The BFI has all 47 films (45 short and 2 long) and restoration work continues; it's likely to be a while before enough films have been restored to warrant release on a commercial DVD.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (the new musical with songs by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice) has opened at the Birmingham Rep (in the U.K.), and you can see lots of images at <[www.tinyurl.com/3e6kcs4x](http://www.tinyurl.com/3e6kcs4x)>.

"Fairies" was a 65-minute program broadcast as the "Play of the Week" by BBC-2 on Sept. 27, 1978; it was a dramatization of the Cottingley fairies in 1917, with James Grouce appearing as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Jennie Paton has found it on-line at <[www.dailymotion.com/video/x9he340](http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9he340)>.

Sherlockian connections to Presidents have been in short supply in recent years, with none for George W. Bush, Barack Obama, or Joe Biden. But (forwarded without comment: <[www.tinyurl.com/3hdhcbth](http://www.tinyurl.com/3hdhcbth)>.

The Agra Treasurers' eleventh "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Fairborn, Ohio, Mar. 20-21, 2026; their web-site's at <[www.agratreasurers.net](http://www.agratreasurers.net)> (with links to programs for previous conferences), and registration's now open.

Sherlock Hemlock is familiar to every "Sesame Street" fan, with many videos available on-line, but there also are interesting guests who appear on the series, such as <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXEYExv0TE8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXEYExv0TE8)>, kindly noted by Jennie C. Paton. It's from 2014, and there's a formal entry at the Muppet Wiki <[www.muppet.fandom.com/wiki/Benedict\\_Cumberbatch](http://www.muppet.fandom.com/wiki/Benedict_Cumberbatch)>.

Tim Johnson has officially retired after 27 years as the Curator of Special Collections and Rare Books, and 15 years as the E. W. McDiarmid Curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collection at the University of Minnesota Libraries. You can read their tribute to him at <[www.tinyurl.com/hhftmcb](http://www.tinyurl.com/hhftmcb)>.

The next 221B Con (A Fan Con for All Things Sherlock Holmes) is scheduled for Apr. 10-12, 2026, in Atlanta, Ga.; registration is open, and there's an informative web-site at <[www.221bcon.com](http://www.221bcon.com)>.

Conan Doyle was mentioned only in passing in Keven Kenny's *Making Sense of the Molly Maguires* (1998). Kenny suggested that the starting point in any attempt to rewrite the history of the Molly Maguires "is to treat the surviving evidence with the skepticism it deserves," and he does just that in this interesting book, which now has a 25th-anniversary edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023; 376 pp., \$29.95) with a new and interesting preface by Kenny, who discusses "The Valley of Fear" and much more.

*SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE SPERMACETI PRESS 2025*

Nov 25 #6    Theatrical news: Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is on at the Four County Players Mainstage in Barboursville, Va., through Dec. 7 <[www.fourcp.org](http://www.fourcp.org)>. It also will be produced at Theatre Arlington in Arlington, Texas, Dec. 5-21 <[www.theatrearlington.org](http://www.theatrearlington.org)>; at the Vortex Theatre in Albuquerque, N.M., Dec. 5-28 <[www.vortexabq.org](http://www.vortexabq.org)>; and at the Moose Jaw Centre for Arts and Culture in Moose Jaw, Sask., Dec. 12-13--Facebook page at <[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063278616574#](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063278616574#)>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is on at the Stagecrafters Theatre in Philadelphia, Pa., through Dec. 14 <[www.thestagecrafters.org](http://www.thestagecrafters.org)>. It's also due at the Actors' Mission in Rock Springs, Wyo., Dec. 18-21; web-site at <[www.actorsmission.org](http://www.actorsmission.org)>.

Kate Hamill's "Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson-Apt. 2B" is on at the Arcola Theatre in London through Dec. 20 <[www.arcolatheatre.com](http://www.arcolatheatre.com)>. It also will be performed at the Idaho Shakespeare Festival in Boise, Ida., June 19-July 11 <[www.idahoshakespeare.org](http://www.idahoshakespeare.org)>.

Jeffrey Hatcher's "Sherlock Holmes and the Ice Palace Murders" is due at the Keystone High School Cafetorium in LaGrange, Ohio, Dec. 3-5; web-site at <[www.tinyurl.com/3zrbhdhp](http://www.tinyurl.com/3zrbhdhp)>.

John Weagly's "Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Clowns" will be produced at the City Lit Theater in Chicago, Ill., Dec. 12-Jan. 04; their web-site is at <[www.citylit.org](http://www.citylit.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is due at the Granbury Opera House in Granbury, Tex., Jan. 23-Feb. 8. 2026 <[www.granburytheatrecompany.org](http://www.granburytheatrecompany.org)>; and the Murry Dinner Playhouse in Little Rock, Ark., Apr. 22-May 23 <[www.murrysdpc.com](http://www.murrysdpc.com)>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes: The Strange Case of Miss Alice Faulkner" (adapted by T. S. Forsyth) has been scheduled by the Placer Repertory Theatre in Rocklin, Lincoln, Roseville, and Auburn, Calif., Apr. 15 to 25, <[www.placerrep.org](http://www.placerrep.org)>.

Penny Saunders' "Sherlock" ballet will be produced at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center in Nashville, Tenn., on May 1-3 <[www.tpac.org](http://www.tpac.org)>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" will be performed at the StageWest Theatre in Fort Worth, Tex., June 3-28, <[www.stagewest.org](http://www.stagewest.org)>.

Ken Ludwig's "Moriarty" will be produced at the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival in Center Valley, Pa., July 16-Aug. 1 <[www.pashakespeare.org](http://www.pashakespeare.org)>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (the new musical with songs written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice) has premiered at the Birmingham Rep and received rave review in the British press. One can only hope the show will be produced in the U.S. next year.

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Dec 25 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press®

'Tis the season: the most comprehensive season's greetings received here were from the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum. "Whether you are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Bodhi Day, Yule, Dongzhi, Las Posadas, Omisoka, or another meaningful winter tradition—or simply taking time for rest and reflection—we hope the season brings peace, light, and connection."

Mark Gatiss always is interesting; you can read an in-depth interview with him in *Country Life* <[www.tinyurl.com/58ffewce](http://www.tinyurl.com/58ffewce)>. For anyone who has just arrived in the Sherlockian world, Gatiss was a co-creator of the BBC One "Sherlock" television series, in which he played a spectacular Mycroft.

The "Watson" television series is popular with CBS-TV viewers (who continue to enjoy hospital and mystery shows). The 10th episode of the second season was broadcast on Dec. 15, when the series went on hiatus, and the last three episodes will air beginning on Mar. 1. Then we'll see if the series is renewed for a third season.

More about "Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas" (now running at the Birmingham Rep): Scott Monty and Burt Wolder have interviewed Humphrey Ker and David Reed, the writers and stars of the show, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/5e87eym7](http://www.tinyurl.com/5e87eym7)>.

The British film "The Case of Marcel Duchamp" (1984) is one of the more unusual Sherlockian films (with Guy Rolfe as Holmes, Raymond Francis as Watson, and Rose Sélavy as Duchamp), and Jennie Paton has discovered it at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj5Ehaj7EGY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xj5Ehaj7EGY)>. If you find the film confusing (as may well be the case), you are welcome to read a detailed discussion of it at <[www.tinyurl.com/48ytcvtz](http://www.tinyurl.com/48ytcvtz)>, and learn why this is the only film credit for Rose Sélavy at the Internet Movie Data Base,

It's always nice when experts agree with you about a book you recommended: the Washington Post's year-end "50 notable works of non-fiction from 2025" included Rebecca Romney's *Jane Austen's Bookshelf: A Rare Book Collector's Quest to Find the Women Writers Who Shaped a Legend* (Mar 25 #2).

Hugh Bonneville has now narrated all 54 of the Canonical short stories for BBC Sound <[www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0k9tzr0](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0k9tzr0)>. They're also available at Noiser <[www.noiser.com](http://www.noiser.com)> (May 25 #4), along with other material, including some of the stories in German; just search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle].

The December issue of *Ineffable Twaddle* (the newsletter published by the Sound of the Baskervilles) carried a report on Shannon Wallace's presentation on "The Devil's Foot" at the society's August meeting, and a link to the web-site of the Devil's Foot Beverage Company <[www.devilsfootbrew](http://www.devilsfootbrew)> in in Ashville, N.C. The company offers Devil's Foot Root Beer and four varieties of Devil's Foot Ginger Beer, which would seem to be thoroughly appropriate to have available when your society discusses the story.

Dec 25 #2 I've not seen anything about this in the press here, but there is a BBC News story that may be of interest to those writing to and from Denmark <[www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3v37plv2edo](http://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c3v37plv2edo)>. The end of letter deliveries in this digital age in Denmark does suggest that at some point the U.S. Postal Service will start thinking seriously about just how much money it loses delivering a letter from Maine to Hawaii, which is of course much farther than anything travels in Denmark. It's also possible that a much higher percentage of Danes are using the Internet, considering that there are many areas in the U.S. that do not yet have good access to the Internet, and sometimes none at all.

"Holmes & Watson: A Perfect Pair" is Scott Monty's headline on a nice video advertisement <[www.tinyurl.com/2v5zwu6u](http://www.tinyurl.com/2v5zwu6u)> for Ghirardelli chocolate, reported at his "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast.

Gôshô Aoyama's "Detective Conan" is a massively popular manga in Japan and many other countries (with 270 million copies sold, as well as a long series of animations). Jennie Paton has reported an interesting video about Aoyama and his creation <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84AVEo4kX0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c84AVEo4kX0)>.

Sherlock's Bar in Southsea <[www.sherlocks-bar.co.uk](http://www.sherlocks-bar.co.uk)>, which honors Conan Doyle (who created Sherlock Holmes in Southsea), made the news this month when the Portsmouth News reported (Dec. 4) <[www.tinyurl.com/mrxbvvt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mrxbvvt)> that the Portsmouth City Council approved reclassifying Sherlock's from a restaurant to a bar.

Tom Stoppard died on Nov. 29. The famous British playwright's first success was "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" (1966), and he went on to write for stage, screen, radio, and television. He received many awards for his work, including a knighthood (1997) and the Order of Merit (2000). In 1994 he was commissioned by Steven Spielberg to write the script for an animated film version of "Cats" for Spielberg's Amblimation studio, to be released by Universal in 1997, but the film was never produced.

Carolyn Senter presided over <[www.sherlock-holmes.com](http://www.sherlock-holmes.com)> for many years with her husband Joel, in business as Classic Specialties, selling and publishing a wide variety of Sherlockiana, and she has now put the domain name up for sale (just click on the URL). The asking price is \$5,000 (but Carolyn notes that the price is completely negotiable).

Rob Nunn had reported that the block of rooms for Holmes in the Heartland (the conference planned by the Parallel Case of St. Louis for July 24-26) is filling quickly, and encourages early registration. Details are available at their web-site <[www.shorturl.at/B3onQ](http://www.shorturl.at/B3onQ)>.

More on the sad fate of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel (Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement style terraces in 1912): the hotel was demolished last year (Jul 24 #2) and now the developer is building apartments and houses on the site. A local Hampshire newspaper recently ran a report (Dec. 4) <[www.tinyurl.com/yc5y4btm](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc5y4btm)> with before-and-after images.

Dec 25 #3 "The Curious Case of the Masked Magician" is a new Holmes-and-Watson magic show that will premiere on Jan. 31 at the Mowlem Theatre in Swanage, Dorset, and then tour in Britain throughout 2026. It was created by Peter Clifford and David Hoare (aka The Great Baldini), who star as Holmes and Watson, and directed by John Nicholson, co-creator of the Peepolykus three-person "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (2007). There is much more information about the show at <[www.masquedmagician.com](http://www.masquedmagician.com)>, and it sounds like great fun indeed.

Registration's now open for the "And It's Always 1895" conference planned by the Torists International in Chicago on Oct. 23-25 (Jul 25 #6). Their web-site's at <[www.anditisalways1895.org](http://www.anditisalways1895.org)>, and you will be able to attend the annual dinner of the Hounds of the Baskerville (sic).

From many years ago: Anthony Newley and Harvey Korman as Holmes and Watson in a skit on the "Carol Burnett Show" (Dec. 23, 1973), reported by Jennie Paton at YouTube <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9XLAn9X4xo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v9XLAn9X4xo)>.

For anyone who has the Fantasy building-brick version of the house at 221B Baker Street (May 24 #3), Jennie Paton has found a YouTube reel from someone who discovered a secret hidden in the depths of the model, explained at <[www.youtube.com/shorts/MzarDYpAszo](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/MzarDYpAszo)>.

"Silent Sherlock: Three Classic Cases" is now showing in "select cinemas" in the U.K. and Ireland <[www.tinyurl.com/yc35bjn9](http://www.tinyurl.com/yc35bjn9)>. They're the three Eil-  
le Norwood films from the 1920s digitally restored by the British Film Institute (Nov 25 #5). And the BFI web-site had David Parkinson's fine article on "10 Great Sherlock Holmes Films and TV Adaptations" on Dec 11 at <[www.tinyurl.com/55tzum3](http://www.tinyurl.com/55tzum3)>.

Road Scholar <[www.roadsscholar.org](http://www.roadsscholar.org)> was founded in 1975, and offers a wide variety of in-person and on-line courses, including two of possible interest to Sherlockians and Doyleans; just search for [sherlock].

Lot 935 at Propstore's auction on Dec. 7 <[www.tinyurl.com/mp4c5hs5](http://www.tinyurl.com/mp4c5hs5)>, with the production-made copy of The Strand Magazine used in the Granada series (Nov 25 #3), estimated at £1500-£3000, was bought for £1890 (including the buyer's premium).

Typcasting as Sherlock Holmes: it was published at The Onion's web-site a year ago <[www.tinyurl.com/5bxt5j6d](http://www.tinyurl.com/5bxt5j6d)>, and only now gets into the newsletter (thanks to a reminder from Dan Stashower).

Variety has published (Dec. 9) <[www.tinyurl.com/mtyaar27](http://www.tinyurl.com/mtyaar27)> "first look" images from the upcoming "Young Sherlock" television series due next year on Prime Video; you can see all of the images at <[www.tinyurl.com/7vuju6n2](http://www.tinyurl.com/7vuju6n2)>. Variety also reported (Dec. 18) <[www.tinyurl.com/mr2u6pca](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr2u6pca)> that all eight episodes will be available on Mar. 4 (Guy Ritchie directed the first two episodes, and is executive producer of the series). And there's a teaser at <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-NEi8tRCBQ&t=70s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-NEi8tRCBQ&t=70s)>. Note: Prime Video is the new name for Amazon Prime Video (which merged with MGM Studios in 2023).

Dec 25 #4 "There's No One More Obsessive Than Sherlock Holmes Fans. And I Should Know" was the headline on an article by Damian Thompson at The Spectator's web-site on Dec. 13; their web-site has a pay-wall, but fortunately the web-site of the magazine's Australian edition doesn't, and you can read the article at <[www.tinyurl.com/6rk2knkk](http://www.tinyurl.com/6rk2knkk)>. Thompson does well at explaining how we play our Grand Game. One should note that the headline in the print edition was "The Game's Afoot: Why Are We Still So Obsessed with Sherlock Holmes?"

"Selections from the Collection of President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter" will be offered at auction in January at Christie's in New York, and one of the lots <[www.tinyurl.com/hk85h7mx](http://www.tinyurl.com/hk85h7mx)> is "a collection of sixteen books owned by President Carter during his childhood." One of the books being a reprint edition of some of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The estimate for the lot is \$1,000-\$1,500.

Also at auction next month, at Bruun Rasmussen in Denmark, is a Sherlock watermark detector <[www.bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/lots/E395975A9121](http://www.bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/lots/E395975A9121)>, estimated at 600 DKK (about \$95.00). Modern stamp collectors may or may not remember using carbon tetrachloride in a watermark tray; that ended when it was decided that carbon tetrachloride was hazardous. You can see what's done now in a video at <[www.tinyurl.com/4xjzewtp](http://www.tinyurl.com/4xjzewtp)>.

An article on "The Adventure of the Sherlock Holmes Artifacts" in the winter 2026 issue of Minnesota Alumni <[www.tinyurl.com/38khupc4](http://www.tinyurl.com/38khupc4)> celebrates Denny Dobry's donation of his recreation of the sitting-room to the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.

The future doesn't lie ahead, it's here right now: the library system in Montgomery County, Md., will soon go cash-less <[www.tinyurl.com/2jsbk5sk](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jsbk5sk)>. Patrons will be able to use library printers free (15 black-and-white and two color copies a day); additional copies will be charged to library-card accounts that patrons can refresh on-line with credit cards. In addition, ear buds and flash drives will be available free on a limited basis.

*The Murder Game: Play, Puzzles & the Golden Age*, by John Curran (London: Collins Crime Club, 2025; 458 pp., \$30.00) is a detailed and scholarly examination of the mystery genre that began in the 1920s, when "fair play" became so important to authors and their readers. Due attention is paid to Conan Doyle's expert and innovative story-telling, but the emphasis is on what happened when authors followed (or ignored) the rules set by Ronald Knox and others.

An interesting manuscript item was at auction at eBay this month: a signed quotation from "The Dancing Men" <[www.tinyurl.com/3pfk8bjt](http://www.tinyurl.com/3pfk8bjt)> that included four words in the story's cipher. It was bought for £820, by someone who obviously believed that it was authentic (a belief not shared by a number of Sherlockians). The seller appears to be an individual, rather than a dealer, located in Poland, who has offered and sold a number of autographs <[www.tinyurl.com/b6sumn2w](http://www.tinyurl.com/b6sumn2w)>, explaining that they're from her late grandfather's autograph collection.

Dec 25 #5 "Gold in a Goose's Crop" read the headline on a story in the Ashcroft Journal (Jan. 5, 1901), discovered by Barbara Roden, who edits the newspaper in British Columbia. "A mild sensation has been caused in New Westminster by the discovery of \$12.50 in coarse gold as big as flax seed in the crop of a wild goose, which was killed at Pitt Lake, 28 miles from New Westminster," according to the story, "Many prospectors have started for the scene of the supposed gold placers." Something that will be of interest to Sherlockian scholars interested in "The Blue Carbuncle" and the debate launched by Mildred Sammons (in the Chicago Tribune on Dec. 26, 1946) about whether geese have crops.

Arturo Pérez-Reverte's *The Final Problem* (New York: Mulholland, 2026; 320 pp., \$29.00), finally available in English, is a splendid Sherlockian mystery that features Ormond Basil, a washed-up actor who starred as Sherlock Holmes in 15 Hollywood films and now finds himself forced to solve a classic locked-room mystery, and three murders, on an isolated Greek island in the 1960s. It's all entertaining and intriguing, and recommended.

Sherlockian connections to Presidents have been in short supply in recent years, with none for George W. Bush, Barak Obama, or Joe Biden. But (forwarded without comment: <[www.tinyurl.com/3hdhcbth](http://www.tinyurl.com/3hdhcbth)> [Nov 25 #5]. Alas: the URL didn't work for many people. Try <[www.tinyurl.com/mjcam2sa](http://www.tinyurl.com/mjcam2sa)>, which is the official report rather than a newspaper story. Or you can just search for [trump dog that hasn't barked].

Gyles Brandreth's short story "Murder at the Palace!" (which was published in the Daily Mail in 2018) has Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde solving a mystery at Buckingham Palace. Now you can listen to him read the story at the Black Country Radio podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/239a3z6w](http://www.tinyurl.com/239a3z6w)>. It's also conveniently available at Spotify <[www.tinyurl.com/2eeahj9w](http://www.tinyurl.com/2eeahj9w)> and at Apple Podcasts <[www.tinyurl.com/w9uwsepm](http://www.tinyurl.com/w9uwsepm)>. Apparently Stephen Fry narrated the story for The Crime Hub podcast in 2019, but that recording seems not to be available now.

"Missing Sherlock Holmes Dollhouse Returns to U Collection, the Largest of Its Kind in the World" was the headline on a story in the Minneapolis Star Tribune (Dec. 21) <[www.tinyurl.com/2jn6fjd2](http://www.tinyurl.com/2jn6fjd2)>. Dorothy Rowe Shaw's twelve-room miniature of 221B Baker Street, which sustained serious water damage in 2020; the repairs have taken three years to complete, and the miniature will be back on display in the beginning of 2026.

It's possible that the legal battles over the Sherlock Holmes Museum will never come to an end. "Boss of Sherlock Holmes Museum Wins Fight to Evict Brother from flm Home in 10-Year Feud" was the headline on a story in the Daily Mirror in 2013 (Feb 23 #1). Now the Sun's headline is "Owner of £20 Million Tourist Attraction Locked in 'Cataclysmic' Court Fight with Sister Over Claims He Owes Her £500,000" <[www.tinyurl.com/2zv6kva](http://www.tinyurl.com/2zv6kva)>. There was a similar story in the Daily Mail <[www.tinyurl.com/5crpfknw](http://www.tinyurl.com/5crpfknw)>; the Aidiniantz family's legal battles began in 2012, and they have appeared in court more than 100 times and racked up more than a dozen judgments. A final judgment in the current case might come next year.

Dec 25 #6 The first "Great Sherlockian Whimsical Tour" was held in 2005, and now there has been second one: a five-day odyssey through Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, tracking down 39 locations that have hidden ties to the Canon. You can hear Greg Ruby and Steve Mason explain it all in an interview with Scott Monty and Burt Wolder at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcast <[www.tinyurl.com/824kmxat](http://www.tinyurl.com/824kmxat)>.

Mystery author Hank Phillippi Ryan presides over the Crime Time podcast, and recently interviewed Nicholas Meyer <[www.tinyurl.com/32x7jep8](http://www.tinyurl.com/32x7jep8)>. It's always fun when a good writer interviews another good writer.

What might have been: from Radio Wolinsky's "The Probability Archive" at KPFA-FM (Berkeley) on Dec. 21: a 1980s interview with science-fiction film director Jack Arnold <[www.tinyurl.com/5evdefvp](http://www.tinyurl.com/5evdefvp)>. At 63:35 he discusses a remake of "The Lost World" that never went beyond pre-planning. He also directed two episodes of the series "Holmes and Yo-yo" (1976-1977), which featured Richard B. Shull as Detective Alexander Holmes. John Landis, who was involved in Arnold's project, went on to be executive producer on the Australian film of "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Lost World" (1999) and 44 episodes of the television series (1999-2001).

From PBS-TV in 1992, kindly forwarded by Jannie Paton: Vincent Twice [not a misprint] introducing a segment of Mysterious Theater that starred Sherlock Hemlock <[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EY5kvGaGLE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9EY5kvGaGLE)>.

Theater of the Mind (Radio You Can See) broadcast Philip Grecian's "Sherlock Holmes and the Giant Rat of Sumatra" (with Philip Grecian as Sherlock Holmes and Dané Shobu as John H. Watson) on KTWU-TV (Topeka) on Feb. 17, 2023 <[www.tinyurl.com/3d5ub7se](http://www.tinyurl.com/3d5ub7se)>, Jennie Paton notes. They also broadcast Philip Grecian's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" (with Philip Grecian as Sherlock Holmes) and Cliff Alfrey as Dr. John H. Watson) on Oct. 16, 2011 <[www.tinyurl.com/4wb3rx7m](http://www.tinyurl.com/4wb3rx7m)>.

There's not much theatrical news, for a change. Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" has been scheduled at the Manhattan Arts Center in Manhattan, Kans., Jan. 23-Feb. 1 <[www.manhattanarts.org](http://www.manhattanarts.org)>; and at the Cortland Repertory Theatre in Cortland, N.Y., June 17-26 <[www.cortlandrep.org](http://www.cortlandrep.org)>.

David Crump's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Basketcases-The Pant-to!" will premiere at the Roxley Village Hall in Thorpe St. Andrew, Norf., Feb. 5-7

Jarrold Chambers' new "Sherlock Holmes and the Locked Room" will be staged at the Gladstone Theatre in Ottawa, Ont., Feb. 18-28; their web-site's at <[www.thegladstone.ca](http://www.thegladstone.ca)>.

The Pantaloons will tour their "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" in the U.K., May 9-Aug. 6 <[www.thepantaloons.co.uk/holmes](http://www.thepantaloons.co.uk/holmes)>.

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

# THE YEAR 2025 IN SHERLOCKIAN COMICS

Johanna Draper Carlson\*

A wide variety of works came out in 2025, with the only obvious trend being the use of Frankenstein's monster. If you ever wanted to see Sherlock Holmes meet the artificial man, this was your year.

But first, the only full-on retelling of the classic stories by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was Button Books' *Manga Classics: The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Illustrated by Noh Yi-jeong and translated from Korean, this volume contains adaptations of "A Scandal in Bohemia," "The Red-Headed League," and the Adventures of the "Speckled Band," "Six Napoleons," and "Copper Beeches." It's aimed at children ages 8-12, and perhaps as a result, the characters appear surprisingly youthful (also typical of what's thought of as "manga style") and the art is static and flat, with few details or backgrounds.

(A digression: If you're looking specifically for something to interest kids in mysteries, pick up *Detective Stanley and the Mystery at the Museum*. In a style that's reminiscent of Richard Scarry's animal people, Erica Harrison draws and Hannah Tunncliffe writes this charming story, published by Flying Eye Books. Beagle Stanley is a retired police officer who lives at 221 Barker Street. He's summoned when a Bleat Mondrian artwork has been stolen. He puts on his deerstalker and starts investigating. Will he figure out whodunnit? Of course! There's already a sequel out, *Detective Stanley and the Green Thumbed Thief*. Both are highly recommended for all ages.)

Crowdfunding continued to be a popular way to finance projects. The campaign for the second volume of *Sherlock Holmes and the Empire Builders: The Gene Genie* completed in 2025, with the books shipping in fall of the year. It's mostly a drawn-out action sequence about overthrowing a dictator, with key moments happening off-screen. A single-volume paperback reprinting the whole story from Joel Meadows and Andy Bennett is due in April 2026.

A more successful steampunk adventure, in my opinion, was *Sherlock Holmes: Leviathan* (also a crowdfunded project). This stand-alone graphic novel is by Mike Baron (writer of *Nexus* and *Badger*) and Richard Bonk. A Jeremy Brett-looking Sherlock Holmes winds up on Captain Nemo's Nautilus with Dr. Watson and Irene Adler, meeting other pulp characters (including Frankenstein's monster) and voyaging around the world.

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\* Johanna Draper Carlson has been reviewing comics for over 25 years and running ComicsWorthReading.com since 1999. Copyright 2026 Johanna Draper Carlson.

Speaking of the Monster, on the wilder end of the spectrum, the miniseries *Godzilla's Monsterpiece Theatre* by Tom Scioli started in 2024, but the collected edition came out from IDW in 2025. With such a crazy mash-up — pitting Godzilla against Jay Gatsby's G-Force, which includes Thomas Edison, Jules Verne (now a cyborg), the man with H.G. Wells's Time Machine, and an elderly Sherlock Holmes — reading the whole thing at once can be more fun. It's wacky. The King of the Monsters attacks London and Paris before winding up in Transylvania, where Dracula and Frankenstein's monster get involved. And a mummy. It's the print equivalent of a giant action figure battle, with a slap of literary paint on top.

There were several continuing series, always a pleasure to see. The manga *Moriarty the Patriot* released volumes 18 and 19 in 2025. In them, Billy the Kid, Sherlock Holmes, and William James Moriarty are in America after Sherlock and Moriarty were thought to be dead. They're taking on land speculators mistreating local folks in a version of *The Valley of Fear* called "The Valley of Fellows."

*Watson's Sketchbook* by Lee Knox Ostertag got a second print volume, with the series now planned for three collections. As the author explains, it's a companion piece to the canon, "illustrating moments from the text I found especially charming, dramatic, or — most interesting to me! — subtextually queer." As he continued reading and illustrating, a love story between Holmes and Watson emerged in his work, complicated by Watson marrying a beard to protect them, and Holmes (never the most emotionally mature) deciding to hunt down Moriarty in order to impress Watson.

Ostertag is an award-winning graphic novelist, and in addition to his accomplished, animated art, there are plenty of asides and quite a lot of humor. As the series has progressed, the story accompaniments have gone from quick sketches to sequences of comic pages, the better to flesh out the characters and what canon doesn't tell us. The webcomic has been on hiatus since September 2025, but there are plenty of past episodes to read at [ostertag.substack.com](http://ostertag.substack.com). The print volumes can be ordered from [mkobooks.bigcartel.com](http://mkobooks.bigcartel.com).

The comic series *Sherlock Holmes: The Dark Detective*, by Christopher Sequeira, Philip Cornell, and Dave Elsey, released a number of issues in 2025. The main story from volume 1, *Claws of the Chimera*, concluded in issue #3, pitting Holmes against some Scotland Yard detectives, Professor Moriarty, a secret society, and a mythical creature (not Frankenstein's monster, but see below). Issue #4 contained three short stories about supernatural villainy introduced by Mycroft Holmes, who features in the third.

The series relaunched with volume 2, *Knights of Frankenstein*. The first issue set up the mystery with a monstrously tall man with scars stealing bodies.

Issue #2 digressed with a short Christmas story and a prose tale. Issues #3 and #4 continued the main tale, with Mary Watson in danger! I don't know why everyone decided to use Frankenstein's monster this year, but that's the last reference. (Although the series concluded with issue #5 in 2026, followed by a Special.)

Also continuing in 2025 was the Van Ryder line of *Graphic Novel Adventures*, with two new Sherlock Holmes volumes, *Sherlock Holmes: Darkness Over London* and *Sherlock Holmes: Supernatural*. Both are by Jarvin and Boutanox, and both feature choose-your-own-path game play, where you follow clues and question witnesses through three cases per book. Each observation or answer sends you to another comic panel. The first book pitted you against a serial killer, while the latter volume added in a new character choice: Thomas Carnacki, demon hunter.

Last but not least, 2024 marked the tenth anniversary of the comic strip *Baker Street Elementary*. To celebrate, in 2025, they released an art book, a collection of various artists drawing their head-and-shoulders schoolboy characters. It can be downloaded from <https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html> along with their yearly strip compilations.

More information is available at my website, [SherlockComics.com](http://SherlockComics.com).

# SHERLOCK HOLMES AND LAW 2025

*Ira Brad Matetsky\**

**January 1, 2025:** January 1 each year is “public domain day” in the United States — the date on which many works that first appeared 95 years earlier are no longer subject to copyright protection in this country. This no longer affects Arthur Conan Doyle’s 60 (or 62) Sherlock Holmes stories, the last of whose copyrights expired at the end of 2022, but it is significant for Conan Doyle’s last non-Sherlockian works. At the beginning of 2025, U.S. copyright protection expires for many works first published in 1929. For Arthur Conan Doyle, this includes his final Professor Challenger story, “The Disintegration Machine”; the last two chapters of *The Maricot Deep*, originally published as “The Lord of the Dark Face”; and a freestanding short story, “The Death Voyage.”

**January 7, 2025:** Alec Nevala-Lee publishes an essay on *The Atlantic’s* website with the exaggerated title “How Sherlock Holmes Broke Copyright Law.” Nevala-Lee recalls Edmund Wilson’s characterization of the Holmes stories as “among the most amusing of fairy tales” and posits that “[i]f Sherlock Holmes really is the last of the classic fairy-tale heroes, he may also be the first to have been protected by modern intellectual-copyright law.”<sup>1</sup>

**March 5, 2025:** The Iowa Court of Appeals upholds a double-murder conviction, in an opinion by Chief Judge Mary Tabor. The court relies, among other things, upon what Tabor calls “true ‘smoking gun’ evidence” that the defendant was found sitting near the two victims’ bodies holding the handgun that shot them.<sup>2</sup> In a footnote, Tabor explains:

The phrase “smoking gun” is attributed to Arthur Conan Doyle, author of the Sherlock Holmes detective stories. In the story “The Adventure of the Gloria Scott,” the ship’s chaplain is discovered standing over a dead body with a pistol in hand, which is considered compelling evidence that he committed the murder. See Ben Panko, *Thank Sherlock Holmes for the Phrase “Smoking Gun”*, Smithsonian Magazine (July 12, 2017), <https://perma.cc/SF4B-H2ZJ>.<sup>3</sup>

**June 2, 2025:** Georgetown Law School Professor Stephen Vladeck publishes a weekly installment of his “One First” newsletter, which covers the work of the U.S. Supreme Court. This week, Vladeck mentions some cases in which

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/books/archive/2025/01/how-sherlock-holmes-broke-copyright-law/681223/>.

<sup>2</sup> *State v. Buford*, 20 N.W.3d 861 (table), 2025 WL 716485, at \*3 (Iowa Ct. App. Mar. 5, 2025).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at n.2.

the Trump Administration has appealed adverse lower-court rulings to the Supreme Court — but he also emphasizes that in many other cases, the Administration has lost (at least temporarily) in lower courts but has *not* sought Supreme Court review. Vladeck likens this group of cases to “the dogs that did not bark.”<sup>4</sup> He adds:

The “dog that didn’t bark” is a mode of argument that relies on the absence of an expected reaction as evidence. One of my two favorite in-class student comments in my career was when a student attributed that mode of reasoning to Justice Holmes. As I told the student at the time, he had the wrong Holmes. The quote is Sherlock’s, not Oliver Wendell’s.<sup>5</sup>

**July 25, 2025:** The Tennessee Court of Appeals holds that a state trooper was lawfully fired because she mishandled the investigation of a car crash, rather than as a result of sex or national origin discrimination. The opinion by Judge Jeffrey Usman finds, among other things, that there is no “smoking gun” direct evidence of discrimination.<sup>6</sup> In a footnote, Usman adds:

A reference to a smoking gun, which has been a “staple of detective fiction,” refers to “a piece of incontrovertible evidence.” Oxford Dictionary of English Idioms 323 (3d ed. 2009).

First stated as a “smoking pistol,” the origins of the phrase appear to trace to the murder mystery literary work of Arthur Conan Doyle. Daniel Friedman & Eugene Friedman, *Doyle’s World Lost and Found: The Unknown Histories of Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* (2024); see also Max Cryer, *Who Said That First: The Curious Origins of Common Words and Phrases* 302 (2010).<sup>7</sup>

**September 10, 2025:** A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit addresses a Second Amendment challenge to a New Jersey statute restricting the right to carry firearms in “sensitive places.” In a lengthy opinion, the court upholds some of the restrictions but prohibits the enforcement of others.<sup>8</sup> Circuit Judge David J. Porter authors a separate opinion in which he votes to strike down the restrictions in their entirety. In

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<sup>4</sup> Steve Vladeck, “What District Court Critics Aren’t Telling You,” <https://www.stevevladeck.com/p/155-what-critics-of-district-courts>.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at n.1.

<sup>6</sup> *Sullivan v. Tennessee Dep’t of Safety and Homeland Security*, No. M2023-01741-COA-R3-CV, 2025 WL 2093147, at \*10 (Tenn. Ct. App. July 25, 2025).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at n.7.

<sup>8</sup> *Koons v. Attorney General of New Jersey*, 156 F.4th 210 (3d Cir. 2025), *vacated and rehearing en banc granted*, Nos. 23-1900 & 23-2043, 2025 WL 3552513 (3d Cir. Dec. 11, 2025).

his analysis, Porter discusses the effect of the Fourteenth Amendment (ratified in 1868) on the original Second Amendment (ratified in 1791). He concludes that “[i]f those involved in advancing and ratifying the Fourteenth Amendment viewed the amendment as a mechanism to substantively reimagine the entire Bill of Rights, one suspects they would have said so — but they didn’t. ... [L]ike the dog that didn’t bark, no such conversation occurred in 1866-1868.”<sup>9</sup>

**November 12, 2025:** The High Court of Justice of England and Wales hands down another decision in the “long-running litigation stemming, primarily, from disputes relating to the management, finances, control and ownership of the Sherlock Holmes Museum, at 239 Baker Street, in London,” which “has been and is a lucrative tourist attraction.”<sup>10</sup> In this decision, Master in Chancery Timothy John Bowles addresses whether one of the parties has improperly sought to evade payment of several hundred thousand dollars in previously awarded court costs. He concludes that this issue will have to be resolved at a trial, meaning that the litigation, already extraordinarily protracted, will go on — an outcome more Dickensian than Holmesian.

**November 17, 2025:** After the U.S. Supreme Court announces that it will consider a case concerning “birthright citizenship” under the Fourteenth Amendment, Professor Amanda Frost and Emily Eason publish an article in the *Georgetown Online Law Review*, titled “The Dog That Didn’t Bark: Eligibility To Serve in Congress and the Original Understanding of the Citizenship Clause.”<sup>11</sup> Frost and Eason analyze the Trump Administration’s position that the Fourteenth Amendment limits “birthright” U.S. citizenship to the children of at least one parent who was a U.S. citizen or a lawfully admitted permanent resident. They posit that if this were the case, then the citizenship — and hence eligibility to serve in Congress — of several members serving in Congress at the time the amendment was ratified in 1868 would have been subject to challenge. But no such challenges were raised, so Frost

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<sup>9</sup> 156 F.4th at 290-91 (Porter, J., concurring in part and dissenting in part) (citing Arthur Conan Doyle, “Silver Blaze,” in *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* 347 (Doubleday & Co., Inc. 1930)).

<sup>10</sup> *Riley v. Aidiniantz*, [2025] EWHC 3222 (Ch), ¶¶ 1-2. See also *RollerTEAM Ltd. v. Siddiqi*, [2025] EWHC 612 (Ch), ¶ 2, decided on March 10, 2025 and also involving “a costs order ... related to a long running dispute over a family business, the Sherlock Holmes museum in Baker Street, London.”

<sup>11</sup> Amanda Frost & Emily Eason, *The Dog That Didn’t Bark: Eligibility To Serve In Congress And The Original Understanding Of The Citizenship Clause* (Nov. 1, 2025), *Georgetown Law Journal Online*, vol. 114, Virginia Public Law and Legal Theory Research Paper No. 2025-78, available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=5757102> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.5757102>. See also Adam Liptak, “A Conspicuous Gap May Undermine Trump’s Birthright Citizenship Plan,” *The New York Times*, Dec. 22, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/12/22/us/politics/trump-birthright-citizenship-congress.html>.

and Eason reason that “no one at the time of ratification could have thought that U.S. citizenship turned on such questions.” They explain:

In Arthur Conan Doyle’s short story, *The Adventure of Silver Blaze*, detective Sherlock Holmes investigates the theft of a famous racehorse. Holmes deduces that the theft must have been an inside job after learning that the stable’s watch dog did not bark on the night the horse disappeared. This negative fact — that the watchdog did *not* sound the alarm — was evidence that no stranger approached the stable that evening. ...

The same logic applies here. ... In short, the dog did not bark.

The absence of such challenges — the absence even of questions asked about parents’ immigration status — is powerful evidence that everyone understood at the time of the Fourteenth Amendment’s drafting and ratification that the Citizenship Clause replicated the English common-law rule of near-universal birthright citizenship.<sup>12</sup>

**December 26, 2025:** Judge Sean M.A. Hatfield begins a Kansas Court of Appeals opinion with this paragraph:

In *The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor*, quoting Henry David Thoreau, Sherlock Holmes observed that “[c]ircumstantial evidence is occasionally very convincing, as when you find a trout in the milk.” Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Complete Sherlock Holmes*, p. 294 (1930 ed.). The days of furtively diluting milk with river water may be behind us, but that turn of phrase is still synonymous with the power of a fact proved with strongly convincing circumstantial evidence.<sup>13</sup>

The court applies this principle in rejecting a criminal defendant’s argument that his sentence was invalid because the state failed to establish that he was over the age of 18 at the time of the offense. The court concludes that the trial court’s conclusion that the defendant was over 18 was supported by ample circumstantial evidence in the record, including the facts that at the time of the offense, he had both a commercial truck driver’s license and a 13-year-old daughter.

**December 31, 2025:** At the close of the year, works first published by Arthur Conan Doyle in 1930 — the year of his death — enter the public domain in the United States. These include three of Conan Doyle’s last non-Sherlockian short stories: “The Parish Magazine,” “The Last Resource,” and “The End of Devil Hawker.”

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<sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 24–25.

<sup>13</sup> *State v. Presley*, No. 128,399, 2025 WL 3731010, at \*1 (Kans. Ct. App. Dec. 26, 2025).

# THIRD PILLAR FROM THE LEFT

## MUSIC AND SHERLOCK HOLMES IN 2025

*Jens Byskov Jensen\**

**A**t the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, on Friday, January 17, 2025, held at the Yale Club in New York City, Karen Wilson BSI (“Sarasate”) and Alex Katz BSI (“Bartholomew Wilson”) performed the original “Brush Up Your Sherlock.”<sup>1</sup>

Some of us might associate Pantomime with the classic, wordless performances of Harlequin, Columbine and Pierrot. If you are invited to a Christmas Pantomime in England, don’t expect a similar experience. The English pantomime is a unique theatre genre that only really exists in the United Kingdom. It is extremely popular and every year theatres are completely sold out to an audience of all ages, backgrounds and tastes. Traditionally, adults take their children to the “Panto” as a Christmas treat but often the adults have the most fun. The mad knockabout comedy of the pantomime, where people are hit but not hurt, where authority is constantly flouted, and where fun is poked at everything from past to present, has had a great influence on British “crazy” humor such as *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*.

A new Christmas Pantomime titled “Sherlock Holmes and the 12 Days of Christmas” is playing at the Birmingham Rep in Birmingham, England, through January 18, 2026. It is written by Humphrey Kerr and David Reed, who appear as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson respectively. Other canonical characters include Inspector Lestrade, played by John Kearns, and Mrs Hudson, played by Margaret Cabourn-Smith. But that is by no means all! A rather lengthy list of non-canonical characters appear as well, such as Fafner, Ernie, Arthur Stone, Estella, Clifford, Wotan, Wifford, and Athena Wilson. And then, there is a certain gracious lady, Queen Victoria, in the shape of Deborah Tracey. Apparently, the British critics really like it with four- and even five-star reviews. The music is by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. When it comes to British musicals, it is hard to imagine a better team than that! Together, they wrote the famous musicals *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Evita*. Then, Andrew Lloyd Webber went on to write such hit musicals as *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *Phantom of the Opera*. Andrew has also collaborated with his younger brother Julian Lloyd Webber, who is a classical cellist. The classical

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\* Jens Byskov Jensen is a performing violinist, the orchestral performance librarian of the Danish Philharmonic Orchestra, and “The Blanched Soldier” in the BSI.

<sup>1</sup> The Baker Street Journal, Vol. 75, No. 1, Spring 2005, p. 68.

and rock fusion album “Variations” was released on January 22, 1978. The music had been premiered at the Sydmonton Festival the year before with rock band Colosseum II featuring Gary Moore, Jon Hiseman, Don Airey, Barbara Thompson, Rod Argent, and Julian Lloyd Webber playing the solo cello part. The piece consists of a theme and 23 variations, the theme being from Paganini’s Caprice No. 24. As you will recall, Sherlock Holmes was also very fond of Paganini. In “The Adventure of the Cardboard Box,” Watson recalled: “We had a pleasant little meal together, during which Holmes would talk about nothing but violins, narrating with great exultation how he had purchased his own Stradivarius, which was worth at least five hundred guineas, at a Jew broker’s in Tottenham Court Road for fifty-five shillings. This led him to Paganini, and we sat for an hour over a bottle of claret while he told me anecdote after anecdote of that extraordinary man.”

In 2025, the Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark — The Danish Baker Street Irregulars — celebrated its 75th anniversary with a grand dinner on May 31 at the headquarters of the Danish Order of Freemasons in Copenhagen.<sup>2</sup> We were fortunate to have visiting guests from many countries of the world, and it was a fine evening. The program included two musical interludes. First, the Danish concert pianist Tanja Zapolski and I performed Karl Goldmark’s *Violin Concerto No. 1 in A minor, Op. 28: II. Air. Andante*. Our motivation for playing this music was published in *Referring to My Notes — Music and the Sherlockian Canon*.<sup>3</sup> Here, I suggested that it is more than likely that Sherlock Holmes knew of this piece, heard it in concert, and, perhaps, even played it himself.

After dinner, the mixed choir and house trio of the Klubben entertained with the singing of “Aunt Clara” and other Sherlockian favorites. The trio consisted of Palle Schantz Lauridsen BSI on guitar, Michael Skov Lambek on bass ukulele, and Bjarne Juul on accordion.

2025 marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of French composer Maurice Ravel (1875-1937), who is not mentioned in the canon. However, one of his works in particular deserves mention here — his Violin and Piano Sonata No. 2. Composed from 1923 to 1927, it is greatly inspired by the American music genres blues and jazz. For reference, *The Case Book of Sherlock Holmes* was published between 1921 and 1927. At this time, Holmes had retired to the South Downs, of course, and may have lent an ear to the new tones from Ravel, who knows? It was as early as “The Adventure of the

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<sup>2</sup> The Baker Street Journal, Vol. 75, No. 3, Autumn 2025, p. 67.

<sup>3</sup> *Referring to My Notes — Music and the Sherlockian Canon*, Ed. Alexander Katz and Karen Wilson (2021).

Noble Bachelor” that Holmes showed his interest in the United States by exclaiming: “It is always a joy to meet an American, Mr. Moulton, for I am one of those who believes that the folly of a monarch and the blundering of a minister in far-gone years will not prevent our children from being some-day citizens of the same world-wide country under a flag which shall be a quartering of the Union Jack with the Stars and Stripes.”

2025 also marked the 65th anniversary of the Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street, which was founded in 1960. At the Annual Meeting, held on Saturday August 23rd 2025 in Aalborg, the Cimbrians gathered for a lively celebration. Marking the founding year of the society, the Cimbrians enjoyed a musical interlude, delving into the 1960 European tour of the Miles Davis Quintet on vinyl. Of particular interest was the fact that the tour began with saxophonist John Coltrane. However, Coltrane quit along the way and was replaced by Sonny Stitt. The change of the quintet’s overall sound is remarkable.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Cimbrer Tidende, No. 2, 2025, p. 1.



## DOINGS OF DOYLE IN 2025

*Mark Jones\**

**D**oings 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](http://www.doingsofdoyle.com), and from all the major podcasting platforms including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Amazon Alexa and YouTube ([www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle](http://www.youtube.com/@doingsofdoyle)).

- Episode 59 — *The Lost World* (1912) Part 2 — Mark and Paul continue their exploration of ACD's dinosaur classic as the Challenger expedition encounter a deadly ape-race (January 31, 2025).

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\* Mark Jones is the co-founder and co-host of *Doings of Doyle*, and of *The Literary Agents*. Copyright 2026 Mark Jones.

- Episode 60 — *The Lost World* (1912) Part 3 — We conclude our survey with commentary on the conclusion and the story's legacy in popular fiction and film (February 28, 2025).
- Episode 61 — 'The Adventure of the Musgrave Ritual' (1893) — A deep-dive into this popular classic, with commentary on Royalists, T.S. Eliot, class and Poe (March 31, 2025).
- Episode 62 — *The Adventure of the Second Wife* with Andrew Finkel — Mark and Paul interview author-journalist Andrew Finkel and discuss the Turkish connections in the Canon (April 28, 2025).
- Episode 63 — 'The Man from Archangel' (1885) — The atmospheric yet oft-overlooked tale that has more than a passing nod to Robert Louis Stevenson (May 30, 2025).
- Episode 64 — 'The Story of the Brown Hand' (1898) — Paul and Mark explore the Imperial Gothic classic, an unconventional ghost story (June 29, 2025).
- Episode 65 — *The Stark Munro Letters* (1895) with James Machin — A wide-ranging conversation with the editor of the Edinburgh Edition of *Stark Munro* (July 30, 2025).
- Episode 66 — 'Crabbe's Practice' (1884/1922) — A review of ACD's comic short story, which was heavily rewritten for anthologies in the 1920s (August 31, 2025).
- Episode 67 — 'The End of Devil Hawker' (1930) — Perhaps the last story ACD worked on, and a glorious callback to the extravagances of the Regency (September 29, 2025).
- Episode 68 — *Sherlock Holmes: The Hunt for Moriarty* with Nick Lane — An interview with the writer-director of Sherlockian adaptations for Blackeyed Theatre (October 28, 2025).
- Episode 69 — 'The Adventure of the Illustrious Client' (1924) — An in-depth look at perhaps the greatest of the later stories (November 30, 2025).
- Episode 70 — ACDQ&A — In a departure from the usual format, Paul and Mark answer questions from listeners, on matters covering Doylean biography, ACD's beliefs and books to avoid (December 27, 2025).

# AND I SAW SOMETHING THEY CAN'T TAKE AWAY

A COLLECTION OF REPORTS ON 221B CON 2025

*Madeline Quiñones\**

In April 2024, the directors of 221B Con made an announcement: the following Con, in 2025, would probably be the last one. The number of attendees had dwindled over the years, and the Con was not doing well financially.

The attendees, affectionately known as “Bees,” went through the five stages of grief that weekend; for so many of us, this is more than a convention — it’s family. It’s home. We departed with a steely resolve: we weren’t going to lose our Con without a fight.

221B Con needed more people helping behind the scenes, more attention, more attendees, and more money. Sherlockians can move mountains when we have to, and so we set to the task of saving 221B Con. Bees volunteered and spread the word that we had this fantastic little fan-run, Sherlockian convention in Atlanta, and you should come be part of it. Belanger Books and the Ken Ludwig Company stepped up to sponsor Con.

And so, hoping for the best but bracing for the worst, we returned to Atlanta in April 2025, determined to make the most of this Con if it was to be our last time.

For the first time, there was one opening panel, “The Future of the Con,” held in a large room packed with somewhere between two and three hundred people. After a few minutes of keeping us in suspense, Crystal Noll and Heather Holloway told us that 221B Con would continue.

The Bees surged to their feet to deliver their heartfelt and deafening applause. Many of us were crying.

Crystal and Heather, two of the con’s founders, announced that they were stepping down from being directors. Johanna Draper Carlson and Heather Hinson, who had volunteered to help throughout the previous year, would step up to be the new directors of Con. We were also told that the continuation of Con was by no means certain; if we wanted to keep it, we’d have to continue working to keep it. Unlike many other conventions, 221B Con is run entirely by volunteers, and the core is still Sherlock Holmes, despite Holmes

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\* Madeline Quiñones, BSI (“Sir Joshua Reynolds”), runs the John H Watson Society and her own podcast (*Dynamics of a Podcast*). Madeline Quiñones and Erica Fair retain copyright in their respective parts of this report.



The best hangout in the hotel. Left to right: Crystal Noll, Beth Gallego, Curtis Armstrong, Kristen Mertz, Madeline Quiñones, Ashley Polasek, and Rob Nunn. Photo by Chris Zordan.

having diminished in the zeitgeist since BBC *Sherlock* ended. We can't take Con for granted.

I keep saying “we.” My first experience of 221B Con was the virtual con in 2021, and it was wonderful. I knew that I had to make it to Atlanta once the convention was held in-person again, and it was, the very next year. Con '22 was the first time I attended *any* Sherlockian event in-person, and it immediately felt like coming home. I've driven down to the Atlanta Airport Marriott, the current home of Con, ever since.

There is a sense of community there that is unlike anything else I've ever experienced, even during the heady and wonderful BSI Birthday Weekend. Which is not to diminish the Weekend, or any other Sherlockian event I've attended, because the community spirit is strong among Sherlockians. But there is something about the 221B Con community that is unique.

Perhaps part of it stems from the fact that there are 300 or so of us milling around this one hotel for the whole weekend. There are many people whose names I don't know, but I know them immediately by sight. Outside of the conference space, it's easy to tell the Bees from the “normies,” the other hotel guests. Most Bees have been attending for years, since before I started — many since the beginning, in 2013. There are friendships made here that

have lasted over a decade, and for many, this is the only time of year they get to see these friends.

It's the very epitome of "It started with Sherlock Holmes, but now it's about friendship."<sup>1</sup>

To return to April 2025, I had the great joy of witnessing several friends experience 221B Con for the first time. I got to introduce them to the Bacon Stone, an important piece of Con lore. We went out to a Waffle House, a new tradition via the 221st Southumberland Wafflers, now indelibly linked with Con.<sup>2</sup> One friend took my place during karaoke, which I explained to the DJ, and added, "This is her first time at Con!" The room cheered.

That's just how 221B Con works. Newcomers are cheered. The Irish say that a stranger is just a friend you haven't met yet; a newcomer at 221B Con is just a welcome addition to the family.

What follows this introduction are accounts from two of these new Bees.

## A CHICAGOAN IN THE QUEEN BEES' COURT

*Rudy Altergott\**

April 2025 was my first time visiting 221B Con in Atlanta. I was worried it would be the con's swan song. Thankfully, it was only the transition to new leadership. (Huzzah to Johanna Draper Carlson and Heather Hinson!) I had promised Crystal Noll and Heather Holloway for years at the BSI Weekend that I would attend, and this seemed like the time. Now that I have a Con under my belt, I hope to return to do a panel with Heather<sup>3</sup> on something like Edgar Rice Burroughs, Scott Tracy Griffin, and Tarzan. My connection to Holmes has much to do with his connection or proximity to other detectives and characters and series and worlds.

When it came to dressing up, besides comfy casual attire, I had a more traditional outfit for Con Prom: a black tuxedo and black cape. I have been fond of capes since childhood, trying to be like Batman or the Shadow or Luke Skywalker when he first shows up in *Return of the Jedi*. Dancing with it on with a hooded Brad Keefauver, then lending it out to my friend Erica Fair, helped make lasting memories.

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<sup>1</sup> A quote from Julia Rosenblatt. See *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*, episode 103: [ihearofsherlock.com/2016/08/episode-103-coupling-with-sherlock.html](http://ihearofsherlock.com/2016/08/episode-103-coupling-with-sherlock.html).

<sup>2</sup> Georgia is the home of the Waffle House franchise. You can check out the Wafflers here: [dfw-sherlock.org/221st-southumberland-wafflers.html](http://dfw-sherlock.org/221st-southumberland-wafflers.html).

\* Rudy Altergott, BSI ("Old Patrick") is a Chicago Sherlockian both of that tradition and his own. Currently a surgical records manager, he is otherwise a bookman and adventurer.

<sup>3</sup> Editor's note: This would be Heather Holloway, aka "Southern Heather," while the new directorial Heather is known as "Northern Heather," based on their locations in the U.S.

Attending panels about topics I knew or thought I knew about (like Mycroft Holmes, the Scowlers and the Red Circle, and even the classic *Jaws* as it neared its 50th anniversary) and others I wanted to know more about, like autism and neurodiversity in Sherlock Holmes, gave me the enlightenment I came for. The autism and neurodiversity thing is an important topic for me. At age 13, and then at 18 and 23, I went through diagnostic testing. Originally, they considered it Asperger's syndrome, and, as has been the case, it changed to being described as being on the autism spectrum. As an adult, it mostly manifests at home alone with stimming when something thrills me and, in general, with issues with executive functioning. I will not call it a disorder; like many, I consider it a part of my identity and the reason for the intellect and perspective that I have. Anyway, I identify with Holmes because he seems to me to be neurodiverse, too.

Essentially, my visit to 221B Con made one thing very clear: all were welcome. I admittedly went in afraid that I would be considered too much of a "normie." I left, as I had pretty much do from many such adventures, with a handful of new friends and closer ties with existing ones.

## TAKING FLIGHT FROM A ROUGH LANDING

*Erica Fair*\*

I have a confession to make: BBC *Sherlock* is not really my jam. I've always been a fussy traditionalist about the Canon, so you can imagine that when I first heard of 221B Con, I disregarded it. That's fine for the fandom, I snobbed, but not for me. As such, despite the good reviews, I planned to spend April 2025 like I always did, at my work as a trial lawyer. I even accepted a major case for the weeks of 221B Con, which would foreclose any weekend fun, even at home.

Instead, I went to Dayton, three weeks before 221B Con, yet it seemed like every other question was, "Will I see you in Atlanta?" A surprisingly strong contingent of elder Sherlockians was committed to attending, not at all the folks I would have imagined. The younger Sherlockians were equally insistent, noting that this was potentially the last one, and I really shouldn't miss it. I began to regret my decision, but only the Court can reschedule a trial. For two more weeks, I shrugged ruefully, until by coincidence, nine days before 221B Con, the case was moved. The weekend of April 12-13 was back in my hands, and, not being one to question fate, I immediately made bookings.

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\* Erica Fair is an attorney and amateur historian in Minnesota. Twenty years passed from when she first read the Canon to when she joined her first scion, and she's eager to make up for lost time!

Unfortunately, because I had waited so long, everything was now catastrophically expensive. “I really think you should stay at the hotel,” my closest friend urged. But my old pal Google Maps showed another hotel just one lot west. Why pay triple the price when I could just pack a bag and walk over each day? A little exercise wouldn’t kill me.

What I didn’t realize is that the 221B Con hotel, including the entire parking lot, is surrounded by a chainlink fence that is utterly unscalable.<sup>4</sup> What looked online to be a three-minute jaunt was in fact a 15- to 20-minute haul over uneven ground each day, around the whole perimeter, to the far side of the property entrance. I could hike the unlit highway shoulder to the north, traffic racing by at 60 mph, or I could try the jagged sidewalks to the south, dragging my wheeled backpack past forest debris and signs proclaiming a “Drug-Free Zone.”<sup>5</sup> All this for a show that I didn’t even like!

The moment I arrived, though, I realized that this was the place to be. I was embraced at the door by many of my favorite Sherlockians, and got a whirlwind tour from the wonderful Madeline Quiñones. My first and biggest impression was amazement at how seamlessly old and new could blend into one cohesive experience. On one hand, I had the traditional fun of seeing several familiar faces and reconnecting with the elders, getting up early for Waffle House and chatting about books over dinner. On the other, I got to see a whole new side of Sherlockiana: the fans that I had disgracefully dismissed. They are more than fans; they are artists, crafters, creators, performers, and people who are gifted with tremendous creativity and skill, just expressed by media other than mere words. Somehow this was an epiphany for me.

At the dealer’s room, instead of aging books and literary artifacts, there were corsetiers, sticker artists, even a radio station that sold flash drives of its performances. This was not a place for collectors and checklists, but an open art museum to find those items that called out and fascinated you with their uniqueness. I left with dozens of trinkets I never would have had the imagination or expertise to create.

Even better, there was an open trade table, where everything from traditional tomes to craft packs to polished rocks soared across the table in an endless whirlpool of regifting. Among other treats, I got my first two volumes of Solar Pons there (*Reminiscences* and *Return*). Whoever tossed those two yellowed chapbooks into the feeding frenzy, I can’t thank you enough. I also picked up a sketchbook, but having no visual talent whatsoever, I started

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<sup>4</sup> Of course I tried; I even got a skinned knee for my trouble.

<sup>5</sup> Two days later, I found a shortcut where someone had pulled up the fence from below, and with a bit of enterprising spirit, I could wriggle through.

asking everyone I met to sign it like a yearbook, and within hours, my pages were full of doodles, doggerel, and digits between notes on the panels and ideas for new Sherlockian projects. Wherever I was, I was having the time of my life.

Inspiration and energy were the dominant themes of the con, more than any Sherlockian event I'd ever attended. A well-rounded choice of panels gave countless options for wackiness, sincerity, or both, and I was even blessed to attend a medical panel hosted by two physicians and writers, blending two of my favorite disciplines. The prom party was also superb, and despite having gotten up at 6 a.m. for Waffle House, I danced all night, belting out "Defying Gravity" with the rest of the crowd until I literally lost my voice. I am an introvert of introverts, and yet there was something intoxicating about being in a place with so much enthusiasm and joy. I just couldn't hold back. Everything about Con excited me, and I can't recall the last time I slept so little but had so much energy.

On the final morning, I awoke from the party still chipper and over the moon. I shimmied back under the fence and learned from a crowd of hungover pals that that I had picked up a nickname that weekend. Uh oh, I thought, here it comes: Manic? Annoying? Squee? I clearly had earned them all. "Hummingbird!" Joanna sang out with a grin. For a moment, I was almost overcome. Where else in the world would my hysterical excitement and sleepless zeal not just be accepted, but embraced? This was a love and a welcome that I had never experienced in my life, and all after I had been so rude and disdainful towards Con. To this day, hummingbirds hold a special place in my heart and office décor, a reminder to show kindness to everyone.

I went from slightly rolling my eyes on Thursday, to bawling them out on Sunday when it was time to leave. I cried the whole way to the airport! I am so relieved to say that I was completely wrong about 221B Con. It's not about a particular interpretation of Holmes or ignoring traditions. It's about energy and creativity, the joy of new expressions, and expanding the circle of the best people on Earth, Sherlockians. What a gift that this special place will continue to exist and flourish. I will absolutely be back!

... but next time, I'll definitely stay at the on-site hotel.

### FOR FURTHER READING

A collection of reports from the Baker Street Babes on the very first 221B Con in 2013: [bakerstreetbabes.com/221b-con-round-up/](http://bakerstreetbabes.com/221b-con-round-up/).

A report on 221B Con 2014 by Bob Stek: [ihearofsherlock.com/2014/04/221b-con-fandom-in-its-infinite-variety.html](http://ihearofsherlock.com/2014/04/221b-con-fandom-in-its-infinite-variety.html).

Madeline Quiñones's report on her first Con, 2022: [astudyinimagination.wordpress.com/tag/221b-con-recap/](https://astudyinimagination.wordpress.com/tag/221b-con-recap/).

Rob Nunn's report on his first Con, 2024: [interestingthough elementary.blogspot.com/2024/04/in-town-of-atlanta-yell.html](https://interestingthough elementary.blogspot.com/2024/04/in-town-of-atlanta-yell.html). And also his report on his second, 2025: [interestingthough elementary.blogspot.com/2025/04/221b-con-wrap-up.html](https://interestingthough elementary.blogspot.com/2025/04/221b-con-wrap-up.html).

Brad Keefauver has been attending 221B Con from the beginning, and writes about his experiences there every year that he's gone. You can find the posts about Con by going to the archives and looking up the April posts. [sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/](https://sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com/). In 2023, he collected his existing blogposts into a book called *The 221B Con Decade: Notes from a 221B Con Fan*, privately printed a limited amount of copies, and distributed them at Con. This first edition is now rare, but there is a new second edition available for purchase on Amazon: [amazon.com/dp/B0GQSRVN4N](https://amazon.com/dp/B0GQSRVN4N).

## FOR FURTHER LISTENING

*The Baker Street Babes*: The Babes hosted many panels at 221B Con from 2013 to 2019. The following panels were recorded and uploaded to the podcast:

2013: An interview with Cara McGee: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-9-221b-con-live-with-cara-mcgee/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-9-221b-con-live-with-cara-mcgee/).

2013: Watsons Through Time: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/221b-con-watsons-through-time/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/221b-con-watsons-through-time/).

2014: Ashley Polasek and Sherlockian Film Through the Ages (this is the panel at which Ashley becomes a Baker Street Babe): [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/221b-con-live-with-ashley-polasek/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/221b-con-live-with-ashley-polasek/).

2014: From Baker Street to the Holodeck: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-11-from-baker-street-to-the-holodeck/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-11-from-baker-street-to-the-holodeck/).

2014: From House to Psych: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-13-from-house-to-psych-2/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-13-from-house-to-psych-2/).

2015: Live with Ben Syder: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-14-221b-con-live-with-ben-syder/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-14-221b-con-live-with-ben-syder/).

2016: Live with David Nellist: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-15-221b-con-live-with-david-nellist/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/special-15-221b-con-live-with-david-nellist/).

2017: Martin Powell Live: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/episode-80-martin-powell-live-at-221b-con/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/episode-80-martin-powell-live-at-221b-con/).

2018: Nancy Springer Live: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/episode-83-nancy-springer-221b-con/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/episode-83-nancy-springer-221b-con/).

2018: The Many Faces of Irene Adler: [bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/episode-84-the-many-faces-of-irene-adler/](https://bakerstreetbabes.com/podcast/episode-84-the-many-faces-of-irene-adler/).

*Dynamics of a Podcast:* Madeline Quiñones and Dixie Parkinson host live podcast panels at Con and record recaps. All Con episodes can be found here: [dynamicsofapodcast.com/tag/221b-con/](https://dynamicsofapodcast.com/tag/221b-con/). Interview with Crystal Noll and Heather Holloway in 2025: [dynamicsofapodcast.com/2025/05/31/episode-35-221b-con-and-the-consulting-directors/](https://dynamicsofapodcast.com/2025/05/31/episode-35-221b-con-and-the-consulting-directors/). Interview with Johanna Draper Carlson and Heather Hinson in 2025: [dynamicsofapodcast.com/2025/08/23/episode-36-221b-con-and-the-new-directors/](https://dynamicsofapodcast.com/2025/08/23/episode-36-221b-con-and-the-new-directors/).

*I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere:* Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interview Crystal Noll and Heather Holloway about Con in 2019: [ihearofsherlock.com/2019/02/episode-163-221b-con.html](https://ihearofsherlock.com/2019/02/episode-163-221b-con.html). Scott and Burt interview Johanna Draper Carlson about Con right before the 2025 221B Con and *before* the announcement that Con would continue: [ihearofsherlock.com/2025/03/episode-307-evolution-of-221b-con.html](https://ihearofsherlock.com/2025/03/episode-307-evolution-of-221b-con.html).

*The Watsonian Weekly:* Brad Keefauver and Madeline Quiñones recap Con 2022: [watsonianweekly.libsyn.com/april-18-2022-the-221b-con-2022-report](https://watsonianweekly.libsyn.com/april-18-2022-the-221b-con-2022-report). An episode recorded entirely live at Con 2023, featuring Paul Thomas Miller: [watsonianweekly.libsyn.com/april-17-2023-our-221b-con-all-un-usable-nonsense-episode](https://watsonianweekly.libsyn.com/april-17-2023-our-221b-con-all-un-usable-nonsense-episode). Brad recaps Con 2025 on the ground in Atlanta with a full and literal round table: [watsonianweekly.libsyn.com/april-14-2025-the-221b-con-2025-round-up](https://watsonianweekly.libsyn.com/april-14-2025-the-221b-con-2025-round-up).

# IT WAS THE END OF AN ERA ... BUT THE START OF AN AGE

## A REPORT ON THE BSI BIRTHDAY WEEKEND 2026

*Madeline Quiñones\**

*Editors' note:* Yes, we know — this report covers events in early 2026, not 2025, and so it's a bit odd to put it in the 2026 *Baker Street Almanac* — a book about events of 2025. But we think it belongs here, just as Madeline's report on the 2025 Weekend belonged in the 2025 *BSA*.

**T**he BSI Birthday Weekend was celebrated early in January 2026, the earliest it's been held since 2023. January 6 (Sherlock's birthday) fell on a Tuesday. That was the day that many Sherlockians arrived in New York City, some to attend Ira Matetsky's "early bird" dinner, and some merely to get into town in good time before the ASH Wednesday dinner the following day.

Even now, some Sherlockians are beginning to call the Weekend the "BSI Birthday *Week*." We are indeed very close to that idea being true!

The weather, it must be said, was much more favorable this year than the previous January — although it should also be noted that winter resumed quickly in the northern part of the contiguous U.S. *after* Sherlockians returned home.

On Wednesday afternoon, Hal Glatzer continued his new tradition of live radio plays, this time with *Sherlock Holmes and the Nefarious Baron*.<sup>1</sup> As before, the play was performed at the Coffee House Club.

Some Sherlockians opted for a musical on Broadway that afternoon. Others simply gathered in the lobby of the Westin Grand Central and greeted friends as they arrived.

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes hosted the ASH Wednesday dinner at the Joyce Public House for the third year in a row, this time with slightly different table arrangements. A Sherlockian or two not on the RSVP list may have gatecrashed to socialize and order their drinks at the bar. Dinner ran long, but in the most pleasant company.

Eventually, dinner-goers filtered out to their homes, hotels, or Rosie Dunn's, the late-night center for Sherlockian conversation. However, the

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\* Madeline Quiñones, BSI ("Sir Joshua Reynolds"), runs the John H Watson Society and her own podcast (*Dynamics of a Podcast*). All photos are by Madeline. Copyright 2026 Madeline Quiñones.

<sup>1</sup> You can watch a recording on YouTube at [youtube.com/watch?v=JzfQLos594U](https://youtube.com/watch?v=JzfQLos594U).



Friends gather around one of the long tables at the Joyce Public House. Left to right: Crystal Noll (foreground), Evelyn Herzog, Mickey Fromkin, Heather Holloway, and Chris Zordan.

upstairs had unfortunately been reserved earlier for another party, and was shut that night, forcing Sherlockians to crowd at the back of the smaller first floor.

Thursday morning saw various small groups gather for breakfast, including the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane, who gathered at the Comfort Diner on 45th Street, just around the corner from Rosie's. Many Sherlockians find themselves describing the Weekend to friends and family as one long weekend of eating and drinking with friends, migrating from place to place to do so. But we must eat, and so meals are an easy way to spend extra time with one's Sherlockian family.

The first of the regular events that day was the Morley Walk, led by Jim Cox, resplendent in his new BSI scarf.

Ross Davies hosted the fifth annual ACD Society Doylean Honors at The Mysterious Bookshop,<sup>2</sup> though not before yours truly heckled him briefly, to his amusement. Notably, Margie Deck, already a repeat winner, won again in the "Fiction and Poetry" category for her anthology *Sherlock Holmes Into the Fire*.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> A full listing of the awards can be found at [acdsociety.com/](http://acdsociety.com/).

<sup>3</sup> The book can be purchased on Amazon at [a.co/d/bCdSCsq](http://a.co/d/bCdSCsq).

Then it was time for the Wessex Cup, the toy horse race, MC'd this year by Ed Pettit. The wooden horses this year came from an artist in Ukraine, and each wore a special blanket. Karen Ellery won with her horse "Garnet," and claimed victory for the Tea Brokers.<sup>4</sup> Ashley Polasek's "Unfortunate Pony" maintained his losing streak, limping his way to becoming a legend in the miniature world of Sherlockian toy horse racing.

Many Sherlockians, whether attending the ACD Society event or the Morley Walk, end up in McSorley's Old Ale House for lunch, where the back room overflows with Sherlockians. But some opt for other venues. One such gathering is a resurrection of Christopher Morley's Three Hours for Lunch Club, and also goes by the name The Lunch of Steele, in honor of illustrator Frederic Dorr Steele. Other gatherings are even smaller and more informal, to partake of desserts or fried pierogi.

After lunch, Matt Hall held a meeting of the Bowery Ruffians at the Swift Hibernian Lounge, some three blocks southwest of McSorley's. The toasts given at a meeting of the Bowery Ruffians must only be to Canonical villains, and any gathering of two or more Sherlockians in the Bowery (or any place with "Bowery" in the name) counts as a meeting. Among the various toasts, Carl Stix gave a toast asserting that Dr. Watson himself was a villain for not writing up more cases!

Also Thursday afternoon, the BSI hosted the *Baker Street Journal* reception, where the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award is announced. The award is given to the author of the best article in the *BSJ* each year, as determined by a panel of judges.<sup>5</sup> This year's winner was Fabienne Courouge, for her article "Edmond Locard, the Forensic Pioneer Inspired by Sherlock Holmes," which appeared in the Summer 2025 issue.

Thursday night is an interesting night. It is the only night from Wednesday to Saturday when there is not a large gathering for dinner. Once upon a time, for a few years, it was the home of the Baker Street Babes' charity ball. But the ball is now defunct, and the only major event currently is the BSI's Distinguished Speaker Lecture, at the New York City Bar Association.

Some out-of-town Sherlockians prefer to experience New York City on Thursday night. Others stick with the Lecture, and this Weekend, they were rewarded with what many agree to be one of the best Lectures ever, given by Rupert Holmes. This Holmes is perhaps best known for writing and performing the song "Escape," also known as "The Piña Colada Song."

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<sup>4</sup> The recording of the awards and the race can be found at [youtube.com/watch?v=SORQ3ojewdM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=SORQ3ojewdM), courtesy of the *Doings of Doyle* podcast.

<sup>5</sup> Learn more at [bakerstreetirregulars.com/2001/05/01/morley-montgomery-award/](https://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2001/05/01/morley-montgomery-award/).

*IT WAS THE END OF AN ERA ...*



Above: Ross Davies explains the rules of the Wessex Cup to a Mysterious Bookshop full of Sherlockians and Doyleans. Below: The first, third, and fourth winners of the Wessex Cup: Derrick Belanger, Bruce Harris, and this year's winner Karen Ellery.



Afterwards, everyone went separate ways for dinner. Both SPODE (the Society for the Prevention of Oysters Destroying the Earth) and the PSI (Praed Street Irregulars) took to the Grand Central Oyster Bar. Meanwhile, roughly two dozen Sherlockians opted for the nearby Red Flame Diner, an old standby.

Friday morning is host to many things. Some Sherlockians meet for coffee. Some Irregulars meet for breakfast with their classmates. Some hop on a Zoom call hosted by The Literary Agents — more specifically, Mark Jones and Ashley Polasek — where this year they discussed adaptations with four men who have adapted the Canon.<sup>6</sup> And, downtown, The Mysterious Bookshop hosts an open house, opening up the famous, mysterious basement to all Sherlockians who enter.

But at noon, Connolly's (West 45th Street) is host to the Gillette Luncheon. Shana Carter presides over the Luncheon. This year, there was an interesting twist to the proceedings, as the restaurant was hosting another event later, and the three courses were delivered rather more swiftly than usual.

Rob Nunn, one of the new judges for the Susan Rice Mentorship Award,<sup>7</sup> announced Burt Wolder as the 2026 recipient of that award. In a brief word to the audience, Burt recounted his initial surprise to receiving the news (recipients are told ahead of time), and added, "Susan was the whole lighthouse."

Skits are usually part of the program at the Gillette Luncheon. This year, Lee Shackleford took to the stage as a delightfully grumpy Professor Moriarty, with Tiffany Knight and Nick Martorelli as his minions in "An Honest Mistake." Said minions had accidentally kidnapped Walter Paget, portrayed by Paul Singleton and mistaken for Sherlock Holmes based in the *Strand* illustrations. It was technically quite a dark comedy, as it ends with the villains intending to murder the hapless Walter, but it was terrifically funny.

Mid-afternoon, about two dozen Sherlockians visited the Grolier Club, via the Facebook group for bibliophiles, the Pocket Petrarchs. The second-floor exhibit was *Paper Jane*, celebrating the life, work, and popularity of Jane Austen. One of the three curators, Mary Crawford (yes, that is her real name),<sup>8</sup> provided a tour through the exhibit. Both the catalogue<sup>9</sup> and a virtual tour<sup>10</sup> are available online.

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<sup>6</sup> You can watch the recording at [youtube.com/watch?v=Uqbeb1J-7kQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Uqbeb1J-7kQ).

<sup>7</sup> More info at [vincentstarrett.com/blog/susan-rice-mentorship-award](https://vincentstarrett.com/blog/susan-rice-mentorship-award).

<sup>8</sup> Mary Crawford is the name of a character in Austen's *Mansfield Park*.

<sup>9</sup> You can order the book from The University of Chicago Press at [press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/P/bo259411678.html](https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/P/bo259411678.html) or from Amazon at [a.co/d/aSXb03C](https://a.co/d/aSXb03C).

<sup>10</sup> View the collection here (and yes, the spelling at the end is correct for the URL): [grolierclub.omeka.net/exhibits/show/paper-jane--250-years-of-auste](https://grolierclub.omeka.net/exhibits/show/paper-jane--250-years-of-auste).



Above: Rob Nunn and Burt Wolder hug after Rob announces Burt as the recipient of the Susan Rice Mentorship Award. Below: Professor Moriarty embraces his minions before embarking upon a dastardly scheme. Left to right: Nick Martorelli, Lee Shackleford (Moriarty), and Tiffany Knight.



On such a busy day, evening came quickly, and with it, the BSI dinner and the Gaslight Gala. The Gala, open to all Sherlockians, is the alternative to the BSI Dinner. It was held again on the second floor of Annie Moore's, while the Dinner was held at the Yale Club.

For Sherlockians who could not attend the in-person festivities, Brad Keefauver hosted his fifth Dangling Prussian Virtual Pub Night on Zoom. Any Sherlockian who attends is inducted into the Montague Street Incurribles.

*IT WAS THE END OF AN ERA...*



Mary Crawford gives Sherlockians a tour through the Jane Austen exhibit she co-curated at the Grolier Club: Paper Jane.



The program this year included a live recording of the podcast *Sherlock Holmes Is Real* — the recording, however, was interrupted by news of investitures from New York, which was rather inconvenient since certain Sherlockians on the call had to remain in-character.<sup>11</sup> Sherlock Holmes may be real, but not all of the people on that podcast are!

But to rewind the evening a bit, six o'clock begins the cocktail hour for the BSI Dinner; Irregulars and guests gather on a different floor for drinks and mingling before dinner is served in the upstairs ballroom. This is when the honor of *The Woman* is announced; this year's *The Woman* is Ann Brauer Andriacco, the wife of Dan Andriacco (BSI, "St. Saviour's, Near King's Cross") and a formidable Sherlockian in her own right. Bob Sharfman (BSI, "Killer Evans") introduced her and gave her an affectionate and humorous toast. In her own remarks, Ann noted that she and Dan refer to Bob as "her boyfriend."

Ann has been the MC of the Gaslight Gala, but this time, she could not perform that duty, so Michael Pisapia stepped up to MC the Gala. Ann's honor was announced during the event, to much applause.

These days, the BSI dinner is a time for frippery and finery, and it's only right to name a few sartorial highlights. Tiffany Knight (BSI, "Knight's Place") wowed in a scarlet ensemble — gown, cape, and gloves. Monica Schmidt (BSI, "Julia Stoner") debuted a unique blue-grey tuxedo dress. Max Magee, not to be outdone by the women, wore a natty Barbie pink jacket and waistcoat — inadvertently matching Shana Carter (BSI, "Carter"), also clad in Barbie pink.

The ballroom was crowded, with many guests in attendance. Wiggins (Michael Kean, BSI, "General Charles Gordon") started the program; first on the agenda were the Eddies for Julie McKuras (BSI, "The Duchess of Devonshire") and Bill Mason (BSI, "White Mason") for *Irregular Chronicles of the Early 'Fifties*,<sup>12</sup> a new installment of the BSI archival history series. Fabienne Courouge was lauded as the Morley-Montgomery Award winner.

Tiffany Knight delivered a terrific and humorous reading of the Constitution and Buy-Laws.

And then it was time for the toasts.

Cindy Brown (BSI, "Sam Brown") toasted Mrs. Hudson. Jonathan Tie-mann (BSI, "The Bank of England") delivered a humorous toast to Mycroft which involved the elder Holmes betting on his younger brother's surviving

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<sup>11</sup> You can listen to the episode here: [sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com/the-footage-of-the-royal-murder-and-irregular-break-ins](http://sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com/the-footage-of-the-royal-murder-and-irregular-break-ins).

<sup>12</sup> You can purchase the book here: [bakerstreetirregulars.com/2026/01/13/irregular-chronicles-of-the-early-fifties/](http://bakerstreetirregulars.com/2026/01/13/irregular-chronicles-of-the-early-fifties/).

Moriarty and Moran. Jim Webb (BSI, "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes in Japan") toasted Watson's Second Wife. Jessica Schilling (BSI, "The Queen's Shilling") toasted Sherlock Holmes himself. And Dan Polvere (BSI, "Holloway and Steele") gave the Toast to an Old Irregular, Frederic Dannay, one half of the Ellery Queen writing duo.

After the dining had gone on for some time, Marsha Pollak (BSI, "A Small but Select Library") Stood Upon the Terrace to commemorate the ten Irregulars who had passed away in the previous year. Among the dearly departed was Dorothy Stix, the wife of Tom Stix, Jr., the first head of the BSI to use the handle "Wiggins." Dorothy had been invested in 1997 as "Martha."

Mark Jones (BSI, "Peter Jones") gave the first talk of the night, taking the audience through an alternate reality: what if Watson had never been wounded, and thus he and Holmes had never met? In a nutshell, Watson went on from glory to glory in his military service, while Holmes sank to crime. Mark has the knack of being a fine scholar who can also speak engagingly on a well-researched topic; his decision to deliver a humorous paper was entirely unexpected!

Andrew Fusco (BSI, "Athelney Jones") dove into the real location of Baskerville Hall, presenting compelling evidence that the estate was not in Dartmoor as written in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Alex Katz (BSI, "Sarasate") and Karen Wilson (BSI, "Bartholomew Wilson") delivered the musical entertainment, leading the crowd in the old Sherlockian classic "Aunt Clara," all seven verses.

Around 10 p.m., it was finally time for the most anticipated moment of the night: the Birthday Honours List. Michael Barton, the head and founder of the Noble Correspondents, was first invested into the Baker Street Irregulars as "Baron Von Herling."

Next came someone who was said to be part of the Sidney Passengers, an Australian society, which nailed the identity of the honoree in many people's minds. As the cheers swelled, Wiggins admonished the crowd to wait and let him finish: "The Earl of Maynooth" would be Matt Hall.

Linda Hein, one of the creators of Baker Street West in California and the Mrs. Hudson of the organization, was invested as "The Hotel Nationale."

The next honoree's love of theater was highlighted in her investiture, "The Haymarket Theatre": Jen Kneeland — she was also honored with a chant as she went up to the podium to receive her shilling.

There are many lawyers among Sherlockians, but there were few indeed in that room who were not already BSI and had practiced criminal law for nearly fifty years. Thus, it was no surprise when Rich Krisciunas was announced to be "William Morris."

From electrical engineer to software engineer, the investiture of “Cyril Morton” was given to Max Magee.

Rusty Mason is probably best known as the son of Steve Mason (BSI, “The Fortescue Scholarship”), but Rusty has quietly volunteered behind the scenes in many events and on many projects. Thus, his friends were glad to see his work recognized when he was invested as “John Mason.”

Ashley Mayo, of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, is one of those Sherlockians — or Holmesians — whose list of accomplishments is long, and so his investiture as “Capital and Counties Bank” is well-deserved.

The next Sherlockian was said to have ended her Canonical isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic via *Dynamics of a Podcast* ... which was a dead giveaway right away that yours truly was about to be invested. The investiture is “Sir Joshua Reynolds,” a famous portrait artist of the 18th century whom Holmes references in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Midwestern Sherlockians who know their history know that George Scheetz helped to found the Hansoms of John Clayton in Peoria, Illinois, so it was fitting that he be invested as “John Clayton.”

PJ Sullivan, the current editor for all Sherlockian society reports in the *Baker Street Almanac*, is involved with the Cornish Horrors of Rhode Island. She was given the fabulous investiture of “The Ancient Cornish Language.”

Tom Ue is the editor of *The Magic Door* (the journal of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection in the Toronto Public Library) and a professor at Cape Breton University in Nova Scotia. He rounded out this colorful cast of characters with the investiture “London University.”

After the investitures, Wiggins announced not one but two recipients for the Two Shilling Award, which is given to Irregulars for service above and beyond: Evelyn Herzog (BSI, “The Daintiest Thing Under a Bonnet”) and Denny Dobry (BSI, “A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room”).

And then Michael Kean had one more announcement to make. He said that he was stepping down as Wiggins, which was met with general dismay from the room (and someone protesting, “But you’re so good at it!”). Mr. Kean had become the head of the BSI in 2020 when Michael Whelan (BSI, “Vincent Spaulding”) stepped down from his long tenure. Six years on from that, he announced that he was handing the reins to Steve Doyle (BSI, “The *Western Morning News*”). This declaration was met with much more enthusiasm.

The room sang “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow” in honor of Michael Kean as Wiggins Emeritus, and then the new Wiggins adjourned the meeting.

After the dinner, many Irregulars and guests alike drift down to the second floor of the Yale Club, where the lounge and bar are located. It’s a pleasant place to rest or to mingle, and this is why Sherlockians at Rosie Dunn’s wait

so long for their compatriots to arrive from the club. But the Yale Club bar does close at midnight, and so anyone intending to stay out until 2:21 a.m. does have to make their way down to Rosie's.

Gift-giving is a time-honored tradition in Sherlockiana, going back as far as Logan Clendening giving Vincent Starrett his Sherlockian books after Starrett had been forced to sell his to make ends meet. There's a specific tradition of Irregulars passing down their BSI ties or rosette pins to friends who've just been invested. And sometimes, a BSI is simply glad to buy something for a fellow Irregular out of the BSI's little catalogue of merchandise.

But there is more to gift-giving than BSI merch. Since the Weekend happens so soon after Christmas, sometimes there are late Christmas presents. Sometimes there are birthday presents, early or belated. And sometimes, someone finds something which they know a friend just *has* to have. Books are common, but so are arts and crafts, jewelry, and knick-knacks. Sometimes the value is intrinsic; sometimes the value is sentimental. The gifts exchanged this Weekend included an adult coloring book for BBC *Sherlock*, a small ceramic squirrel, a novel by John Kendrick Bangs, a necklace that once belonged to Dorothy Stix, and some quirky cleaning cloths for eyeglasses. These last were fun and thoughtful gifts from Jacquelynn Bost Morris, and will now be treasured forever in light of her passing beyond the Reichenbach, just a few days after the Weekend.

The Merchants' Room on Saturday morning can be a venue for gift-buying and giving. It was held in the third-floor ballroom at the Westin this year, as the ballroom on the first floor — the usual space — was spoken for.

BSI Press had two special releases this year. The first was a paperback reprint of *Trenches: The War Service of Sherlock Holmes*, which is the entry in the manuscript series for "His Last Bow." The original hardcover run of *Trenches* had been sold out for a long time. The other release was a rather momentous occasion for lovers of Sherlockian history: *Irregular Chronicles of the Early 'Fifties*, a continuation of the BSI archival history series. The previous book, *Irregular Crises of the Late 'Forties* by Jon Lellenberg, had been published back in 1999. This new addition was edited by Julie McKuras and Bill Mason, picking up where Lellenberg had left off, and covers the first half of the 1950s.

Wessex Press also had new offerings, including *The Annotated Brigadier Gerard*,<sup>13</sup> edited by Colin Samuels, and *On the Shoulders of Giants: Great Sherlockians Remembered*,<sup>14</sup> edited by Rob Nunn and Peter Eckrich.

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<sup>13</sup> [wessexpress.com/products/the-annotated-brigadier-gerard](http://wessexpress.com/products/the-annotated-brigadier-gerard).

<sup>14</sup> You can purchase the book at [wessexpress.com/products/on-the-shoulders-of-giants-great-sherlockians-remembered](http://wessexpress.com/products/on-the-shoulders-of-giants-great-sherlockians-remembered), and listen to the IHOSE interview with Rob and Peter at [ihearofsherlock.com/2026/02/episode-328-on-shoulders-of-giants.html](http://ihearofsherlock.com/2026/02/episode-328-on-shoulders-of-giants.html).

*IT WAS THE END OF AN ERA...*



Above: Steve Doyle presides over the BSI Luncheon Reception as the new Wiggins.

Below: Peter Blau (right) passes on to Scott Monty his signature powder-blue blazer as he also passes on his auctioneer duties.



And Belanger Books' new releases included *The Essential Sherlock Holmes Volume Four*,<sup>15</sup> edited by Dan Andriacco, and Bob Sharfman's ... *but I digress: The Musings of a Sherlockian Motormouth*,<sup>16</sup> which sold out.

The BSI Luncheon Reception followed. And, much as the Merchants' Room was held on a different floor this time, so too was the reception — in the second-floor lounge. Here, Peter Blau presided over the auction to benefit the John H. Watson Fund, one last time, before announcing that he was stepping down from the role and that Scott Monty would be his successor. Peter said that he had no gavel to give Scott, but he did have his signature powder-blue blazer, which he put on Scott, to much applause.

Then Al and Betsy Rosenblatt, the dynamic dad/daughter duo, delivered their rhyming recap of the past year and the current Weekend.

Also, there was a drawing which benefitted the Watson Fund as well. The prize was a model of what a Bruce-Partington submarine might have looked like, created by Danna Mancini, and Ross Davies was the winner.

This was the last big event for some. Others moved on to kill time in-between private dinners or else Jerry and Chrys Kegley's *Lost* in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians. This year, Jerry and Chrys hosted *Lost* at Rosie Dunn's, having ... lost ... their old room at The Playwright the year before. The Kegleys announced that they may not be able to host next year, and if so, the duties will go to Chris Zordan, Crystal Noll, and Heather Holloway. But if it happens, this will be a one-off. Still, the news followed a general trend of change in the air!

After *Lost*, some Sherlockians who had been at other dinners returned to Rosie's and ended up shutting down the upstairs bar just shy of 2 a.m. It had been an eventful Weekend, and there was much to discuss!

The following morning saw Sherlockians piling into and packing the ASH Brunch at The Long Room on 44th Street. This is the last official event of the Weekend. Some attendees bring their luggage and head to the airports from the restaurant. A handful stick around all afternoon and into the evening. This time, some thought was put into a scion society to honor the last hangers-on.

The BSI Birthday Weekend 2026 was a weekend not to be forgotten for many reasons — some exciting, some joyful, and some somber. It serves as a reminder that the Weekend is not about the events, but about the people who run and support and attend them.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://a.co/d/02ORukKt>.

<sup>16</sup> You can purchase the book at <https://a.co/d/0eD5xtcR>, and listen to the IHOSE interview with Bob at [ihearofsherlock.com/2026/01/episode-326-but-i-digress.html](https://ihearofsherlock.com/2026/01/episode-326-but-i-digress.html).

*IT WAS THE END OF AN ERA...*



Above: Attendees chat one last time at The Long Room during the ASH Brunch. Left to right: Jake Dale, Ashley Polasek, Curtis Armstrong, Erica Fair, and Tom Gottwalt.

Below: Mark Jones catches the photographer at The Long Room during the ASH Brunch.



It is not 1895, but the Sherlockian community nevertheless survives.

FOR FURTHER READING AND LISTENING

Matt Hall's recap on his blog *221B Cooee*: [221bcooee.blogspot.com/2026/01/bsi-weekend-2026-summary.html](http://221bcooee.blogspot.com/2026/01/bsi-weekend-2026-summary.html).

Madeline Quiñones's personal recap on her blog *A Study in Imagination*: [astudyinimagination.wordpress.com/2026/03/18/i-said-remember-this-moment-the-bsi-weekend-2026-pt-1/](http://astudyinimagination.wordpress.com/2026/03/18/i-said-remember-this-moment-the-bsi-weekend-2026-pt-1/).

*I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*: Scott Monty and Burt Wolder recap the Weekend: [ihearofsherlock.com/2026/01/episode-327-2026-bsi-weekend-in-review.html](http://ihearofsherlock.com/2026/01/episode-327-2026-bsi-weekend-in-review.html).

*Dynamics of a Podcast*: Madeline and guest Rob Nunn recap the Weekend: [dynamicsofapodcast.com/2026/02/22/episode-42-bsi-birthday-weekend-2026-pt-1/](http://dynamicsofapodcast.com/2026/02/22/episode-42-bsi-birthday-weekend-2026-pt-1/).

# THE BSI WEEKEND 2022 REPORT

*Ira Brad Matetsky\**

*Editors' note:* We have a bonus flashback BSI Weekend report!

*Author's Note:* In January 2022, I was asked to prepare a write-up summarizing the events of that year's BSI/Birthday Weekend. This was an unusual and very special BSI Weekend, because Sherlockians were able to gather again in New York after almost two years when in-person events could not be held during the pandemic. Due to another publication's space limitations, this detailed event report was not published as originally planned in 2022. So that it not be lost to history, *The Baker Street Almanac* has graciously agreed to publish it here. Please note that this report was written in 2022 and that predictions for the future, references to BSI investitures, and so forth have not been updated to reflect later events.<sup>1</sup>

The Baker Street Irregulars and the Sherlockian community celebrated Sherlock Holmes' 168th birthday in New York from January 12 to 16, 2022. This year's official BSI Weekend events were held in person, after the 2021 events were moved online due to the coronavirus pandemic. Everyone understood that some Sherlockians would be unable or unwilling to travel to New York this year given the ongoing public health situation. Steps were taken to make the events as safe as possible for those who did attend. Among other things, attendees had to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination as required both by New York City health regulations and by the BSI.

The event locations reflected changes that the past two years have wrought upon New York City. The BSI Dinner and the Saturday Luncheon Reception took place at the Yale Club of New York, as they have for more than a decade, but the Distinguished Speaker Lecture and Merchants' Room were relocated from the Roosevelt Hotel, which closed permanently in 2020. Fortunately, a satisfactory substitute location was found at the Westin Hotel Grand Central, located on East 42nd Street about four blocks from the Yale Club. Many Sherlockians were also disappointed that O'Lunney's, the long-time location of the annual "Lost in New York" Sat-

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\* Ira Brad Matetsky is "The Final Problem" in the Baker Street Irregulars.

<sup>1</sup> Other important accounts of the 2022 BSI Weekend were authored by Michael Dirda ("Langdale Pike"), "Sherlock Holmes Through the Eyes of an Ultimate Fan," *The Washington Post*, Jan. 26, 2022, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/books/2022/01/26/sherlock-holmes-through-eyes-an-ultimate-fan/>; and Ray Betzner ("The Agony Column"), "BSI Weekend 2022," <https://www.vincentstarrett.com/blog/2022/1/21/bsi-weekend-2022>

urday dinner and a frequent post-event gathering place, also closed its doors in 2020. On the brighter side, many familiar Sherlockian watering-holes, such as the Grand Central Oyster Bar, the Red Flame Diner, and Pete's Tavern, appear to have weathered the pandemic storm.

## OFFICIAL BSI EVENTS

The Baker Street Irregulars sponsored four major events during the Weekend. The first of these was Thursday evening's Distinguished Speaker Lecture, coordinated by Les Klinger ("The Abbey Grange"). This year's Distinguished Speaker was Mary Bendel-Simso, a professor of English at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland whose expertise includes the history of detective and mystery fiction, African-American literature, and literature by women authors. Dr. Bendel-Simso and a previous Distinguished Speaker, the late Leroy Lad Panek, co-edited *The Westminster Detective Library, Essential Elements of the Detective Story 1820-1891*, and *Early American Detective Stories: An Anthology*. Dr. Bendel-Simso's talk discussed relationships between private detectives and the official police, both in Victorian (pre-Sherlock Holmes) detective fiction and throughout the Sherlockian Canon.<sup>2</sup>

The BSI Dinner was held at the Yale Club on Friday evening, January 14, 2022. The evening of each year's Dinner begins with a cocktail reception that includes the presentation of the year's honoree as *The Woman*. Because last year's *The Woman* presentation took place online, James Saunders ("The Beryl Coronet") presented a corsage for 2021's honoree, Nina Capone Singleton, which was accepted on her behalf by her husband, Paul Singleton ("Covent Garden"). The BSI's Wiggins, Michael Kean ("General Charles Gordon"), then announced 2022's *The Woman*, Dr. Jennifer Olson, the spouse of Dr. Richard Sveum ("Dr. Hill Barton"). She and a dozen past honorees went on to enjoy the annual *The Women* dinner at the Yale Club.

The BSI Dinner was chaired by Michael Kean — his second time chairing the Dinner, but the first time he was able to do so in person. About 130 invested Irregulars and invited guests were present; and all of the Dinner's traditions — some dating back to the early Dinners of the 1930s and others of more recent vintage — were observed.

During the program, the co-publishers of the BSI Press, John Bergquist ("The King of Scandinavia") and Robert Katz ("Dr. Ainstree"), recognized

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<sup>2</sup> The talk was published as Mary M. Bendel-Simso, "My Dear Watson, ... the Law Is at Least as Dangerous to Us as the Criminals Are": Sherlock Holmes and the Official Police," *The Baker Street Journal*, vol. 72, no. 1 (Spring 2022), pp. 6-22.

the editors of this year's BSI Press publications by presenting them with the coveted "Eddie" awards. Eddies were presented to Alexander Katz ("Sarasate") and Karen Wilson, editors of *Referring to My Notes: Music and the Sherlockian Canon*, the latest volume in the Professions Series; and to Ross Davies ("The Temple"), editor of *A Masterpiece of Villainy*, the volume featuring "The Adventure of the Norwood Builder" in the Manuscript Series. Next, Steven Rothman ("*The Valley of Fear*"), editor of *The Baker Street Journal*, presented this year's Morley-Montgomery Award. This award, created in 1958, honors the author of the best article appearing in the *Journal* during the preceding year. This year's winner was Russell Merritt, whose article "The Doubleday Omnibus Edition: 'The Madman's Sherlock Holmes'" appeared in the Spring 2021 issue.

The BSI's Constitution and Buy-Laws were read by Christopher Zordan ("Bunsen Burner"). The canonical toasts were then drunk by Pasquale Accardo ("Gorgiano of the Red Circle") to Mrs. Hudson; by Andrew Solberg ("Professor Coram") to Mycroft Holmes; by Lynn Walker ("The Long Island Cave Mystery") to Dr. Watson's Second Wife; by Michael Dirda ("Langdale Pike") to Sherlock Holmes; and to an Old Irregular, Basil Davenport ("Thor Bridge"), by Peter Blau ("Black Peter"). The call-and-response of the Musgrave Ritual was led by Mickey Fromkin ("The Missing Three-Quarter").

During 2021, the BSI sadly bid farewell to eight Irregulars who passed away during the year. Marsha Pollak ("A Small But Select Library") presented tributes as we stood on the Terrace for our departed friends and colleagues:

Warren Randall ..... January 26, 2021  
 Jon L. Lellenberg ..... April 24, 2021  
 Peter J. Crupe ..... August 14, 2021  
 J. Randolph Cox ..... September 14, 2021  
 Philip R. Brogdon ..... September 30, 2021  
 Allan Devitt ..... October 17, 2021  
 Michael F. Whelan ..... October 25, 2021  
 Mark Levy ..... October 30, 2021

Otto Penzler ("The King of Bohemia") then spoke in memory of his long-time friend Mike Whelan, who served as the BSI's Wiggins from 1998 until 2020 and as Wiggins Emeritus since January 2020. Michael Kean announced that Whelan's investiture of "Vincent Spaulding" has been permanently retired, joining the ranks of Christopher Morley ("*The Sign of the Four*"), Edgar W. Smith ("*The Hound of the Baskervilles*"), Julian Wolff

(“The Red-Headed League”), Thomas L. Stix Jr. (“The Norwood Builder”), and Vincent Starrett (“*A Study in Scarlet*”).

The two talks presented at this year’s Dinner both involved important Irregulars of the past and their participation in the BSI, and in particular at BSI Dinners. Raymond Betzner (“The Agony Column”) discussed Vincent Starrett. Betzner is a leading authority on Starrett who has written extensively on Starrett’s life and works, including on his “Studies in Starrett” website. His talk sought to answer the question why Starrett, after having attended the first BSI Dinner in 1934, never attended another one. Betzner presented a compelling explanation as to why Starrett was unable to travel to New York, while emphasizing that he remained dedicated to the BSI and the Sherlockian world throughout his life. Starrett remained an active Sherlockian in his home city of Chicago, where he helped found the Hounds of the Baskerville (*sic*), a group Starrett sometimes referred to as the “Chicago Irregulars.”<sup>3</sup>

Ira Brad Matetsky (“The Final Problem”) spoke about the participation of Rex Stout (“The Boscombe Valley Mystery”) at BSI Dinners, beginning with Stout’s unexpected “Watson Was a Woman” talk at the 1941 and continuing over the next 25 years. Over the years, Stout served as the M.C. at eight BSI Dinners and presented toasts or gave remarks at many others. Matetsky also noted that Stout received the BSI’s first Two Shilling Award in 1962 — sixty years ago — and that his wife Pola Stout, an internationally known fabric designer, was named *The Woman* in 1966, before Stout presided over that night’s BSI Dinner for what turned out to be the last time.<sup>4</sup>

Henry Boote (“Meyers, Toronto”) sang and played the piano for a musical interlude that featured his song “The Gold Queen’s Revenge,” which rewrote the lyrics of Paul Simon’s “Bridge over Troubled Water” to cover the events of “The Problem of Thor Bridge.”

Investitures were the next item on the program. Michael Kean began by recognizing the ten members of the BSI Class of 2021. These members were invested at last year’s virtual BSI Dinner, but Wiggins was now able to introduce them to the live audience so they could hear their fellow Irregulars’ applause and congratulations. Wiggins then announced this year’s investitures, presenting Irregular shillings to:

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<sup>3</sup> This talk was published as Ray Betzner, “Vincent Starrett and the Mystery of the Missed BSI Dinners,” *The Baker Street Journal*, vol. 72, no. 2 (Summer 2022), pp. 38-41.

<sup>4</sup> An expanded version of this talk was published as Ira Brad Matetsky, “Rex Stout: Sherlockian,” *The Baker Street Journal*, vol. 72, no. 4 (Winter 2022), pp. 30-56.

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Laurence Deloison.....     | “Claridge’s Hotel”          |
| Heather Holloway.....      | “Atlanta”                   |
| Jim Hawkins.....           | “The Hans Sloane of My Age” |
| David Humphries.....       | “Chicago Central”           |
| Timothy Johnson.....       | “Theophilus Johnson”        |
| Mark Jones .....           | “Peter Jones”               |
| Tiffany Knight.....        | “Knight’s Place”            |
| Crystal Noll .....         | “Crystal Palace”            |
| Rob Nunn.....              | “Elementary”                |
| Aaron Rubin.....           | “The Amethyst Snuffbox”     |
| Jonathan Tiemann.....      | “The Bank of England”       |
| Janice Weiner .....        | “Scotland Yard”             |
| Karen Wilson .....         | “Bartholomew Wilson”        |
| Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves ... | “Toby”                      |

The 14 shillings conferred this year represent the largest investiture class since 1991. Joyful cheers and shouts of congratulations from friends and colleagues rang out as Wiggins called up each member of this accomplished, diverse group of Sherlockians.

Next, Michael Kean named Marsha Pollak as this year’s winner of the BSI’s highest honor, the Two-Shilling Award. Among her other Sherlockian activities, Kean cited Pollak’s leadership of the BSI oral history program, her work as Series Editor for the BSI Press Professions Series, and her presentation of the annual Terrace ceremonies. The Dinner closed with the reading of Vincent Starrett’s immortal sonnet “221B” by Marina Stajic (“Curare”).

On Saturday morning, January 15, 2022, the BSI presented “Covent Garden West,” also known as “the Merchants’ Room,” at the Westin Hotel Grand Central. More than a dozen vendors were present to sell Sherlockian books, ephemera, and miscellany. Ralph Hall (“Smack! Smack! Smack!”) and Debbie Hall coordinate this important feature of each year’s Weekend.

The program of official BSI events closed with a buffet luncheon at the Yale Club on Saturday afternoon, January 14, 2022. The luncheon program included further recognition of this year’s BSI investees as well as the past and present recipients of *The Woman* honor. Also during the luncheon, Curtis Armstrong (“An Actor and a Rare One”) announced the creation of an annual award in memory of Susan Rice (“Beeswing”), to be presented for outstanding achievement in Sherlockian mentoring. This year’s inaugural winner was Peter Blau.

An auction led by Blau and a ticket-raffle raised thousands of dollars for the Watson Fund, which helps Sherlockians needing financial assistance to attend the Birthday Weekend. On behalf of the BSI, Blau thanked the bid-

ders and ticket-buyers, as well as all of those who donated the materials that were auctioned and raffled. Albert Rosenblatt (“Inspector Bradstreet”) and Betsy Rosenblatt (“Lucy Ferrier”) then read their annual poetic tribute to the events of the past Sherlockian year.

## SOME OTHER EVENTS

Events at the BSI Weekend are by no means limited to those organized by the BSI.

For many years, the extended Sherlock Holmes Birthday “Weekend” — which now spans five days, from Wednesday evening to Sunday afternoon — has begun with an informal ASH Wednesday event, sponsored by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes. Ira Matetsky served as this year’s dinner coordinator. On Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 60 Sherlockians gathered for at Annie Moore’s Restaurant for an informal dinner, drinks, and the pleasures of each other’s company again after two years apart.

On Thursday morning, The ACD Society (founded 2021) — “a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle” — held its inaugural Doylean Honors event at Otto Penzler’s Mysterious Bookshop. The Society presented awards for Doylean excellence in four categories: Performing and Visual Arts, Fiction and Poetry, Scholarly Writing, and Lifetime Service. The ceremony was helmed by Ross Davies (“The Temple”) working with selection committee chairs Monica Schmidt (“Julia Stoner”), Derrick Belanger, and Cliff Goldfarb (“Fordham, the Horsham Lawyer”). The award winners for Performing and Visual Arts were Bonnie MacBird (“Art in the Blood”), Daniel Henocq, and Peggy Perdue (“Violet Westbury”); for Fiction and Poetry, Stephen Gallagher, Barbara Rusch (“The Mazarin Stone”), and Gretchen Altabef; for Scholarly Writing, Stephen Carver, Douglas Kerr, and Shawna Ross; and for Lifetime Service, Christopher Roden (“Sir Henry Baskerville”).<sup>5</sup>

A very special highlight of this year’s BSI Weekend was the opening of Glen Miranker’s (“The Origin of Tree Worship”) exhibit “Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects” at the Grolier Club. This extraordinary exhibit was open in New York from January 13 to April 16, 2022 before moving to other cities. Copies of the exhibition catalog remain available for purchase at the club or online.

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<sup>5</sup> Further information on the ACD Society and on the award-winners’ achievements can be found on the Society’s website, <http://acdsociety.com>, where a video of the awards presentation is also available.

Food, drink, and Sherlockian camaraderie are the focus of numerous gatherings extending well beyond official activities. Many Sherlockians have a tradition of getting together with a group of friends during each year's Weekend, and were pleased that after having to skip 2021, they were able to gather again in 2022. On Saturday night, January 15, Jerry Kegley ("Nathan Garrideb") and Chrys Kegley ("Rachel Howells") hosted the resumed "Lost in New York with a Bunch of Sherlockians" gathering, held this year at a new venue, Playwrights' Tavern.

Another growing tradition is the annual dinner of SPODE — "Sherlockians Presenting Oysters from Destroying the Earth" — held this year at the Grand Central Oyster Bar on Thursday evening, January 13. As reported by the group's Headboard, Steven Doyle ("The Western Morning News"), this group was inspired by Sherlock Holmes' question in "The Dying Detective": "Shall the world, then, be overrun by oysters?" Holmes answered his own question by crying "No, no; horrible!" Doyle adds:

Seeing our Sherlockian duty before us, SPODE was formally organized and recognized as a scion society of The Baker Street Irregulars in 2018. But as with anything as epic as SPODE, the origins are murky ... beginning years earlier when approximately six Sherlockians went to dinner during the BSI Weekend in New York, dining at the Oyster Bar at Grand Central Station. As things do, this casual dinner grew over the years until, following an astounding 2017 mention in the *Times* of London, a need to formalize and regularize the proceedings was urgently needed.

Once again, we sat down to help rid the world of oysters, this year on Thursday, January 13. "You and I, Watson, we have done our part," said Sherlock Holmes himself, and so did our society. A robust twenty-three members observed all the rites and rituals associated with the annual dinner, which...uh, are basically eating oysters and drinking beer. SPODE is limited to a strict 25 seats at the dinner, but our membership has grown beyond this limit, and this dinner saw eight new members join our ranks, each receiving the individually hand-crafted SPODE pin, created by our own society artist Regina Stinson. Toward the end of the evening, when the generally rowdy table-talk had been somewhat quieted by the richness of the feast, SPODE officially recognized three new SPODE scion societies, 'The Black Pearl of the Borgias' of Baltimore, 'LORE' of Williamsburg, Va., and 'Slurp! Slurp! Slurp!' of Philadelphia. Indeed, SPODE is propagating as quickly as oysters themselves. It was a wonderful evening of gastronomic fellowship."

A relatively new idea, but one that may become a tradition, is gatherings of BSI classmates. In 2020, all nine members of the BSI Class of 2019 met over breakfast to celebrate with their classmates on the first anniversary of their investitures. This year, the Class of 2019 breakfasted together again on Friday morning, as did the Class of 2021, celebrating together in person for the first time. (The latter group, given their unique circumstances, rebranded themselves as the Class of 2021B.) There are rumors that other classes or class groups may follow suit during future Weekends.

While Friday evening featured the BSI Dinner, the Sherlockian community did not ignore those who were not attending the Dinner. Although the Gaslight Gala, an alternative dinner often held at the same time as the BSI Dinner, was not held this year, an online alternative was organized by Brad Keefauver (“Winwood Reade”) and Madeline Quiñones. This group christened themselves the Montague Street Incurrigibles, and many attendees proudly displayed online the certificates proclaiming that they are “incurrigible, and [Mrs. Watson] has given [them] notice.”

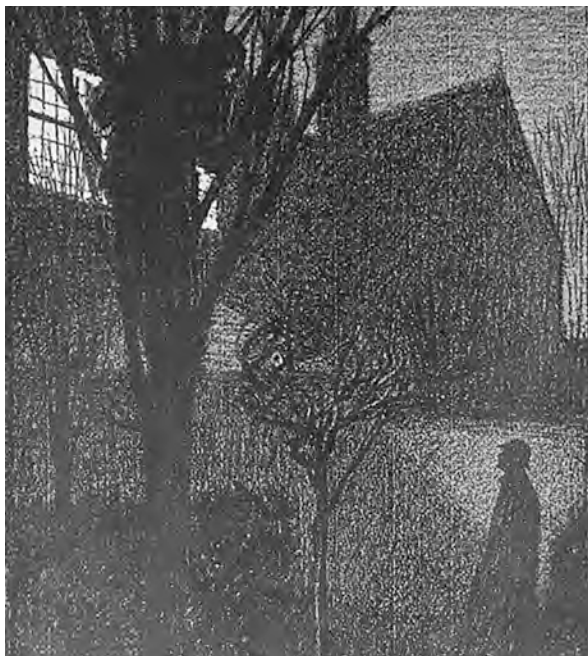
Another important feature of the BSI Weekend, the William Gillette Memorial Luncheon, was not held this year because a suitable venue could not be found for the hundreds of Sherlockians who attend this gathering each year. A luncheon organized by Shana Carter at the Taylor Public House was one available alternative in 2022, with the Gillette Luncheon planned to resume in 2023.

On Sunday morning, January 16, 2022, The Literary Agents (founded 2020) — “the Rick’s Café of the Doylean-Sherlockian World” — held their second annual meeting on Zoom. Hosted by co-founders Mark Jones and Ashley Polasek (“Singlestick”), it featured a panel discussion about “Conan Doyle’s India,” with panelists Sumal Surendranath, Paul M. Chapman, and Donny Zaldin (“John Hector Macfarlane”). Polasek also interviewed Xander Sobecki on archery-related aspects of Conan Doyle’s *The White Company*.<sup>6</sup>

The extended Birthday Weekend concludes each year with a Sunday Brunch, also hosted by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, in the persons of Tamar Zeffren (“The London Library”) and Tiffany Knight. About 40 Sherlockians attended this year’s brunch at The Long Room, where they bid goodbye to their friends until they would see them again, whether at an upcoming scion meeting, at the BSI’s “Empire Conference” in July, or at the next BSI Weekend in January 2023.

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<sup>6</sup> A recording of this event is accessible online at [www.doingsofdoyle.com](http://www.doingsofdoyle.com)



## AN INVITATION TO ANNOTATE

*Ira Brad Matetsky*

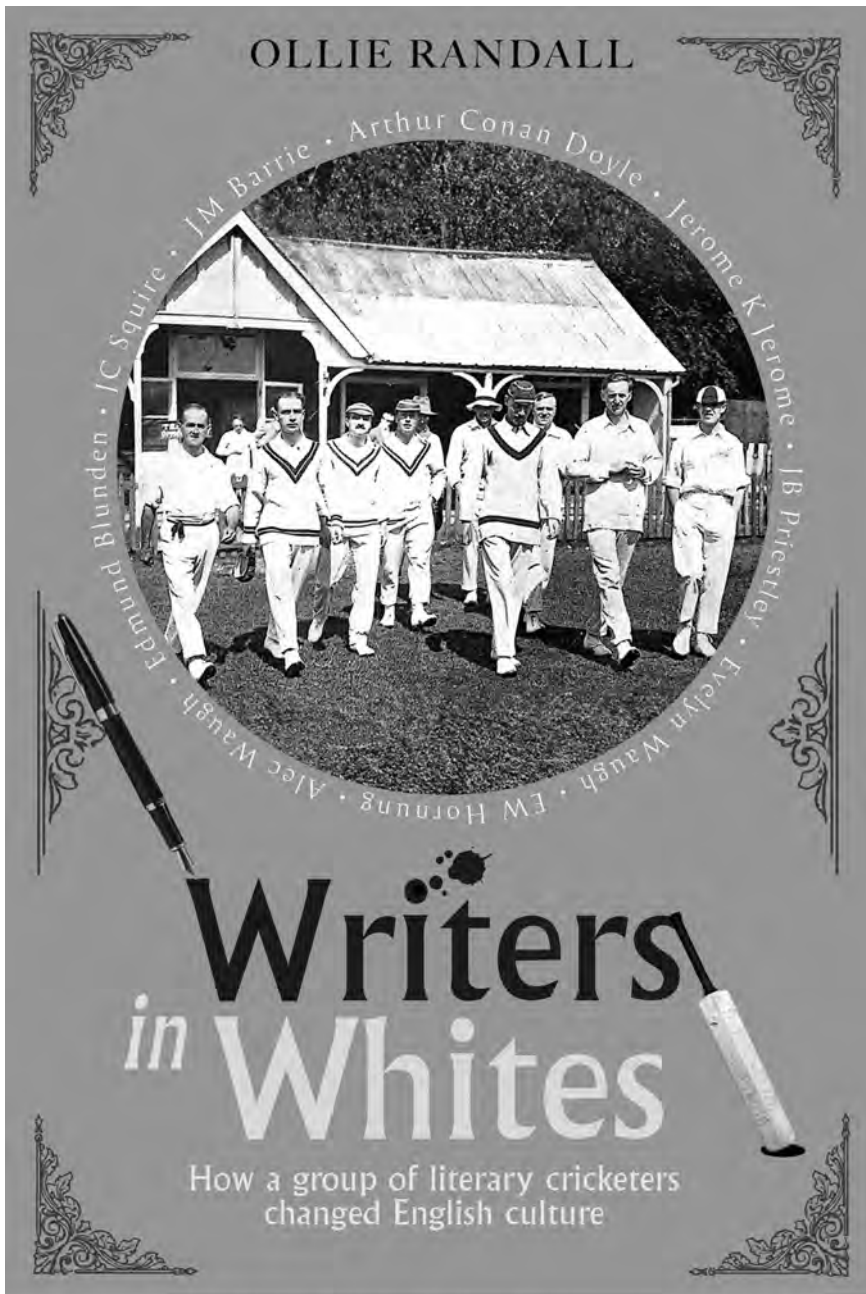
Next year's *Baker Street Almanac* will feature a new annotated edition of "The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge." This will be the eighth canonical tale annotated in this *Almanac* and its predecessor. The prior stories that received *Almanac* treatment were "The Norwood Builder" and "The Reigate Squire" (in *The Green Bag Almanac and Reader* for 2015 and 2016) and "The Card-board Box," "The Priory School," "The Abbey Grange," "The Stockbroker's Clerk," and "The Beryl Coronet" (in *The Baker Street Almanac* for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024). Copies of all these prior annotated editions can be found on the *Green Bag's* website, [www.greenbag.org](http://www.greenbag.org). We will continue annotating the Canon until we have dealt with every story, which should keep us busy for most of the 21st century. Once we're done, our successors will surely begin the cycle again.

Volunteer WIST annotators are welcome (let's not always see the same hands!). You may offer to write a note about a specific passage, or ask us to assign one to you. If you are interested, please e-mail [irabrad221b@gmail.com](mailto:irabrad221b@gmail.com) to let us know, preferably by September 1, 2026.

*"Annotate if convenient — if inconvenient, annotate all the same."*



ADVENTURES  
&  
DIVERSIONS



Front cover of *Writers in Whites* (2026), by Ollie Randall. Image courtesy of Fairfield Books.

# ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE AND CRICKET

## THE SUBTEXT OF WISTERIA LODGE

Ollie Randall\*

*Editors' note:* The author has a new book out (look to the left) that's all about writers and cricket. Arthur Conan Doyle plays a leading role. Here is an hors d'oeuvre.

### A CRICKET FANATIC

That Arthur Conan Doyle was a keen cricketer is a well-known fact. Yet the full depth of his passion for the game is only rarely appreciated. We are talking about a man who delayed his honeymoon in order to go on a cricket tour straight after his wedding in 1885; who, by one count, named 240 out of 300 Sherlock Holmes characters after cricketers. Doyle played at the highest domestic level, featuring in ten first-class cricket matches for the MCC between 1900 and 1907. Famously, his only first-class wicket as a bowler — on 25th August 1900 — was that of W.G. Grace, a strong contender for the greatest cricketer of all time. (Doyle wrote an irresistible poem about his achievement, *A Reminiscence of Cricket*, which I recommend enthusiastically reciting to friends over a drink, if they give you half a chance. It can easily be found online.<sup>1</sup>)

Yet even this does not do full justice to the importance of cricket in Doyle's life. I have written a book — *Writers in Whites* — on literary figures who played cricket together, from J.M. Barrie via Evelyn Waugh to Michael Morpurgo, and why it matters for our understanding of these authors. Doyle is one of the book's major figures. Through the doctoral research that preceded *Writers in Whites*, I came to appreciate that there were very few British public figures who could match his enthusiasm for cricket. Doyle 'knows a batsman's weakness by the colour of the mud on his shoes,' Barrie recorded in 1893, in a joking reference both to his friend's cricketing prowess and to Holmes's legendary powers of deduction.

*The Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia*, overall a superb resource, lists 455 cricket matches in which he played. This is a significant underestimate, as it only lists the matches for which it has corroborating documentation. Other sources — for example, Doyle's appointment diaries for the years 1898 to

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\* Dr. Ollie Randall is a Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London. In 2025 he received an ACD Society Doylean Honor for services to Doyle scholarship. Copyright 2026 Ollie Randall.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/wiki/A\\_Reminiscence\\_of\\_Cricket](https://www.arthur-conan-doyle.com/wiki/A_Reminiscence_of_Cricket).

1906 — list dozens of further matches; and doubtless many more of his nineteenth-century matches are lost in the mists of time.

These appointment diaries, which have been kept in the British Library since 2009, are highly revealing. Doyle did not use them very much; his entries were sparse and laconic, often with many days or weeks elapsing between them. When it came to cricket, however, Doyle's enthusiasm is readily apparent. He devotedly recorded each match in his diaries, noting down his batting score and the number of wickets he took. Cricket is the dominant feature of these diaries: in 1901, cricket comprised the only entries in the entire diary. What particularly strikes the reader is how *many* matches Doyle was playing. In 1899, for instance, he played in forty-three fixtures — two a week throughout the summer. For a busy man such as Doyle, this was a huge commitment of his time and energies.

The clincher comes at the end of each diary. Every December, Doyle painstakingly totted up three sets of figures in the back pages. The first was his annual income; the second was the number of stories and words he'd written that year. The third was the past summer's cricket statistics: his batting average, and the number of wickets he'd taken. These were evidently the three sets of numbers by which he lived his life.

### A CAPTAIN OF AUTHORS

Doyle was a big-hearted man with a great many friends. He enjoyed being at the centre of London's literary life: he liked knowing other authors, and being seen as one of their leaders. Here, again, cricket played a central role: in this case, as a key component of his identity and his social strategy. He set up not one but two cricket teams of his own: the Undershaw XI (1898-1906) and the Authors XI (1899-1912). The Undershaw team assembled every August at Undershaw, Doyle's Surrey home, for a cricket week. This consisted of a match each day against a different local side. The Undershaw Cricket Week was a highlight of Doyle's social and sporting calendar, a sacrosanct week each year. As Doyle was the host, organiser and captain, these house parties must have taken up a great deal of his energies.

The Authors XI, on the other hand, was mostly organised by others — usually Doyle's brother-in-law, E.W. Hornung — so that Doyle could simply turn up and assume the on-field captaincy. Between 1902 and 1907, the annual highlight for the Authors XI was a cheerful weekend in the Surrey village of Esher, where they played against the local side and also against a team of Artists. As I explore in *Writers in Whites*, being captain of the Authors was very positive for Doyle's public image.

In particular, it boosted his credentials as a manly, vigorous writer. To quote a scholar of Doyle's masculinity, he 'structured his own life to embody the chivalric, comedic and competitive manhood that was the subject of all his writing. His career was an attempt to promote the profession of letters as a definitively masculine pursuit'.<sup>2</sup> The value of cricket in this regard is readily apparent. In the words of one of his teammates — none other than P.G. Wodehouse — 'One of the reasons why Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's books make such delightful reading is the vividness and truth of the outdoor episodes in them. ... The keenest of sportsmen, he is the very embodiment of the Man in the Field.'<sup>3</sup>

### CRICKET AND ENGLISHNESS: WISTERIA LODGE

Cricket also let the Scottish Doyle become a sort of honorary Englishman. When he was actually playing cricket, it could be said that he was performatively English. This is important, because Doyle's writings, especially the Sherlock Holmes stories, were often rooted in this sense of comforting Englishness.

If we turn to *The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge*, penned in 1908, we can see the dynamic with particular clarity. It's a revealing story, demonstrating a great deal about Doyle's depiction of England and Englishness; the cricket connection is not, at first, apparent. At its heart, this adventure is about a dark and sinister Central American influence that threatens to disrupt the comforting Englishness of its Surrey setting. By unravelling the mystery, Holmes acts as a defender of this homely landscape, protecting and upholding the leafy landscape that is evoked in the very name of Wisteria Lodge. Throughout the story, Doyle deftly contrasts an atmosphere of English serenity and familiarity with the disruptive menace lurking in its heart: a threat that needs to be exorcised.

This process begins in the opening scene, in which Holmes and Watson first become acquainted with the mystery. Mr Scott Eccles, arriving fresh from his troubling experience at Wisteria Lodge, relates how his host has vanished. Scott Eccles is so straightforward an individual that even Watson can appraise this 'solemnly respectable person' at a glance: he is 'a good citizen, orthodox and conventional to the last degree.'

In other words, he is a profoundly safe English gentleman: and, it turns out, that this is precisely the quality that has led to his being lured into the

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<sup>2</sup> Diana Barsham, *Arthur Conan Doyle and the Meaning of Masculinity*, 2000.

<sup>3</sup> 'Grit. A Talk with Arthur Conan Doyle,' *V.C. Magazine*, 2nd July 1903.

plots of Wisteria Lodge. His host, Mr Garcia, has invited him to stay because he has calculated that such a dependable English gentleman would provide the perfect alibi for his planned actions: nobody would doubt Scott Eccles's obvious reliability. Right from the start of the story, therefore, English trustworthiness is set against Latin scheming. The doomed Garcia is in many ways an attractive character, but nonetheless he is part of a dark world of plots, counter-plots and violence. Scott Eccles, the representative Englishman, is very shaken up even by his passing encounter with this frightening underbelly: he needs protecting, and it is Holmes who must root out the danger and drive it away.

And so the story continues, with the peaceful Surrey landscape balanced against the alarming evidence of voodoo rituals, until Holmes penetrates to the heart of the Central American intrigue. Cricket, in *The Adventure of Wisteria Lodge*, is not mentioned once. And yet it shapes Doyle's whole treatment of the story.

For what is the location of Wisteria Lodge, and the nearby fiend's lair, High Gable? The answer is — they are near 'the pretty Surrey village of Esher,' the location of Doyle's Authors XI cricket weekends for the previous six years. When conjuring up a story about quintessential Englishness, Doyle selected the landscape of Esher, with which he had an intimate connection that he owed entirely to his cricket exploits. It seems reasonable to deduce, therefore, that the Esher cricket weekends were associated in his mind with an ethos of ideal Englishness, an ethos that his writings often promoted.

After all, Doyle himself claimed that the very name of Sherlock Holmes combined a sense of comfort with a reference to cricket. 'Holmes was homely, and as for "Sherlock" — well, years ago I made thirty runs against a bowler by the name of Sherlock, and I always had a kindly feeling for that name.'<sup>4</sup> The name of the great detective fuses these two ideas, and could almost be translated as 'homely cricketer.'

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<sup>4</sup> 'Sherlock Holmes's Genesis Explained,' New York Herald, 2nd October 1921, 25.

# ANOTHER PENNY ON THE INCOME TAX

## A PAGE FROM BSI HISTORY

*Clifford S. Goldfarb\**

*Editors' note:* Someday, surely, there will be a volume of the official BSI history series in which some version of this article might fit. But for now, this fascinating story has a home here.

When Tom Stix took over from Julian Wolff as “Wiggins,” or leader, of the BSI on 10 January 1986, he inherited an organization that was unique in not really being an organization at all. Many smaller organizations are “unincorporated associations,” with no real legal existence or status, but it is uncommon for an organization of the size, geographic scope and longevity of the BSI not to be incorporated, or not at least to have a fulsome “constitution” and procedural by-laws. For many years Julian Wolff had run it, almost single-handedly.<sup>1</sup>

The BSI has had no corporate existence for many decades<sup>2</sup> and even today its only publicly recognized “constitution” is the whimsical and minimalist “Constitution and Buy Laws,” composed by Elmer Davis (“drafted” would be out of context here) and published by Christopher Morley in his *Bowling Green* column in the *Saturday Review of Literature* on 17 February 1934.<sup>3</sup> Its leader, who has had various titles — “Gasogene” (Christopher Morley), “Buttons-cum-Commissionaire” (Edgar W. Smith), “Commissionaire” (Julian Wolff) and “Wiggins” (Thomas L. Stix, Jr., Michael F. Whelan, Michael

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\* Clifford Goldfarb, BSI (“Fordham, the Horsham Lawyer”) is Chairman of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library. Copyright 2026 Clifford S. Goldfarb. The author wishes to gratefully acknowledge the contributions of Les Klinger, for his comments on earlier drafts and for providing the information needed for the second part of this article.

<sup>1</sup> Michael Whelan, the former leader, described it as a “one-man show” in “A Conversation with the Head of the BSI,” *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere*, Ep. 71, (Dec. 2014), [tinyurl.com/cz2j5yuc](http://tinyurl.com/cz2j5yuc). In the late 1970s, a group of prominent BSI members clandestinely formed the Men’s Room Committee, to try to help Wolff and give him some guidance, but that’s a story for another paper.

<sup>2</sup> The Baker Street Irregulars, Inc. was incorporated during the tenure of Edgar W. Smith in the late 1940’s and was still in existence in the mid-1950’s, but seems to have been dissolved or abandoned sometime before 1980. It was referred to informally as “B.S.I., Inc.” in most BSI activities. None of the commentary I have found so far discusses its legal status, nor when it went out of existence: something for an intrepid scholar to look into? See *Irregular Crises of the Late Forties*, ed. Jon L. Lellenberg, p.508 and *passim*, New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 1999; and *Irregular Chronicles of the Early Fifties*, ed. Julie McKuras & Bill Mason. New York: Baker Street Irregulars Press, 2025, *passim*.

<sup>3</sup> A history of the Constitution and Buy Laws, edited by Ross E. Davies, tracking the many variants, was published as for attendees of the 8 January 2021 virtual Annual Dinner. The version traditionally read at annual dinners is available at [tinyurl.com/y34v4z24](http://tinyurl.com/y34v4z24). See also [http://www.bsiarchivalhistory.org/BSI\\_Archival\\_History/The\\_BSI.html](http://www.bsiarchivalhistory.org/BSI_Archival_History/The_BSI.html).

Kean, and Steven Doyle) — is not elected, but is appointed by the incumbent or, if the incumbent is deceased, a select group of insiders who have no official status. Membership is by invitation (or “investiture”) from the leader and is for life, with no formal procedure for removal.<sup>4</sup> Officers are appointed by the leader. The annual meeting is a dinner with a number of rituals, none of which are typical of a corporate meeting; and there are no other formal meetings. Until recent years, the only other formal activity was a Saturday afternoon cocktail party.<sup>5</sup> Financial statements did not exist before Stix took over.<sup>6</sup> Even today — with the increased scope of its publishing activities, delegation of executive functions to various “officers,” spin-off of its archives to a separate trust, and the addition of irregular themed conferences — it is still the same queer duck of a society that it has always been. It is no surprise then, that the United States Internal Revenue Service (the “IRS”), an organization that cannot be accused of having a sense of whimsy, had trouble in understanding the nature of the BSI in 1987.

The BSI is and has always been a non-profit organization, and always considered itself to be exempt from income tax. When Stix became its leader in 1986, he decided, for the first time — at least it had not been done during the Wolff era — to file an exempt organization annual information return with the IRS for the 1987 year. The return was apparently prepared by Richard A. Wein (“Silver Blaze”), a New York-area accountant.<sup>7</sup> This triggered a letter dated 2 November 1987 from the Baltimore IRS District office, stating:

Your organization filed an exempt organization annual information return with the Service Center. The service center has processed the return but has no record that the Internal Revenue Service has issued you a determination letter recognizing your exemption from Federal income tax. This office, therefore, has been requested to determine

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<sup>4</sup> Mary Ann Bradley, *First Lady*, Baker Street Journal Christmas Annual, (2001), p. 44, quotes a letter from S. Tupper Bigelow to Poul Anderson dated 8 November 1961: “As you are probably aware, it was Edgar [Smith]’s custom to excommunicate members from time to time, not formally, but by allocating such member’s investitured name to a newcomer. . . .” Jon Lellenberg doubted that Smith ever did this and put it down to lack of a proper list of investitures (letter to Michael Whelan, 21 January 2012 in the BSI Archives). Members can be but are rarely expelled.

<sup>5</sup> See note 20 for a discussion of the status of the reception as a BSI event.

<sup>6</sup> After the Society was registered as a charitable organization in 2003, it has been required to file financial statements with the IRS, which are available for public inspection.

<sup>7</sup> Much of this article is based on Richard Wein’s personal files, which he graciously made available to me, and on the contents of the BSI Trust Archive file on Thomas Stix, Jr. I am grateful to Peter X. Accardo of the Houghton Library for assistance in locating this material. The Wein material has also been placed in the archive with his permission. As of 2019 the Archives are housed in the Lilly Library in Bloomington, Indiana.

your proper filing requirement. If you have not yet applied for recognition of exemption, you should complete an exemption application (Form 1023 or Form 1024, whichever is appropriate) and submit it to this office with a copy of this letter. ...

If we do not receive your response within 30 days from the date of this letter, we will assume your organization is not exempt from tax. You will then be required to file the appropriate Federal income tax return.

Form 1024, "Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(a)," was prepared by Wein, dated 22 January 1988, and signed by Stix as "Wiggins (President)."<sup>8</sup> The request was for the BSI to be recognized under section 501(c)(7) of the IRS Code. The section applies to clubs "organized for pleasure, recreation, and other non-profitable purposes, substantially all of the activities of which are for such purposes and no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder." This particular exemption is generally characterized as applying to "social clubs."

From the point of view of an organization, there is little functional difference among the available exemptions under the IRS Tax Code.<sup>9</sup> The result of all exemptions under any of the 29 paragraphs of section 501(c) is the same: the organization need not pay taxes on its income (except unrelated business income). The difference lies in the tax treatment of the payer with respect to payments to an exempt organization — only gifts or similar transfers of money or property (e.g., books or papers) to organizations recognized as charitable or educational under section 501(c)(3) entitle the payer to an income tax deduction for a charitable contribution.<sup>10</sup> In the case of a social club under section 501(c)(7), payments or gifts to the BSI would not be deductible as a charitable contribution for income tax purposes.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> There is no evidence that Stix made any changes to the form Wein prepared.

<sup>9</sup> Organizations exempt under Section 501(c)(3) are subject to special rules regarding activities relating to legislation and elections of public officials — see below. In addition, such organizations are restricted from activities that result in "private inurement" of benefits to individual members (e.g., allowing a member to use an automobile owned by the organization for personal purposes).

<sup>10</sup> Gifts of property are subject to complex rules regarding valuation and the amount deductible. Contributions to other kinds of nonprofit organizations may be deductible for federal income tax purposes as business expenses.

<sup>11</sup> Les Klinger (personal communication 21 September 2009) assisted with this summary of the tax effect of section 501(c) recognition. Klinger speculates that the reason Stix and his associates were determined to pursue recognition under section 501(c)(7), rather than (c)(4) is that there may have been some kind of New York State tax advantage, but we have not been able to determine if this is correct. The BSI has since been registered in January 2004 as a charitable organization under section 501(c)(3), see *Postscript — Second Time Lucky*. Section 501(c)(4) is discussed in the text accompanying footnote 18.

Question 3 on the application requires a description of the organization. The question and response are worth setting out in full:

Give a detailed narrative description of the organization's past, present, and proposed future activities, and the purposes for which it was formed. The narrative should identify the specific benefits, services, or products the organization has provided or will provide. If the organization is not fully operational, explain what stage of development its activities have reached, what further steps remain for it to become fully operational, and when such further steps will take place. (Do not state the purposes and activities of the organization in general terms or repeat the language of the organizational documents.) If you are engaged in any business or fund raising activity, describe in detail the nature and the scope of the activity. Attach copies of any agreements with other parties related to conducting the business or fund raising activity. State how each business activity engaged in contributed importantly to your exempt purposes.

The Baker Street Irregulars are dedicated to the single purpose of nourishing and keeping green the memory of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

We bring together, in person and through correspondence, people from all walks of life from the four corners of the world, to discuss and study the Sherlock Holmes stories.

The Baker Street Irregulars are the owners of a quarterly publication, "The Baker Street Journal," which is published for us by Fordham University Press. Income belongs to, and expenses are borne by, Fordham. We receive a royalty when subscription and advertising revenues exceed certain limits. To date royalties have been insignificant.

Question 4 was a request to set out the sources of the organization's financial support:

List the organization's present and future sources of financial support, beginning with your largest source first.

The organization holds an annual dinner for its members and a reception for all devotees of Sherlock Holmes every January on the weekend closest to Sherlock Holmes' birthday. It is planned to operate at neither gain nor loss. Any net income is used for the following year's dinner and reception. Royalties are received from Fordham University Press from the publication of *The Baker Street Journal* — see Item 3 above.

The BSI's officers were listed as Thomas L. Stix, Jr. — Wiggins (performs functions of a president and treasurer), John Bennett Shaw — Simpson (performs functions of a secretary), and Robert Thomalen — Cartwright (performs functions of a vice-president). Membership was by "invitations ... to individuals who have distinguished themselves in the world of Sherlock Holmes. There are no classes of membership or voting rights." On dissolution the assets, which "are negligible ... would be donated to another organization or organizations having a similar purpose." Payments in the form of honorariums [sic] are "received for presentations to libraries and public interest groups. Amounts received are insignificant." The financial statement for the 12 months ending 31 January 1987 showed total revenues of \$10,445 and expenditures of \$12,061, leaving a deficit of \$1,616. Royalties of \$1,000 reduced the deficit and the balance was covered out of cash on hand, leaving a balance of \$796 in the BSI's bank account.<sup>12</sup> In response to a question as to whether non-members are permitted to use the "club facilities or participate in or attend any functions or activities conducted by the organization", the response was "Annual reception for all Sherlockians. There are no club facilities."

Wein sent it to Stix with an undated handwritten note, writing, "I haven't mentioned scions because I thought it would take a good deal of explanation. In addition, the IRS then might want financial data and annual filings by the scions as well as the BSI." He also questioned whether they should date the existence of the organization from the date of Stix's taking over: "Should we go back to Chris Morley (and maybe open a Pandora's box)?" He told Stix to attach a blank form of investiture certificate and a copy of the constitution and by-laws. A copy of the publishing agreement for the Baker Street Journal between the BSI and Fordham University Press was also attached.

The application form required an "organizing instrument."<sup>13</sup> Stix probably recognized that the original BSI "constitution," the whimsical Constitution and Buy Laws prepared by Elmer Davis in 1934, would not do for this purpose.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> In subsequent correspondence with the IRS, Wein informed that he had omitted to include a \$5,000 municipal bond, which had been purchased many years earlier. It had "matured in 1987 and was used to defray the costs of the January 1988 dinner and reception, rather than increase the charge to the attendees."

<sup>13</sup> "Part II — Organizational Documents. One of the basic requirements for exemption is that the organization be 'organized' for one or more exempt purposes. If the organization does not have an organizing instrument, it will not qualify for exempt status. An organizing instrument is one of the following: articles of incorporation, constitution, articles of association, trust instrument. ... The bylaws of an organization alone are not an organizing instrument."

<sup>14</sup> Actually, the 1934 "Constitution" describes a more complete organization than the 1988 version, although the "Buy Laws" are mostly concerned with the protocols relating to consumption of alcoholic beverages.

As a result, Andrew J. (Andy) Peck (“Inspector Baynes, Surrey Constabulary”), a New York lawyer, who was helping with legal matters, prepared Articles of Association dated 22 January 1988 for an unincorporated association,<sup>15</sup> to provide a written constitution for the purposes of the application. The objects are taken almost verbatim from those of the recently incorporated Canadian Sherlock Holmes Society, The Bootmakers of Toronto<sup>16</sup>:

| Bootmakers Letters Patent                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | BSI Articles of Association                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (a) To promote the study and enjoyment of the stories of Sherlock Holmes written by the late Arthur Conan Doyle, and of kindred subjects including detective fiction, the life of Arthur Conan Doyle, and the society of Victorian times; | (a) to promote the study and enjoyment of the stories of Sherlock Holmes written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and of related subjects (including the life of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle);                           |
| (b) To assist libraries and other public institutions in the collection, display, study, publication and preservation of literary and historical objects and information relating to the aforesaid subjects;                              | (b) to assist libraries and other public institutions in the collection, display, study, publication and preservation of literary and historical objects and information relating to the aforesaid subjects; |

Section 7 provides:

- Membership shall be open to individuals who have distinguished themselves in Sherlock Holmes related activities. Membership shall be by invitations from the Wiggins. There are no classes of membership or voting rights attached to membership.

The ever-undemocratic nature of the BSI is preserved in two places in the Articles: Section 3 ends “All decisions about the running of the organization

<sup>15</sup> Letter Peck to Wein, 20 January 1988, enclosing a draft for his review. Peck shared his recollections of this matter with me in a number of emails and personal conversations.

<sup>16</sup> A copy of the letters patent, as published in Canadian Holmes, Vol. 10, No. 3 (Lady Day [Spring] 1987), p. 38, appears in Wein’s file. The author, together with Christopher Redmond, BSI, drafted the Bootmakers’ letters patent.

shall be made by the Wiggins.” Section 10 in its entirety provides: “These articles of association may be amended by decision of the Wiggins.”<sup>17</sup>

On 29 April 1988 the IRS acknowledged receipt of the application and advised that the BSI could expect to hear from them within 100 days. In fact, it was just over four months until the IRS sent a letter, dated 8 September, signed by Ms. A. Askins, IRS Exempt Organization Specialist in the Baltimore Office, advising “you did not include on your [application] the information needed to make [the] determination.” A list of 15 questions was attached and a response was required by 28 September. Among the questions:

8. What are the requirements a person must meet in order to be a member of your organization? Explain
9. What will your organization accomplish or has accomplished?
10. Give a detailed description on how the organization nourishes the memory of Sherlock Holmes, Dr. Watson, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.
11. Does the organization have any other social activities besides the dinner and the reception? Explain
12. How does the organization determine[] who has distinguished themselves as Sherlock Holmes? Explain this criteria.
13. What types of presentations are presented to libraries and public interest groups? How often are they presented? What is the fee charged? How is the public made aware of your services?

The IRS letter also suggested “[Y]our organization may qualify for exemption under section 501(c)(4) ... [which] grants exemption to civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare.”<sup>18</sup> On receipt of this response, Stix Jr. wrote on 12 September to Peck and Wein: “Here we go again — please take care of this.”

On 18 October, Peck wrote to Wein with a draft reply. The following day, he wrote again with an amended draft, after having spoken to Stix: “[S]ince

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<sup>17</sup> Although the spirit of these articles (and their amended version, filed with the IRS in 2003) lingers in the present-day BSI, as far as the author is aware they have not been referred to other than in connection with the two IRS applications. (See Postscript — Second Time Lucky for the amended version).

<sup>18</sup> The full text of section 501(c)(4) provides:

(A) Civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare, or local associations of employees, the membership of which is limited to the employees of a designated person or persons in a particular municipality, and the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively to charitable, educational, or recreational purposes.

(B) Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an entity unless no part of the net earnings of such entity inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

Tom desires to file this with the least amount of bother, I have deleted from this draft the reference in my prior draft suggesting inclusion of some of Tom's or Shaw's correspondence, newspaper articles, etc." The response gives a good overview of the activities of the BSI in the 1980s and is worth quoting from substantially:

3. (a) Reference library — Both the President (Stix) and Secretary (Shaw) maintain Sherlock Holmes libraries at their own expense. Mr. Shaw's library is the largest privately held Sherlock Holmes collection in the country. These two libraries, and in particular Mr. Shaw's, are reference libraries that can be consulted by members of the BSI and other serious students of the Sherlock Holmes stories. The reference services are provided at no cost to the BSI or to users. ...
8. The requirements for membership are that the individual have distinguished themselves<sup>19</sup> in the world of Sherlock Holmes. That can be manifested in many ways — for example, contribution of scholarly articles to *The Baker Street Journal* or other Sherlock Holmes periodicals; being active in local Sherlock Holmes organizations that further the purpose of the BSI, that is, the study of the Holmes stories and nourishment of the memory of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his character Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson; publish scholarly books, or parodies/pastiches of the Holmes stories; give public lectures, set up library exhibits, or perform other activities to inform the public about Sherlock Holmes, etc. Membership decisions are made by the President, with the advice of the other officers of the BSI and the recommendations of members of the BSI throughout the United States.<sup>20</sup>
9. The BSI is the preeminent Sherlock Holmes society in the world. It has contributed greatly to the public's knowledge about and enjoyment of the Sherlock Holmes stories, through its *Journal*, through newspaper, magazine and book contributions, and through speeches, exhibits and displays for the public. The BSI has contributed to the continuing public awareness of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Members in the BSI have included two Presidents of the United

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<sup>19</sup> Note the use of the collective, rather than "has distinguished himself," used more than two years before women were admitted as members of the BSI. Was this deliberate to avoid disclosing that only men could be members?

<sup>20</sup> Even at that time, the BSI's leaders had been annually consulting members in the U.K., Canada, and elsewhere for recommendations for new members.

States — Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman — and many other famous people. ...

11. The BSI has no other social activities besides the annual dinner and reception. ...
13. Books and periodicals (including *The Baker Street Journal*) are presented to libraries by the BSI as a group and by individual members of the BSI, on both a continuing, regular basis as well as irregularly. For example, the BSI donates subscriptions of *The Baker Street Journal* to several libraries and universities. These donations are free of charge. The public is made aware of the BSI through reference materials that list our existence and the existence of our publication, *The Baker Street Journal*. For example, *The Baker Street Journal* is listed in *Ulrich's Guide to Periodicals* and other such guides. In addition, newspaper articles regularly appear about the BSI and its leading members, particularly around the time of Sherlock Holmes' birthday and our annual dinner, and these articles inform the public about how to get in touch with the BSI. In addition, library displays and talks to public groups by the BSI and members of the BSI inform the public about how to contact the BSI.
14. The cost to attend the reception in 1988 was \$30 per person and it is expected to be the same in 1989. The fee is determined so as to cover the costs of the reception on a break-even basis.
15. (a) The total number of living members of the BSI is approximately 270. (b) There are no dues, yearly or otherwise.

Peck's draft left several questions to be answered by Stix and Wein, including a response to question 6, asking for financial information for the years 1984, 1985, and 1987. Wein's handwritten response was:

6. Prior to 1986, when Mr. Stix took over as the President of the BSI, the organization was run by a retired physician who kept limited records at best. He calculated the cost of the annual dinner to the members on a break-even basis, but invariably operated at a deficit which he made up personally. As a result, there is no financial information available for 1984 and 1985. There was no reception prior to January 1987.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> During the Wolff era the reception was not an official BSI event; it was personally sponsored by him, first at his apartment, then at the Grolier Club, and later at 24 Fifth Avenue. The reception is included in article 9 of the new Articles of Association as a BSI activity and has been an official part of the weekend activities under both Stix and Whelan. Due to Covid-19, there was no reception in

Neither Wein's nor Stix's files contain a copy of the final response or a letter transmitting it to the IRS, but it must have been filed, because on 2 November Ms. Askins wrote again, following up on some of the responses to the original 15 questions:

2. You state in the application that nonmembers other than guests of members are permitted to participate in the activities of the organization. Submit a statement of the amount received from those nonmembers in the last 12 months of operation. A schedule of expenses attributable to the annual reception and dinner from the nonmembers.
3. Submit a copy of the membership application for your organization. Submit a list of the members presently in the organization. Submit a copy of the Minutes of Meetings held since 1984.
4. List the activities you sponsored in the last year. Show which were open to the members only and which were open to the general public. If there was an admission charge show the amount.
5. How is the public made aware of the services of your organization?
6. Where is the reception held?

Wein responded directly to this letter on 22 November. He wrote that the reception was on 9 January 1988 at the 24 Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York. There were 64 non-members present at \$20 each, totaling \$1,280. The actual cost for the non-members was about \$1,500. The dinner charge was \$42.50 and it too "operated at a loss." The response to questions 4 and 5 is reprinted in full:

The public is made aware of the services of our organization by volunteer work done by individual members throughout the country. In the last year, a group in Alexandria, Virginia created a scale model of Sherlock Holmes' rooms in Baker Street for a month long display at the Main Library in Alexandria. It was given a full page article in the local newspaper and a long write-up in "The Washington Times", which drew many visitors to the exhibit. Many educators viewing the exhibit asked to borrow it for display in their English literature classes.

In Cleveland, Ohio, to celebrate this centenary of the first Sherlock Holmes story, "A Study in Scarlet", in which Holmes was aided by the Chief of Police of Cleveland, a local group of members had a float in

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2021. Since Michael Whelan became Wiggins in 1997 the reception has been formalized as a Saturday afternoon luncheon. The file materials go back and forth on the status of the reception as a BSI activity, mentioning it when it supports the position of the organization and denying it on other occasions.

a major parade through the streets of Cleveland. The theme was "Legends". At its conclusion, a memorial plaque was presented by the group to the current Chief of Police.

In the New York City area, local members hold an annual costume meeting to which the local press is invited. The Gannet newspaper chain then ran a full page article with pictures about the group.

William A. O'Neill, the Governor of the State of Connecticut, declared July 24, 1987 as Sherlock Holmes Day in his state, very much due to the activities of members in Connecticut.

John Bennett Shaw (BSI Secretary), annually runs weekend seminar/workshops at various college locations in different parts of the country. Local BSI members, college faculty, and even university presidents participate. They are open to anyone, and usually receive a great deal of publicity in the local papers.

Robert Thomalen (BSI Vice president) runs an annual "Autumn in Baker Street" weekend in Bear Mountain, N.Y., which attracts Sherlockians from all over the country.

Every November, the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, Maryland sponsors a free Sherlock Holmes weekend with the assistance of the local BSI members.

When "Sherlock's Last Case" appeared on Broadway, Mr. Stix, as head of the BSI, was asked by the theatre to provide a Sherlock Holmes quiz for the Playbill.

Frequently, when a new Sherlock Holmes movie opens, members of the BSI are sought out by the press all over the country for their comments.

Most recently, the Public Broadcasting System (PBS), has requested that members of Sherlock Holmes groups answer phones and do other charitable work during their fund raising drives in November and December. This will be during the airing of "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" on all PBS stations. BSI members in New York City, Long Island, N.Y., Hartford, Ct, and probably many more cities that we are not even aware of yet, have volunteered their time. Most will be dressed in either Sherlockian or Victorian attire.

These are just a few of the many ways in which we try to keep the name of Sherlock Holmes before the public and make them aware of our existence.

Months passed with no response. On 19 May 1989, Wein wrote to the IRS: "[W]e haven't heard anything since Nov.22/88." This resulted in a phone call from Askins on 23 May, summarized by Wein in a handwritten

note on the 19 May letter: “She gave her recommendations to supervisor and we should hear soon.”

Finally, on 17 July 1989, Phil Brand, District Director in the Baltimore office, wrote to Stix, informing him that the IRS had turned down the BSI’s application for recognition of exemption from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code.<sup>22</sup> According to Brand, the BSI did not qualify for status as a “social club” on the basis that:

Activities include an annual dinner meeting and reception to celebrate the birthday of Sherlock Holmes, the publication of *The Baker Street Journal*, and the operation of two reference libraries for displays and exhibits for members and the public. ...<sup>23</sup>

There are 270 members in your organization with no voting rights. There is no membership dues associated with the organization and the only income received is from the members attendance at the annual dinner, nonmembers attendance at the reception, and from royalties.

Personal contact and commingling among members are incidental to the primary purpose of the organization which indicates that *the basic purpose of the organization is only to provide personal services to the membership* [emphasis mine]. In addition to little commingling, the organization has no restrictions or limitations upon membership which would characterize the organization as a club.

Brand again suggested that the BSI might qualify for exemption under Section 501(c)(4). He concludes: “If you do not accept our findings, we recommend that you request a conference with a member of our Regional office conference staff. Your request for a conference should include a written appeal giving the facts, law and any other information to support your position. ...”

Stix, who was just about to leave on a Sherlock Holmes cruise,<sup>24</sup> sent a copy of the IRS letter on 21 July to Peck, asking for “any help you may be able to give us.” On 11 August, Wein faxed Stix: “Have until August 21 to file appeal.” On 25 August, he noted on the fax cover sheet: “Called Ms. Askins. She still says no to 501(c)(7) but will approve under c(4). Needs Tom to call her on this.”

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<sup>22</sup> The decision made at the time of the initial response to ignore the prior history of the organization resulted in the IRS concluding: “The information submitted indicates you were formed as an association adopted by your Articles of Association on January 22, 1988.”

<sup>23</sup> This comes from the response to question 3 of the IRS letter dated 8 September 1988, that the libraries of Shaw and Stix were available to scholars.

<sup>24</sup> Celebrity Cruise’s *All at Sea with Sherlock Holmes*, sponsored by the Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes and the BSI, on the S.S. *Galileo* sailed from New York to Bermuda and back, 23–28 July 1989 (Peter Blau, *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press*, March 1989).

There is a three-page draft Appeal document in the file, entirely in pencil, in Wein's handwriting. The basis of the appeal, in paragraph 4, was:

The structure of the organization is very unusual and is not similar to most clubs. While it is true that the annual dinner and reception are the only events run by the organization, there are meetings and social events through the year, all over the country, run by subsidiary groups known as "scion societies", who are sanctioned by the organization. As membership in the organization is by invitation only, we do not understand how you can conclude that there are no restrictions or limitations.

Because of the unusual nature of the organization, being "difficult to reduce to writing," a verbal hearing was requested.

It does not appear that this document was ever filed, as, on 17 October, a letter was sent by the IRS stating it had determined that the BSI was exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(4). Since it was the IRS who suggested that the BSI would probably qualify under section 501(c)(4), most likely what happened was simply that Stix took what was offered to the BSI.<sup>25</sup>

It is clear that, from the beginning, Askins and Brand totally misunderstood the basis of the application and especially the nature of the BSI. The IRS employees displayed no sense of whimsy.

Looking back at this whole proceeding from today, it is easy to second guess the approach taken to the application. The constitution prepared at the time is clearly not a traditional one for an unincorporated association, especially the reservation of all power (including the power to amend it) to one individual. The use of unconventional titles for the officers — Wiggins, Cartwright and Simpson — could only add to the confusion of the IRS officials as to the true nature of the organization.<sup>26</sup> It is a universal truth that applying to bureaucrats for any kind of license is most likely to be successful when the contents of the application most closely resemble what they are used to seeing on a daily basis.

### POSTSCRIPT: SECOND TIME LUCKY

In the spring of 2003, in order to encourage members to make donations to the organization, the BSI through Les Klinger made a second and this

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<sup>25</sup> Presumably Stix called Askins, as requested in Wein's note of 25 August.

<sup>26</sup> Which raises the question of what might have become of the BSI if, in order to gain tax-exempt status, it had been required to implement a more conventional constitution, formal board structure, and including voting members and other elements of a corporate democracy.

time successful attempt to be recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization. The 1989 articles of association were replaced by “Amended and Restated Articles of Association of The Baker Street Irregulars” (the “2003 Articles”), and an application was submitted to the IRS on 7 July 2003. The new articles were signed by Michael Whelan (Wiggins) and Peter A. Blau (Simpson, or secretary).

The 2003 Articles are essentially the same as the 1988 version, with the changes being in the addition of Articles 2, 4, and 5. These new tax-mandated provisions stipulate that the BSI can’t carry on any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of its purposes or which are not permitted of a Section 501(c)(3) organization. In addition, no substantial part of its activities may consist of carrying on propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization may not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office. The formal purpose,<sup>27</sup> the title and functions of the officers, conditions of membership, the requirement to publish the BSJ and to hold an annual dinner on the Friday closest to 6 January,<sup>28</sup> have all been carried forward from 1988 to the 2003 Articles.<sup>29</sup> As in the 1988 Articles, the 2003 Articles (other than the three tax-requisite ones) “may be amended by the decision of the Wiggins.”

Note 1 contains a short history of the BSI and describes the BSI’s three activities, consisting of “publication of a scholarly journal, publication of academic books, and sponsorship of conferences relating to the study of Sherlock Holmes.”

Note 3 describes the governance of the BSI:

As a nonprofit literary organization, the Irregulars have depended on a small cadre of individual volunteers to carry out its work. There are no paid employees. The chief officer of the Irregulars (known as “Wiggins,” after the boy who headed Holmes’s “irregular” police force) conducts most of the activities of the organization and is the final arbiter of policy decisions. In the almost seventy-year history of the Irregulars, only five persons have served as its chief, Christopher

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<sup>27</sup> Which means that, since the 2003 Articles are essentially copies of Andrew Peck’s 1989 version, which borrowed its objects from the Bootmakers’ Letters Patent, that Chris Redmond and I drafted the guts of the BSI’s “formal” Constitution.

<sup>28</sup> In recent years, this last requirement has not been followed scrupulously, as the date is now flip-flopped so that it alternates with the week of the dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London.

<sup>29</sup> As have the formal non-profit requirements: “The organization shall be carried on without the purpose of gain for its members, and any profits or other accretions shall be used in promoting its objects. Upon dissolution, any assets shall be donated to another organization or organizations having a similar purpose.”

Morley (1934-1947), Edgar W. Smith (1947-196[0]), Dr. Julian Wolff (1960-1986), Thomas L. Stix (1986-1997), and the current “Wiggins,” Michael Whelan. ... Mr. Whelan was selected for the job by his predecessor and supported by acclamation. It is anticipated that if Mr. Whelan retires from the office, he will indicate his choice for a successor. Other individuals designated by “Wiggins” serve as the secretary of the Irregulars, the historian of the Irregulars, the Editor of the Journal, the Business Manager of the Journal, and the General Editor of the Manuscript Series and generally will continue to fill these offices until they choose to retire.

An initial letter from the IRS, dated 11 July 2003, said that the BSI could normally expect to receive a formal response within 120 days. That response was actually sent 135 days later, on 23 November 2003. It contained eight questions, including a request to have the 2003 Articles dated and re-signed. The IRS wanted to know how the BSI’s activities had changed since the 1989 determination. The two other major issues raised were:

2. In reviewing Article VIII, it appears that your membership is restricted to conditions that include qualifications that few members of the general public would possess, and that membership is available through invitation only. Your application appears to indicate that you believe your organization serves to educate the public. However, your membership practices do not appear to be consistent with an organization with public education activities. ...
3. A significant amount of your organization’s income appears to be spent on your annual banquet, which appears to be a social function. If you believe the annual banquet is not a social function, please provide an explanation as to what purpose is, and please provide some detail as to what expenses are involved in holding the banquet, and a sample agenda (if applicable).

Klinger replied to this with a letter dated 9 December 2003.<sup>30</sup> Among other points, he dealt with the qualifications for membership and introduced another academic activity, assisting libraries:

Another important new activity of the BSI is in connection with the maintenance of public libraries of Sherlockian materials. The BSI has worked closely with the Toronto Metropolitan Library (the largest collection of Arthur Conan Doyle material in the world) and the

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<sup>30</sup> The only difference between the original 2003 Amended and Restated Articles of Association, as filed with the application, and those submitted in response to the IRS letter of 23 November is the addition of a date, 25 June 2003.

University of Minnesota (the largest collection of Sherlockian material in the world) to promote and enlarge their respective collections and to devise methods for preservation of valuable material (such as Internet resources and publications in CD-ROM format). Recently, the BSI entered into an agreement with Harvard University, under which the University Library will house the archives of historical material relating to the BSI itself (the history of which includes important literary figures as far back as 1934) and expects to solicit donors around the world to contribute materials to the BSI archive. Of course, the archive will be available to the general public for scholarly purposes, as are the Toronto and Minnesota collections. In the past, the BSI has also worked with other libraries to organize exhibitions or publication of Sherlockian material in their collections, including the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, and the Henry E. Huntington Library.

Membership in the BSI is not restricted in any way, and its members include men, women, American, Canadian, English, Japanese, French, Swiss, Italian, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish, Australian, New Zealanders, and other scholars from all walks of life. One must be invited to join the BSI, because of the limitations on the capacity at its traditional annual dinner (which can only seat approximately 175 persons). ... Initially, the organization was open to anyone with sufficient interest in the subject matter, but as the number of "Sherlockians" in the world grew, a limit became necessary. "Membership" bestows no benefits whatsoever, except for an automatic invitation to the annual dinner. At present, there are approximately 300 "members."

The IRS responded with a further letter dated 8 January 2004:

[I]t is still not clear what your membership requirements are, and how your members are selected. ... It appears that BSI's premiere scholarship event of the year, which is planned around the Birthday Weekend dinner, is only available to the organization's small membership, and not the general public. Considering this, are tapes or CD recordings of the scholarly presentations given at the dinner(s) made available to the public at cost?

The IRS also asked for clarification of the nature of the Distinguished Speaker Lecture and whether the BSI publishing program also included "other items, such as regular editions of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes works."

In response to this letter, Klinger called M. W. Ranney, the IRS agent on the file, on 16 January, and followed up with a letter on 20 January, documenting their conversation:

Members are selected by the head of the organization (“Wiggins”) after consultation with an advisory group and other individuals. Any person may seek membership in the organization. Members are intended to be persons who have evidenced an active interest in the field, either by writing, lecturing, or organizing educational seminars in the field. As a practical matter, the number of members is limited to approximately 300, and new members are added annually, only as existing members die or resign their membership.

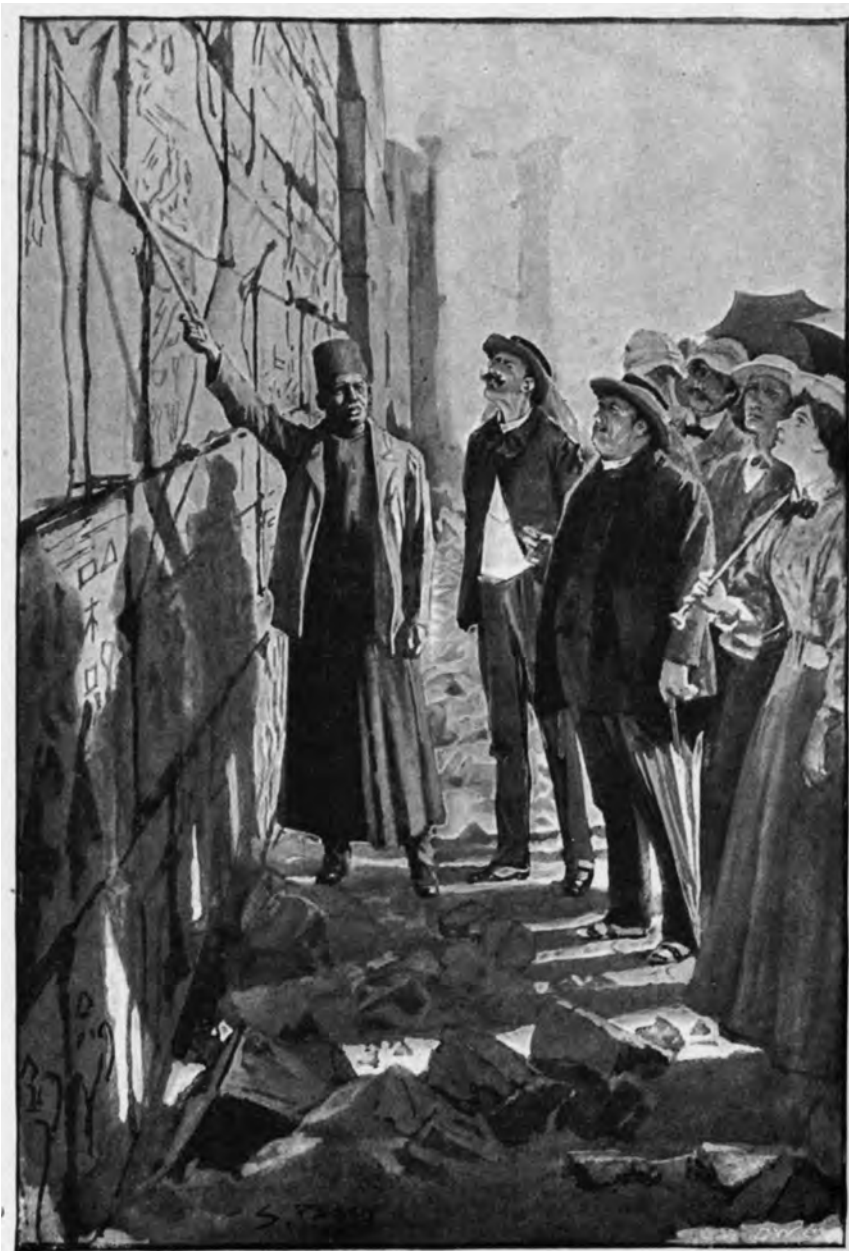
Membership in the BSI confers no rights other than an invitation to the annual Dinner, and members pay no dues and have no vote. Each year, on average, about half of the members choose to travel to New York and attend the Dinner. There is a definite physical limitation on how many persons can be accommodated at the Dinner (about 175 seems to be practical), and this limitation is the only reason for restricting the number of members. (Historically, I may note, thirty years ago, anyone could become a member of the BSI essentially by simply asking the head of the organization, and the membership doubled in size. However, the number quickly became unwieldy, and the leadership determined to control the growth of the membership.) ...

30 to 40 persons who are not members of the BSI attend the annual Dinner. Any person may ask for an invitation to the Dinner, and far more persons seek to attend than could be accommodated. Members of the BSI frequently recommend people to receive invitations. Based on these recommendations, the head of the organization selects attendees who will add to the quality of the particular Dinner and are good candidates for eventual membership. The proceedings of the Dinner (often in expanded form) are published in the Baker Street Journal.

On 22 January 2004, the IRS wrote to Klinger, finally stating that, effective 7 July 2003, the BSI was recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> It is notable about the second IRS round that Klinger emphasized the word “scholarship” to describe a range of writing which — although some of it is informational and verges on academia, happily without jargon — includes a significant component of playing the game. And he used “scholars” to describe a group that arguably has a strong core of “game” players, although it includes many academics and serious scholars. On the other hand, there was sufficient real scholarship, in the sense of publishing annotated manuscripts, social histories, etc., to justify the acknowledgement of 501(c)(3) status.



The tourists visit a temple.

# CONAN DOYLE ON THE NILE

## TOURISM AND WAR

*Douglas Kerr\**

With his wife Louisa (Touie) and his sister Lottie, Arthur Conan Doyle arrived in Egypt in November 1895. It was his first visit to Africa since his youthful cruise as a ship's doctor on the cargo vessel *Mayumba*, steaming along the West African coast in 1881–82. This trip had a medical motive. Touie had been diagnosed with consumption (tuberculosis) in 1893, and had been advised to winter in dry climates. Once in Egypt, the little party did the usual things — visiting the Sphinx, going round the Egyptian Museum, taking a boat on the Nile.<sup>1</sup>

The tourist industry, today one of Egypt's main sources of revenue (16.7 billion US dollars in 2025), was just getting started in the 1890s. Thomas Cook & Son had begun to run steamers up the Nile from Cairo to Aswan; at the First Cataract passengers could transfer to a smaller boat and travel as far south as the great temples of Ramesses II at Abu Simbel. The tourists who came to Egypt were international. The more ambitious American travellers, finishing their tour of Europe, might take a detour to see the Nile before going on to the Holy Land.

When most of us look in the mirror we see a traveller, not a tourist. In the 19th century there is a vast literature of travel writing, but tourists, appearing in increasing numbers, are most often represented as ridiculous (with their sun-burn and souvenir-hunting) or deplorable (for their vulgarity and ignorance and bad manners). Tourism, it seems, was the least serious form of travel.

Conan Doyle was not impressed by the foreign tourists he saw in Egypt, and didn't enjoy being treated as one. A character in his novella *The Tragedy of the Korosko* complains about being hustled by touts to climb the Great Pyramid, and then being 'boosted' onto the top.<sup>2</sup> Tourism was not always fun for tourists. 'There's one consolation,' says another character, an elderly lady. 'We are scheduled to be on our way home tomorrow, after we've seen this one rock or temple, or whatever it is.'<sup>3</sup>

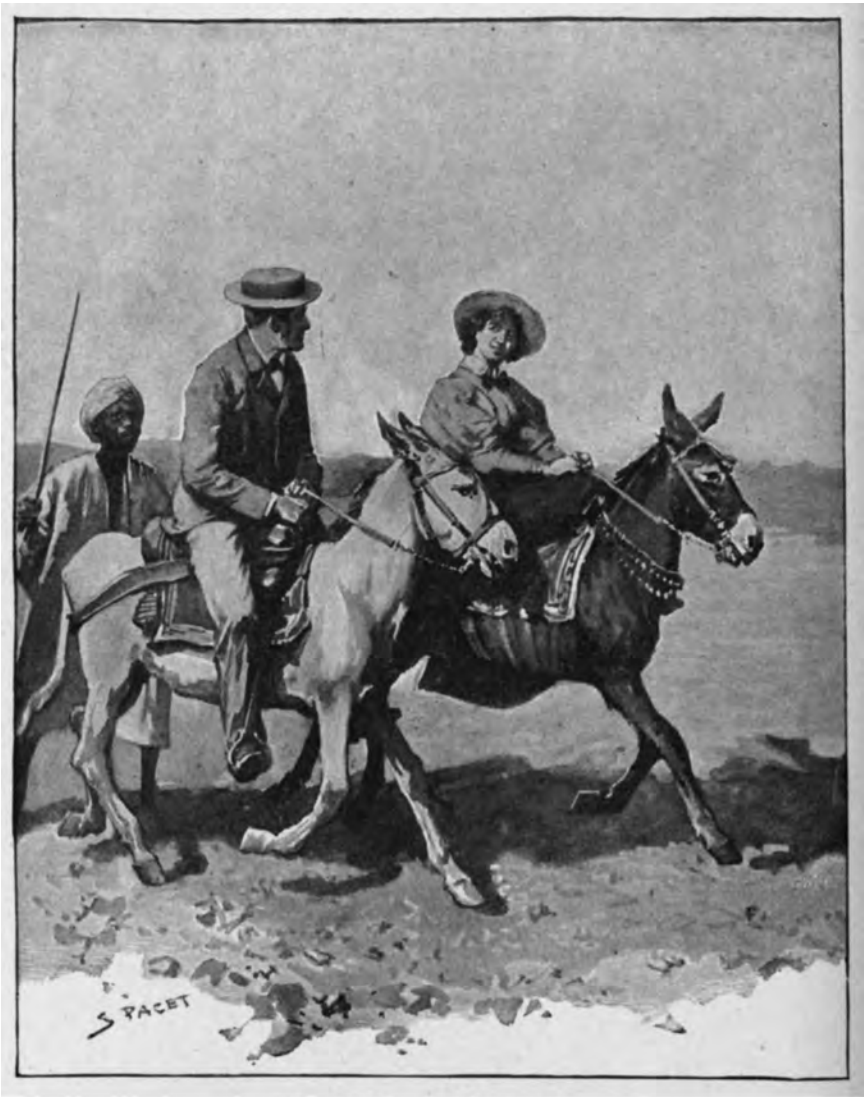
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\* Douglas Kerr is General Editor of the Edinburgh Edition of the Works of Arthur Conan Doyle, and editor of *The Tragedy of the Korosko and The Fires of Fate, with the Nile Journal* (Edinburgh University Press, 2026). Copyright 2026 Douglas Kerr.

<sup>1</sup> For an overview see Clifford S. Goldfarb, 'Arthur Conan Doyle: The Egyptian Connection', *Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire*, ed. Ross E. Davies, New York: Baker Street Irregulars, 2023, pp. 157–69.

<sup>2</sup> *The Tragedy of the Korosko and The Fires of Fate, with the Nile Journal*, ed. Douglas Kerr (Edinburgh University Press, 2026), p. 48 (hereafter "*Korosko*").

<sup>3</sup> *Korosko*, p. 32.



Donkey ride to the Abousir Rock.

*The Tragedy of the Korosko* is an adventure story, about a party of tourists on the Nile who are captured by Dervish warriors, marched across the desert, and eventually rescued by the soldiers of the Egyptian Camel Corps. Through the story runs a contrast between tourism, seen as an essentially superficial and inauthentic activity, and adventure, which (as everyone knows) is a radical learning experience, and both a test and a revelation of the adventurer's true self.

Conan Doyle may have been a tourist, if a reluctant one, but he was also a professional author, always in search of copy. When he and his party took a Thomas Cook excursion up the Nile as far as the Second Cataract, he took with him a journal in which to record his impressions. (This is published for the first time in the 2026 edition of *Korosko*.<sup>4</sup>) As a guidebook he had the popular Baedeker *Egypt: Handbook for Travellers*, but he also took the learned and hefty two-volume *A Thousand Miles up the Nile* (1877), by the pioneering Egyptologist Amelia Edwards, who had made the same voyage, in a sailing vessel, some twenty years before. Tourism, with its rapid visits to a succession of superficially explained sites of beauty and historical importance, is the bathos of archaeology. Conan Doyle wanted to take the journey seriously. He did not think of himself as just another of the globetrotters who ‘smoke and gossip and flirt as they pass up to the Egyptian frontier’.<sup>5</sup>

The steamer often stopped along the way for excursions to the ruins of temples and tombs. Although he had already published two stories on ancient Egyptian themes, ‘The Ring of Thoth’ and ‘Lot No. 249’, Conan Doyle’s response to the archaeological highlights of the journey is on the whole unremarkable. He describes the ruins, often cross-checking his facts with ‘Miss Edwards’, like a dutiful student. On one occasion, visiting the temple of Dendera, he records in his journal how he climbed down into a secret chamber behind the shrine, where bats hung thickly on the ceiling and flew about his head. But one of the inventors of Egyptian Gothic passed over this thoroughly Gothic moment without further comment.

Now in ruins, the great temple at Karnak, he admitted, must have been the greatest building which had ever existed upon this earth. However, the journal continued, ‘My opinion of Egyptian art is that they hardly had any in our sense of the word. It was crude & childish.’<sup>6</sup> Over the centuries, over the millennia, why did all Egyptian art look the same? Tellingly, his explanation was that the dead hand of a powerful priestly class had smothered all creative originality. (This is an instance of his lifelong anticlericalism, which dates from his school days at Stonyhurst.) The treasures of Tutankhamun (discovered in 1922), he later grumbled, were the last word in materialism. ‘I can never believe that a people with such ideas could be other than emasculated in their minds — the fate of every nation which comes under the rule of a priesthood.’<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> See note 2 above.

<sup>5</sup> *Korosko*, p. 25.

<sup>6</sup> *Korosko*, p. 313.

<sup>7</sup> ACD, *Memories and Adventures*, ed. Douglas Kerr (Edinburgh University Press, 2022), pp. 109–10 (hereafter “*Memories and Adventures*”)



Captured by the Dervish raiding party.

On the Nile his own creativity was stirred by an observation not of ancient but of modern Egypt, when he visited a village near Abu Simbel that had recently been raided. 'If I were a Dervish General,' he wrote in the journal, 'I would undertake to carry off a Cook's excursion party with the greatest ease.'<sup>8</sup> This was the imaginative seed that would grow into the story of the steamer *Korosko* and its passengers.

Modern Egypt was not officially a territory of the British Empire, but since the time of the Urabi revolt in 1882 the British had controlled its administration and finances, and British officers commanded the troops of the Egyptian army. This arrangement was known as the Veiled Protectorate. As soon as he arrived in Cairo, Conan Doyle started to frequent the Turf Club, where all the senior British officials, from Lord Cromer down, were to be seen and met. He was as delighted at this prospect as the young Rudyard Kipling in the Punjab Club in Lahore.<sup>9</sup> 'I confess that Modern Egypt interests me more than Ancient,' he had written to his mother in his first letter from Cairo. 'So interested am I that I seriously think of writing a popular history of the place from the time of Arabi's [today called Urabi's] rebellion. It really beats any fiction.'<sup>10</sup>

But in modern Egypt all was not well. Upriver in Sudan, which was nominally an Egyptian possession, a revolt had broken out under the leadership of the religious leader called the Mahdi. In 1883 the Mahdist forces, called Dervishes by the British, met and wiped out an Egyptian army of 8,000 men under Colonel William Hicks. In 1885 they captured Khartoum and killed its commander, General Charles Gordon, much to the horror of the British public at home. A subsequent Mahdist invasion of Egypt had been repulsed, but the upper Nile was still dangerous country with a disputed frontier. Tourists on the Thomas Cook boats made their excursions accompanied by armed Egyptian Army guards. Meanwhile in Cairo, a British expeditionary force, under General H.H. Kitchener, was preparing to march south to defeat the Dervishes, avenge Gordon, and reconquer Sudan. The campaign that followed would be described as Britain's 'last true colonial venture, the last occasion in which her armies and her politicians took over another nation'.<sup>11</sup>

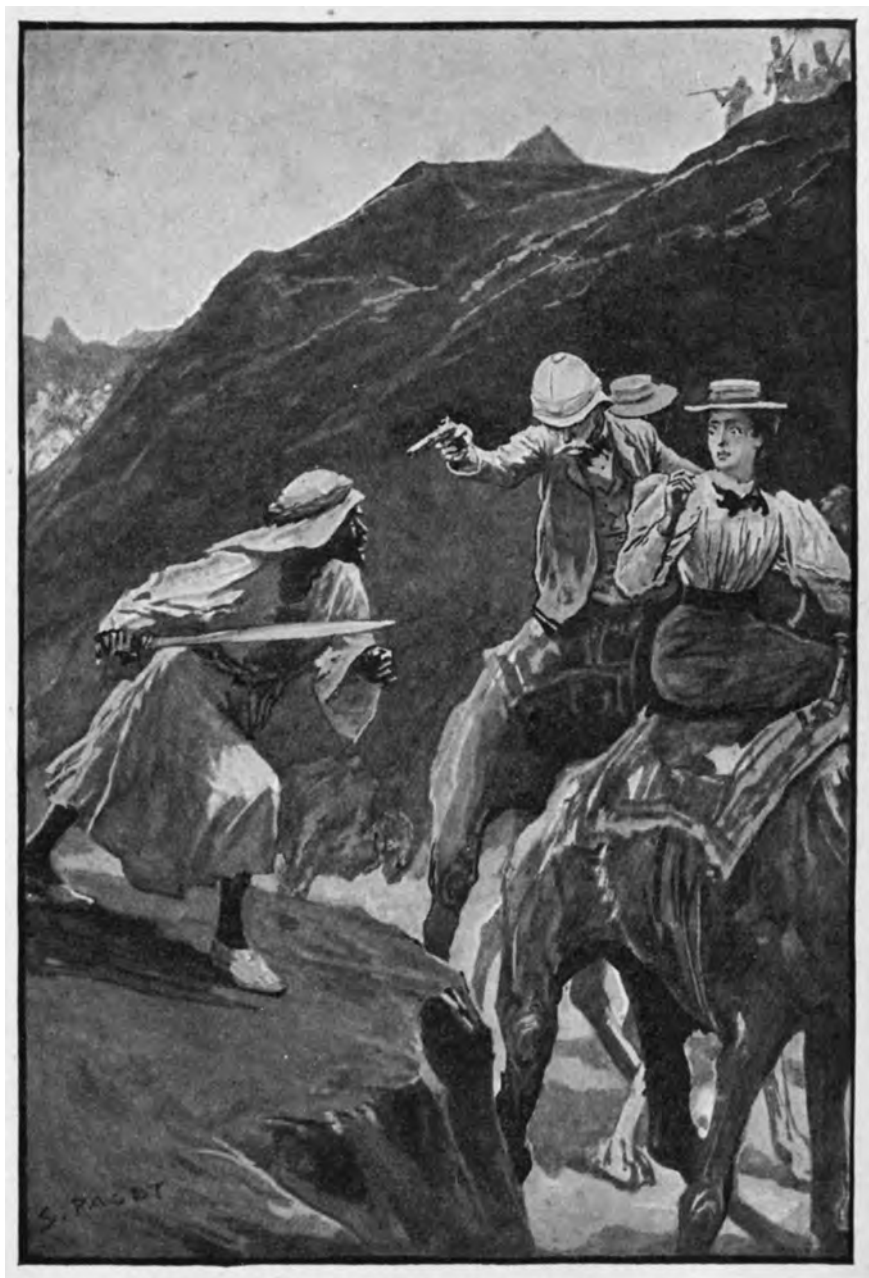
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<sup>8</sup> *Korosko*, p. 311.

<sup>9</sup> See Rudyard Kipling, *Something of Myself*, ed. Robert Hampson (Penguin, 1987), p. 58. In 1894, the year before he travelled to Egypt, ACD had been Kipling's guest at his home in Vermont, USA.

<sup>10</sup> ACD to Mary Doyle, 27 November 1895, British Library Add MS 88924/1/9 ACD to Mary Doyle 1893-1896.

<sup>11</sup> Robin Neillands, *The Dervish Wars: Gordon and Kitchener in the Sudan 1880-1898* (John Murray, 1996), p. 15.



Amidst the fighting, Colonel Cochrane shoots dead a Dervish armed with a sword.

Scarcely had Conan Doyle returned from his river excursion than he heard that Kitchener's army was on the move. Without delay he got himself accredited as a war correspondent for the *Westminster Gazette* (owned by his friend and publisher George Newnes), and scrambled to catch up with the other journalists who were off to report on the campaign. This was his second trip upriver. If tourism was essentially frivolous, this journey had a serious, even epic, purpose, which he acknowledged as he watched British troops departing for the war. 'With a fringe of waving helmets the train lurches round the curve, and England has moved another pawn upon the chessboard of the world.'<sup>12</sup>

But if he was no longer exactly a tourist, he was certainly an amateur. He was a lifelong patriot and imperialist, and had always been thrilled by soldiers and what they did. But on the campaign trail he was an anomaly, by his own account rather a comical figure, and probably sometimes a nuisance. (Kitchener detested war reporters. They got in the way.) In Cairo Conan Doyle had purchased an enormous revolver of Italian make, and a water bottle that tasted of turpentine. Encumbered with gear, he likened himself to a Christmas tree. He never got used to riding a camel, a beast whose appearance he judged 'so staid and respectable that you cannot give it credit for the black villainy that lurks within'.<sup>13</sup> He often fell off. For all this, and despite the fact that he never saw military action with Kitchener's army, he describes this journey, and the friends he made among the officers and the other correspondents, with joy. The same emotion was to pervade his later accounts of being with the troops in South Africa, and on the various fronts of the First World War. With a job to do as a writer, he felt no need to be apologetic about his presence in these far-flung places.

To avoid the worst of the heat, they travelled mostly by night, an unearthly experience in due course feeding into the wonderful descriptions of desert camel-riding under starlight in *The Tragedy of the Korosko*. It was hard travel, but companionable, and somewhat competitive, as we see it in the later tale 'The Three Correspondents', and of course in adventure stories to come, like *The Lost World*. This was perhaps the life that Conan Doyle liked best. Morale in the army was high, he loved to talk with the soldiers and reporters, and tried to immerse himself in the craft of war. Like most Victorian gentlemen, he was a keen amateur strategist. On the journey there was always a hint of danger, and there were always new things to see — new people and places and animals, encountered along the Nile without the help of a Baedeker guidebook

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<sup>12</sup> ACD, 'Can the Fellah Fight?', *Westminster Gazette*, 17 April 1896, 21-22.

<sup>13</sup> *Memories and Adventures*, p. 117.



Escaped from their captivity, the tourists watch the last stand of the Dervish war party.

‘Egypt is interesting but Nubia (that is between the two cataracts) is far more wonderful and striking,’ he had written to his mother from Asyut, and he immediately added: ‘What wars & rumours of wars are in the air! All will come right I think, and we shall be the better for the breeze.’<sup>14</sup>

He made it as far south as Sarras, a British outpost just south of Wadi Halfa at the Second Cataract, but there was no military action to see, and he dutifully returned by river to rejoin Touie and his sister in Cairo, and head for home in England. Kitchener’s force made its slow progress upriver, vividly described by another war correspondent, Winston Churchill.<sup>15</sup>

Through 1897 the instalments of *The Tragedy of the Korosko* appeared every month in the *Strand Magazine*, almost like despatches from the front. The tale ended, happily, with the defeat of the Dervish war party and the reunion of their captives, in the final chapter published in December 1897.<sup>16</sup> Kitchener’s army’s journey did not end until 2 September 1898, when they met the Mahdist forces outside Omdurman and exacted on them a terrible revenge, leaving the Dervish army with more than 26,000 men killed and wounded, a casualty rate of around 50%. Some journeys, after all, were more serious than others.

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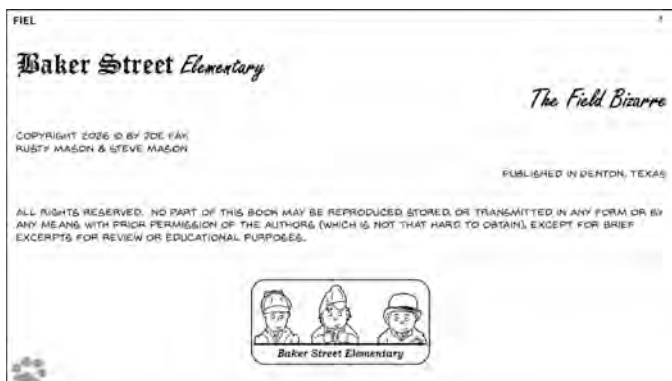
<sup>14</sup> ACD to Mary Doyle, 23 January 1896, British Library Add MS 88924/1/9 ACD to Mary Doyle 1893–1896.

<sup>15</sup> See Winston Churchill, *The River War*, 2 vols., ed. James W. Muller (St Augustine’s Press, 2020).

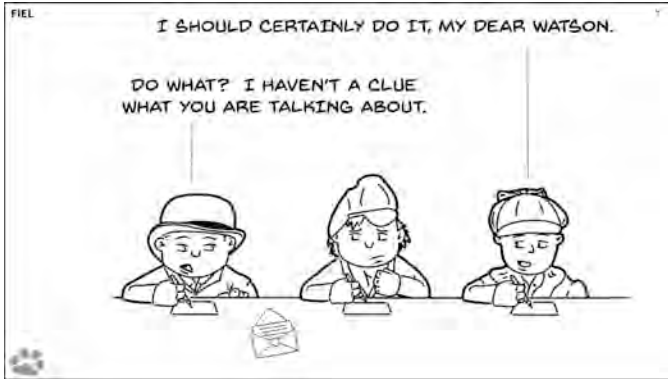
<sup>16</sup> As usual, the book version was published a little later, on 1 February 1898. The illustrations in this article, by Sidney Paget, first appeared in the *Strand Magazine* serialization and then in the book, published by Smith, Elder & Co.

# BAKER STREET ELEMENTARY

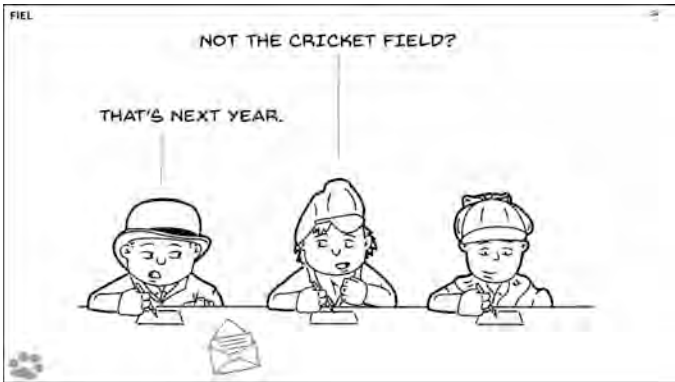
*Stephen Mason, Rusty Mason, and Joe Fay\**



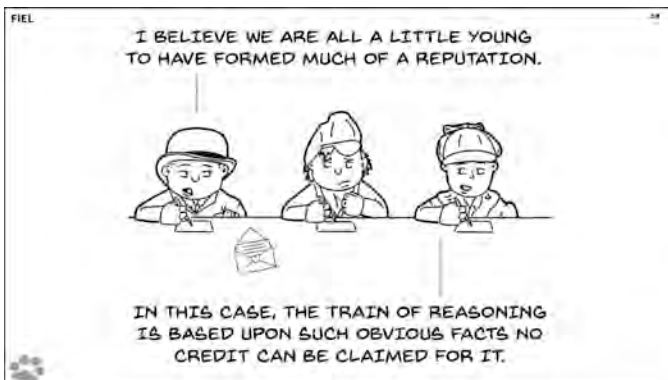
\* To learn more about these three extraordinary comic talents and their work, visit [www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/baker-street-elementary.html). Copyright 2026 Stephen Mason, Rusty Mason, and Joe Fay.







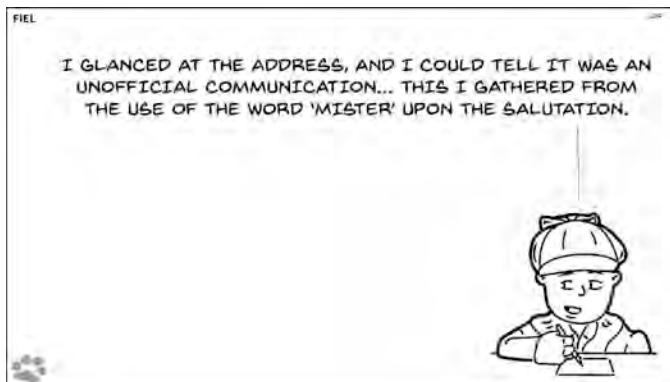


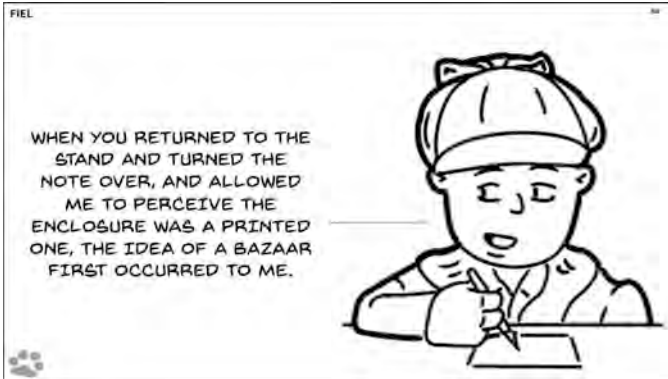


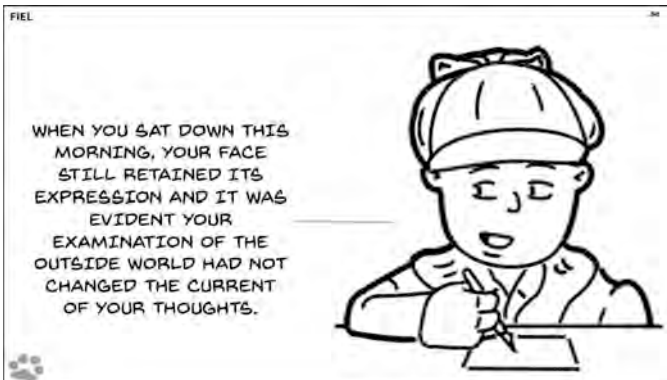
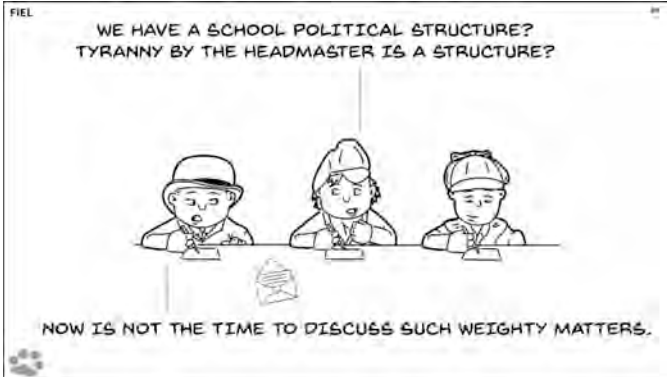






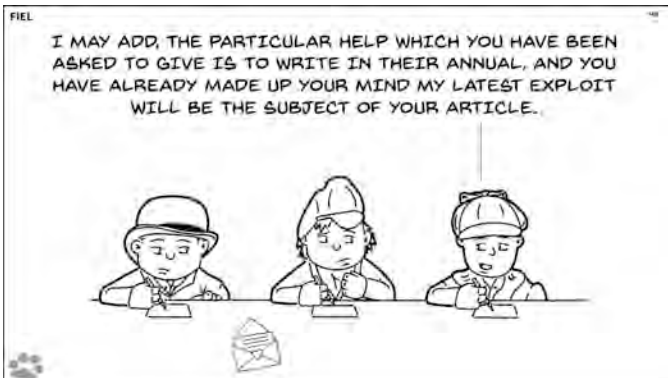














# SHERLOCKIAN RECIPES

*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 an heirloom recipe for rabbit in onion sauce, and a newly created recipe for ham and Stilton pinwheels. 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\*

## BERKSHIRE HAM AND STILTON PINWHEELS WITH SCOTTISH FIG PRESERVES AND BLACK PEPPER PEARS

Linda Ahern\*

This is a savory that would have gone well with the cold woodcock, pheasant, *pâte de fois gras* pie, and ancient and cobwebby bottles of “The Noble Bachelor.” Even Lord St. Simon would have enjoyed these!

Ingredients:



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\* 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 the Editor’s note 2026 Harrison Hunt.

\* Linda Ahern has been in the culinary arts since 1996, working in NYC restaurants. Now retired, she keeps her skills up hosting theme parties.

- 1 sheet of Puff Pastry. (Gluten Free if desired. Defrost in refrigerator if frozen)
- 2 Tablespoons of fig preserves (slightly warmed to help with spreading)
- 1/4 pound of thinly sliced Berkshire ham or similar substitute (tavern or Black Forest ham)
- 1/4 cup of shaved English Stilton
- 1 pear of choice; I use a red Bartlett
- 1 tablespoon of unsalted butter; I use Kerrygold
- Black pepper to taste
- 1 egg beaten for egg wash

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400.

Core and peel pear and slice thin.

Heat small skillet, add butter, pears and a few grinds of fresh black pepper.

Sauté until lightly golden. Set aside.

Warm fig preserves.

Lay out puff pastry on parchment paper on sheet pan and brush with fig preserves.

Cover pastry with ham and Stilton.

Gently top with sautéed pear slices.

Roll pastry tightly, jelly roll style. Wrap the roll in parchment paper, cover this with foil or plastic wrap and chill for 15-30 minutes.



When ready to bake, remove from the wrapping, slice, and place on parchment lined sheet pan. Brush tops and sides lightly with egg wash. Bake 15-18 minutes until golden. Rotate pan halfway through to ensure even browning. Plate and enjoy.



## MOTHER MANIA'S RABBIT IN ONION SAUCE

*Brenda Rossini\**

In 1895, a dish of domestic rabbit would likely have been on the menu at Simpson's-on-the-Strand. Its taste is succulent, earthy and English. The Queen's Preserves reserved sections for raising plump rabbits, whereas a hunted hare is leaner and gamey of taste. One can sense in its braised bones the hustle it attempted on its final race to elude the hunter.

I grew up in Sherbourne, Dorset, a village and farming district in the south of England. This is my mother's family recipe for rabbit. I remember clearly my father carrying a load of hares for a butcher; however, the wild hare was not my mother's choice for our family. We preferred a subtler flavor and a succulent variety — from rabbits raised on nearby farms. When we came to America, I introduced a few girlfriends to "Mother Mania's rabbit" and am proud to say they reveled in the discovery.

Ingredients:



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\* Brenda Rossini is the author of *Oscar Slater: a Killer Exposed*, and a member of the Bootmakers of Toronto and many other Sherlockian societies. Copyright in the rabbit section 2026 Brenda Rossini.

Heavy casserole with lid

1 clean, skinned, farm-raised rabbit, from the butcher or frozen and defrosted

2 cups water

2 tsp. pepper

1 tsp. salt

1 ½ large onions, sliced thick

1 stick butter, cut into pieces

1 large bay leaf

1 tbsp. beef “Better than Bouillon”

Plus ingredients for the sauce (in instructions below).

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350.

Dry rabbit with paper towel.

Dredge rabbit in 1 cup flour seasoned with pepper and salt.

Add 2 cups of water into the casserole.

Add the onion slices into the water.

Sprinkle with salt and 1 tsp. pepper. Pepper is king in this recipe; generosity adds a spicy oomph.

Add the bay leaf and 1 tbsp. beef “Better than Bouillon.”

Add the butter.

Place the rabbit into the pot.

Sprinkle it with pepper.

Cover and bake in preheated 350° oven for 1 1/2 hours. Be careful not to overcook!

At the 1-hour mark, spoon its juices over the rabbit.

When the rabbit is done, remove the bay leaf and place the rabbit on a platter, tenting it loosely to keep warm.

Place the casserole on the stove, removing a large portion of the onions (toss or feed to the cat). Heat to reduce, about 3 minutes, and then stir in the following for the sauce to pour over the rabbit:

1 ½ tbs. cognac

Dash of nutmeg

Dash salt and pepper

Flour slurry: 1 tbsp. flour whisked with 2 tbsp. hot water.

Whisk the sauce feverishly over the heat so no flour lumps appear.

Pour over rabbit.



Serve beside a good dollop of whipped potatoes (using a ricer assures a fluffy blend) and a side of roasted carrots (boil peeled, cut, sliced carrots 30-40 min. covered. Drain, smother with butter, a tad honey, thyme).

Even served cold, the rabbit retains its delicious flavor.

# NEFARIOUS GOINGS-ON HEIGHTEN DRAMA POST-WESSEX CUP

THE ADVENTURE OF GREEN RANJITSINHJI

*Karen Ellery\**

*"We have your horse..."*

It was a bright, brisk January day in New York, NY, and the wind played cheekily through Manhattan's artificial canyons. Many wise and wonderful denizens of the Sherlockian world were gathered at The Mysterious Bookshop for the running of the Wessex Cup. Little did they dream of the dark deeds that would follow.

For those unfamiliar with the Wessex Cup, it is an event produced annually by the ACD Society. Adorable, custom-decorated toy horses roll down a vintage wooden track, two at a time. The first horses (back in 2022) were wind-up steeds with jockeys, playfully painted by the practically perfect Peggy MacFarlane. For the last two years, the racers have been wooden, sans riders. Over the course of several heats, the original eight equines are whinnied ... um, winnowed down to two for the final race to determine the next holder of the coveted Wessex Cup.

The race follows the awarding of the prestigious Doylean Honours to the scholars and artists whose Arthur Conan Doyle-related work has been selected as outstanding. This year's awards showcased such literary luminaries as Clifford Goldfarb, Hal Glatzer, Chris Chan, Margie Deck, Laurence Trujillo, Carla Coupe, Jeremiah Schiek, Richard Fallon, David Hone, Andrew Singleton, and Matt Tomlinson. After hearty applause for the honourees, it was off to the races!

Thoroughbreds all, the 2026 field of racers was notable for their spirit and the peculiarly high spirits of the stable Owners and Trainers. Victoria's Owner came in full Victorian garb, complete with top hat, veil, and beribboned riding crop. The Garnet stable Owner and Trainers, all members of the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane, adorned themselves with tea cosies. And Shackleton's Owner and Trainer skulked about in caps.

After a crash course in field repair (specifically, both Shackleton and Garnet crashed simultaneously on the first practice heat of the day, so the course underwent a quick repair), the Brokers faced the Guttersnipes for the

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\* Karen Ellery is a leading figure in several Sherlockian societies, including the Baker Street Guttersnipes, the Red-Throated League, and the Tea Brokers of Mincing Lane. Copyright 2026 Karen Ellery. N.B.: The footnotes in this article appear to have been written by *Baker Street Almanac* editor P.J. Sullivan. Her co-editor thinks she is devastatingly funny.

first race, cosies v. caps. It was fast. It was furious. It was fun. Though the two steeds stayed neck and neck for much of the five-second race, Garnet managed to pull ahead just enough to win by a tiny wooden nose.<sup>1</sup>

In true Guttersnipe fashion, Shackleton Owner (and Garnet Trainer) Carla Coupe quickly changed her cap for a cosy and joined fellow Garnet Trainers Carl Stix and Carolyn Coleman to cheer with the Tea Brokers for the remaining heats.

In the second race, the highly spirited Ranjitsinhji<sup>2</sup> (Owner: PJ Sullivan) pranced in to place just ahead of Matt Hall's Monash. Kipling (Ira Brad Matetsky) stripped Victoria (Victoria Wood) of her crown for the third race; and Reader (Jules Spada and Bruce Harris) rocketed ahead of the Unfortunate Pony<sup>3</sup> (Curtis Armstrong and Ashley Polasek) who came in dead last.

In the second heat, Garnet rushed past Ranjitsinhji and Kipling won over the Reader (as he often does). The races were electric, eclectic, and mercifully short.

The third and final heat was red against black. Would Garnet gainsay Kipling, or would Kipling tipling ... I mean, topple Garnet? As Master of Ceremonies Ross Davies readied the racers, the Sherlockian world held its collective breath.

"On your marks. Get set. Go!" Two fingers were raised (no, not *those* two fingers, you Guttersnipe!) and the racers released. A brief hush, then a confused roar — who had won? It was a photo-finish that even roped-in Referee Phil Bergem could not call. Garnet and Kipling had truly tied one on!

Back to the starting gate the racers rolled. Tension was pitched higher than the wooden track as the horses raced down the green. A split-second lead decided it — Garnet was the winner of the 2026 Wessex Cup.

The other Owners were gracious in defeat and led their charges away to purchase books and lunch at McSorley's. Meanwhile, Garnet wandered through the streets, lost in New York with a bunch of Sherlockians. All eventually fetched up at Swift's Hibernian Lounge in the Bowery, where Ruffians awaited.

Ms. Sullivan, decked out in her finest racing togs,<sup>4</sup> came a-dancing and a-prancing in with her noble Ranjitsinhji, a sprightly yet sensitive mount. Little did she dream that "Mother" had doffed her cosy for the cap of a Guttersnipe under the influence of strong drink, long toasts, and the peer pressure of the Bowery Ruffians. What was the Dirty Little Lieutenant up to?

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<sup>1</sup> We have thus far a surprisingly accurate account of events. Let us see where it leads ...

<sup>2</sup> Here we meet the tragic victim of our tale. You'll want to keep an eye on poor Ranjitsinhji, folks.

<sup>3</sup> As the truth is revealed, I think we will all see who was the truly unfortunate among the ponies.

<sup>4</sup> "My blushes, Watson!"

Accounts of what transpired next differ depending on who you trust ... I mean, who you talk to. According to The Ancient Cornish Language, Ms. Sullivan was decorously leading her horse on their goodbye rounds when she was slyly waylaid by the Dirty Little Lieutenant using an obvious ploy observing her shoes (they *were* gorgeous). In her artless fashion, she gently deposited her pony (nicely nestled in its gift bag) on the nearest table, the better to display her sweet kicks. The conversation moved on, and so did Ms. Sullivan, sans equine.<sup>5</sup>

Ms. Ellery swears there was no ulterior motive for complimenting Ms. Sullivan on her superior soles, and indeed, it was much later that she realized the bag on the table did not contain her own red-ribboned winner Garnet.

"Whose horse is this? Who had the green horse? Does anybody have a copy of the Pink 'Un?" Further enquiry revealed that this was none other than Ranjitsinhji, and that PJ had ponied up and pulled out.

Ms. Ellery also swears (let's face it, she swears *a lot*) that she took charge of Ranjitsinhji as a kindness, a simple extension of her role as Mother with the Tea Brokers. Ms. Sullivan duly disputes this<sup>6</sup> and offers as proof the following post that appeared that evening in The Stranger's Room on Facebook:

"We have your horse! He was neglected at the Swift Hibernian pub. If you ever want to see him in the grain again, respond to this post and offer an interesting bribe. -The Dirty Little Lieutenant of The Baker Street Guttersnipes: The Society for the Canonically Coarse. #Ranjitsinhji #WessexCup"

It is not for me to judge who was at fault (she was), or to speculate what ransom was paid (none. Still.<sup>7</sup>), or if Ranjitsinhji, now safely returned, has suffered lasting consequences of the ordeal (one wooden think so<sup>8</sup>). Was Ms. Sullivan truly innocent,<sup>9</sup> or was Ranjitsinhji a Trojan horse, seeking to spy out the success secrets of Garnet's superior stable? Were Ms. Ellery's actions tempered by tea, or goaded by Guttersnipes? It would take Sherlock Holmes himself to solve that mystery.

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<sup>5</sup> Ah-ha! Here we see the truth begin to emerge. Who can doubt the machinations in play here, as the Guttersnipes' Dirty Little Lieutenant preys on the naiveté of poor Ranji and his Owner?

<sup>6</sup> Yer darn tootin' she disputes it, Missy-Ma'am!

<sup>7</sup> More obfuscation. The original Ransom Demand received this prompt response: "In exchange for the safe return of my beloved Greenhorse, I am willing to offer The Baker Street Guttersnipes an entry in the next Baker Street Almanac's Society Pages!" Which they received, albeit not without its own episode of drama and intrigue.

<sup>8</sup> I wanted to comment on this, but I was laughing too hard.

<sup>9</sup> Yes.





## EPHEMERAL TREASURES, DURABLE MEMORIES

Ross E. Davies\*

The Sherlockian canon is rich in some kinds of cards — especially calling and playing.<sup>1</sup> The *Baker Street Almanac* is rich in others — especially greeting — and ours are much more fun. The cards we received during the 2025 season are splendid examples of that superiority. Consider the four reproduced here:

1. *His Xmas Bow Tie: Some Recipes of Sherlock Holmes*. — from Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty.

2. “*There is too a Father Christmas!*” — from Burt and Kathi Wolder.

3. *Carolling with the Irregulars* — from Madeline Quiñones.

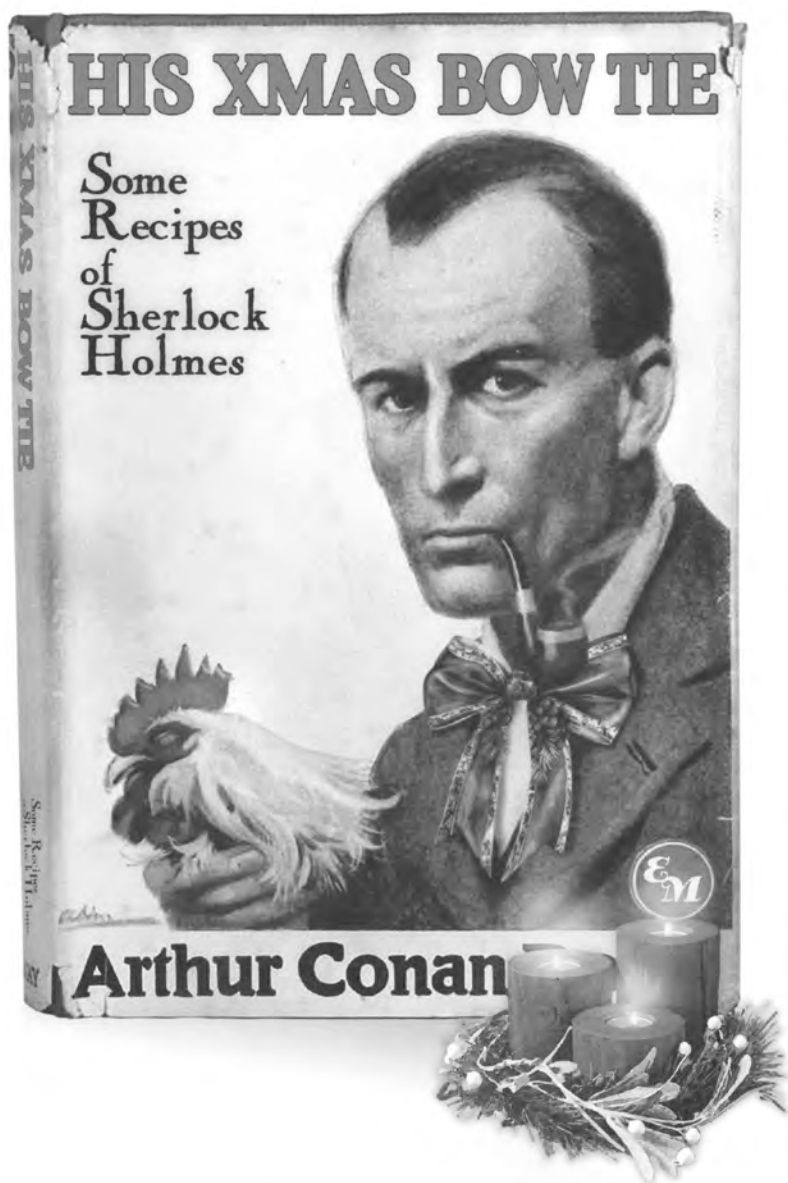
4. And we close 2025 with *Compliments of the Season* — from Joe and Elaine Coppola.

May the fine, humane, Sherlockian spirit epitomized by these wonderful correspondents never fade!

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\* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor. Each card-creator holds copyright to their respective card.

<sup>1</sup> See, for example, the picture on this page, a detail extracted from an illustration for “The Adventure of the Devil’s Foot,” in the May 14, 1911 issue of the *Sunday Oregonian* (section 6, page 7).



“I am sorry Watson but after all that kerfuffle last year I am just not having goose for Christmas dinner”.



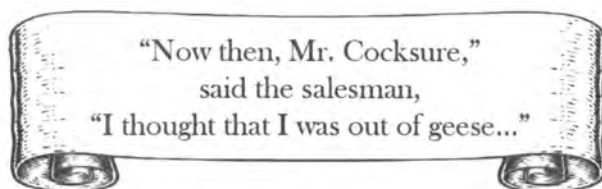
Ross

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



With our Very Best  
Wishes for a joyous  
Christmas & a wonderful  
New Year

Paine  
O x + & Jonathan





“There is too a Father Christmas!”

Having established a principle to his own satisfaction, Holmes was not unwilling to rise to defend it. "I get so little active exercise that it is always a treat," said he.

— From "The Adventure of <sup>the</sup> Solitary Cynic," unfinished

Original illustration by Sidney Paget for  
"The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist"

Dear Ross —

WISHING YOU

*The Compliments  
of the Season*

AND

*A Healthy and  
Happy New Year*

*Greatly looking forward  
to seeing you soon —*

*Burt*



*Carolling with the Irregulars.*  
Original artwork by Madeline Quiñones.

*Compliments of  
the Season*



*Joe and Elaine Coppola*  
**2025**



Some things we make are not for sale.

Bobbleheads, jigsaw puzzles, snow globes, and trading cards come to mind.

But we are willing to sell some other things.

Subscriptions to the *Green Bag* and the *Baker Street Almanac*, for example, and sometimes a few books, including *Re-readings*, the *Almanac & Reader*, and *Regulation & Imagination*. You can buy them here, and we hope you will:

[www.greenbag.org/subscriptions\\_and\\_press/shop.html](http://www.greenbag.org/subscriptions_and_press/shop.html)



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 coming out in 2026.

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+](https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/catalogsearch/result/?q=edinburgh+edition+of+the+works+of+arthur+conan+doyle)

Editors are not paid for this work, and there are costs—gathering materials, help with collation, proof-reading, paying for illustrations etc. If you would like to support the Edinburgh Edition, please contact the general editor at [kerrdw@hku.hk](mailto:kerrdw@hku.hk). Thank you, and happy reading!

## THE BOOK ON THE BURNS DESK



Paul L. Blair, in *Scratches: A Volume of Cartoons and Caricatures of Los Angeles Citizens by the Newspaper Artists* (1911). "The Blair's Detective Agency, of which Paul L. Blair is manager, is the local representative of the Burns and Sheridan Detective Agency ... ." "Detectives for American Bankers," *Los Angeles Financier* (Apr. 23, 1910), p. 354. "Known for his investigations into land fraud and political corruption, Burns enjoyed a reputation as 'the Sherlock Holmes of America.'" Daniel Stashower, *Teller of Tales* (Henry Holt 1999), p. 293. "Arthur's source [for the Scowrsers in *The Valley of Fear*] is more likely to have been a rival detective, William J. Burns, who had broken away from the Pinkertons to set up his own eponymous agency." Andrew Lycett, *The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* (Free Press 2007), p. 370.