



BAKER • STREET ALMANAC • 2022

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE OF A TIMELESS PAST & FUTURE

BAKER STREET
ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE
OF A
TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

2022

BAKER STREET ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE
OF A
TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

2022

IN THE FORM OF A FORMIDABLE SCRAP-BOOK OF 2021,
INCLUDING TREASURES CREATED OR UNCOVERED THEN,
WITH A FEW OTHER ODDS AND ENDS TOSSED IN,
AND A GLANCE AHEAD AT 2023

EDITED BY

ROSS E. DAVIES, JAYANTIKA GANGULY,
IRA BRAD MATETSKY, AND MONICA SCHMIDT



BAKER STREET ALMANAC

AN ANNUAL CAPSULE OF A TIMELESS PAST AND FUTURE

Jayantika Ganguly
*Editor of Scionical and
Societal Reports (Global)*

Ira Brad Matetsky
*Editor of Canonical
Annotations*

Monica Schmidt
*Editor of Scionical and
Societal Reports (U.S.A.)*

Contributing Editors

Harrison “Terry” Hunt, Mike McSwiggin, Sue and Ben Vizoskie

Ross E. Davies
*Editor of Everything Else,
for Now*

Copyright and copying: This work is copyright 2022 by The Green Bag, Inc., except where otherwise indicated and for U.S. government works. If a copyright notice appears in an author note, get permission to copy from the holder. All other copying requires advance written permission from us.

Correspondence: If you have a question or comment about the *Baker Street Almanac*, please do let us know by mail to The Green Bag, Inc., 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015 or email to editors@greenbag.org.

Buying: If you would like to buy the print edition of this work, please go to www.greenbag.org and click on the “Almanacs” button. From there the path to the order form should be pretty clear. When you buy a *Baker Street Almanac* that is all you are buying — one copy of the volume you’ve paid for. Everything else we make (*e.g.*, *Green Bags*, books, cards, maps, toys), including any extras that might or might not sometimes accompany an almanac, is a gift or something that must be purchased separately.

Editions: There are two versions of the 2022 *Baker Street Almanac*: the limited *Sense of Humour Edition* (it features an ink-on-paper format, and some copies include a few accessories), and the unlimited *Staunch Witnesses Edition* (it features an electrons-on-internet format, and is free).

Library of Congress Control Number: 2021938049

CONTENTS

Aloha, Sherlock <i>by Ross E. Davies</i>	1
---	---

GROUPS AND SOCIETIES AROUND THE WORLD IN 2021

Australia <i>by Bill Barnes</i>	25
Czech Republic <i>by Aleš M. Kolodrubec</i>	28
Denmark <i>by Michael Skov Lambek</i>	29
Hungary <i>by Zsófia Marincsák</i>	35
Italy <i>by Brigitte Latella and Michele Lopez</i>	37
Japan <i>by Mitch Higurashi</i>	43
Switzerland <i>by Marcus Geisser</i>	47
United Kingdom <i>by Roger Johnson and Jean Upton</i>	51
United States <i>by Mary Alcaro, Dan Andriacco, Phil Angelo, Anna Behrens, Jeff Bradway, Tom Brydges, Carol Cavalluzzi, Lauren Cercone, Brian Clark, PJ Colbert, Elaine Coppola, Carla Kaessinger Coupe, Greg Darak, Phil Dematteis, Bill Denham, Dennis Dobry, Steven T. Doyle, Randy Getz, Tom Gottwalt, David Harnois, Jim Hawkins, Linda Hein, Evelyn Herzog, David Houle, Linda Hunt, Terry Hunt, Kathleen Kaska, Marc Kaufman, Brad Keefauver, Chryss Kegley, Jerry Kegley, Jennifer Kneeland, John Knud-Hansen, Lou Lewis, Bonnie MacBird, Max Magee, Nick Martorelli, Steve Mason, Terry McCammon, Michael McClure, Mark McGovern, Rosalie Mollica, Linda Morris, Steve Morris, Robert Musial, Rob Nunn, Kim Ord, Joseph T. Page Jr., Dan Payton, Susan Perry, Marsha Pollak, John S. Postovit, Lorraine Reibert, Tracy Revels, Troy Reynolds, Greg D. Ruby, Frankin Saksena, Monica Schmidt,</i>	

CONTENTS

George Schwartz, Jonathan Shimberg, Regina Stinson, Andrew Tranquilli, Jim Webb, Janice Weiner, Stanley Wileman Jr., Karen Wilson, and Burt Wolder 61

World Wide Web — Five Miles from Anywhere
by Derrick Belanger 140

World Wide Web — Hounds of the Internet
by Alexander E. Braun 141

Sherlockian Groups and Societies: A Directory
by Mike McSwiggin 143

Editors' note: We do not have reports from Canada, France, or India this time, but we have high hopes for their return to these pages in 2023, with reports on their activities in 2022. And we would, of course, also welcome reports from other places around the globe and across the internet!

CHRONOLOGIES OF THE PAST AND FUTURE

A Whole Year of Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press
by Peter E. Blau 183

Editors' note: We do not have Ron Fish's customary "A Glance Ahead" at the coming year column because we are so darn late putting out this, the 2022 edition, that a "look ahead" at what is left of 2022 would be less than a half-loaf.

LISTS AND OTHER RECORDS

Artifacts in the 221B Baker Street Sitting-Room
by Denny Dobry 269

For the Sake of the Trust: The Baker Street Irregulars Trust Newsletter
by Thomas A. Horrocks et al. 283

Sherlockian Recipes
by Terry Hunt and Peggy Perdue 301

Third Pillar from the Left: Music and Sherlock Holmes in 2021
by Jens Byskov Jensen 309

Doings of Doyle in 2021
by Mark Jones 312

CONTENTS

Sherlock Holmes and Law 2021
by Ira Brad Matetsky..... 314

Past Sherlockians: Jon Lellenberg
by Donald Pollock..... 318

Sherlockian Numismatica 2021
by Greg D. Ruby..... 324

Editors' note: Andy Solberg's recommended reading is unchanged since the 2020 *Baker Street Almanac*, and so we recommend you refer to that edition for his wisdom about essential Sherlockian reading.

COMMENTARIES, HISTORIES, AND DIVERSIONS

Michael Francis Whelan: A Man for All Sherlockians
by Sue and Ben Vizoskie..... 5

A Quiet Air of Mastery: Baker Street Irregulars
Remember Michael F. Whelan
by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder 15

The Adventure of the Abbey Grange: A New Annotated Edition
by Arthur Conan Doyle, with an introduction by Leslie S. Klinger and annotations by Peter E. Blau, Shana Carter, Greg Darak, Ross E. Davies, Steven Doyle, Harrison Hunt, Robert Katz, Michael Kean, Leslie S. Klinger, Nick Martorelli, Steve Mason, Ira Brad Matetsky, Michael McSwiggan, Scott Monty, Rob Nunn, Monica Schmidt, Will Walsh, Burt Wolder, Beverly Wolov, and Christopher Zordan..... 327

An Invitation to Annotate
by Ira Brad Matetsky..... 358

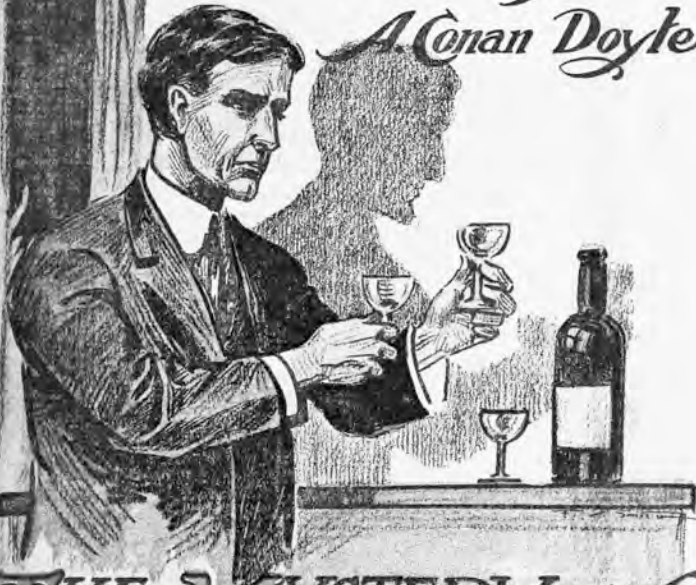
Ephemeral Treasures, Durable Memories
by Ross E. Davies, with Peter E. Blau, Alan Kay and Bonnie MacBird, Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty, Thierry Saint-Joanis, and Burt and Kathi Wolder..... 359

Advertisements..... 374

The Boston Sunday Post

MASTERPIECES OF
SHERLOCK HOLMES

BY
A. Conan Doyle



THE MYSTERY OF
THE ABBEY GRANGE.

Also available — freshly annotated, and under a more conventional title
("Adventure" instead of "Mystery") — starting on page 327 below!

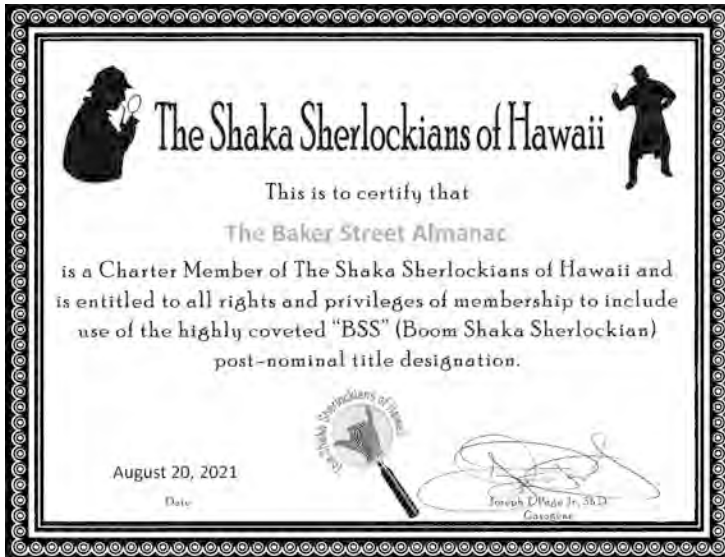
ALOHA, SHERLOCK

Ross E. Davies*

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

FRESH DEVELOPMENTS

The first full calendar year of COVID-19 was not an easy one for anyone. But devotees of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson managed to find, or create, quite a few pleasant moments. Consider, for example, the Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii. They were founded in late 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, by their current Gasogene, Dr. Joseph T. Page Jr. With their creative and kindly outreach (see, for example, the lovely membership certificate below), and their excellent Zoom meetings,¹ they brought Sherlockians around the world to one of the loveliest places on the planet — quite an uplift! And they renewed the Sherlockian community in Hawaii.



* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

¹ Available for viewing here: www.shakasherlockian.com/meetingscalendar.html.



Or consider the case of Peggy Perdue. Making lemonade from lemons is cheap and easy; making Holmes from home confinement is pandemically priceless. After she agreed to permit us to publish this fine Sherlockian portrait — which she drew in February 2021 while recovering from a bad fall on an icy Toronto sidewalk — Peggy also gave us this caption: “The game is a *foot*. Art in the blood meets physiotherapy when a Sherlockian works on regaining ankle flexibility after a broken leg.”

Or consider the magnificent *Sherlock Holmes on Screens* newspaper that was launched in the summer of 2021 (and promptly read around the world — see next page) by Sherlock Holmes on Screens, the ambitious cinematic project of Howard Ostrom and Thierry Saint-Joanis.²

² www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com/newspaper.



Or consider many other good things too numerous and various to catalog here, because the year saw so much that the Sherlockian community can and should be proud of and grateful for. In that sense, 2021 was, despite its extraordinary defects, a year like any other year. Thank goodness.

WHISPERS OF “NORBURY”

Which is not to say that everything came up roses for the *Baker Street Almanac* in 2021. That year’s edition was, alas, imperfect. As faithful reader Richard Sveum tactfully wrote to us, “Hate to whisper ‘Norbury’ but in the table of contents you have page 135 preceding page 134.” Dick was correct. We had the correct page numbers attached to the correct works both in the contents and within the book (Ron Fish’s was on page 134, Peter Blau’s began on page 135), but we listed them in the wrong order in the contents (Blau before Fish). We thank Dick for his gentle and properly canonically expressed correction, and apologize to any disoriented readers.

And then we noticed that in the last line of footnote 94 on page 330, we had too many commas and too few spaces. Oy.

If you catch an error — large or small — please do let us know (email editors@greenbag.org).



ONE OR TWO LITTLE FANCIES

A *Baker Street Almanac* often travels (or at least exits our mailroom) in the company of other Sherlockian items. The 2018 edition, for example, was wrapped in a “How Watson Learned the Trick” dust jacket, and last year’s contained “Priory School” cricket caps. This edition is (or was) accompanied by an “Abbey Grange” two-sided jigsaw puzzle. (Loyalists who placed orders early already have a colorful clue, one side of which is reproduced above in black and white.) This item was inspired by the caption on a portrayal of Sherlock that appears in the puzzle, not by any puzzle he solves in the story.

THANKS

As ever, we thank the librarians (especially librarian-artist extraordinaire, Peggy Perdue), and Ira Brad Matetsky (whose sharp glance is always the last cast upon the *Baker Street Almanac*³). Thanks also to Riley Davies, for his reading of *Sherlock Holmes on Screens*. And thank you, reader, for reading. Please do write if you think of something we ought to start or stop doing.

Ross E. Davies
July 7, 2022

³ Cf. *Davies v. Mann*, 152 Eng. Rep. 588 (1882).



MICHAEL FRANCIS WHELAN

A MAN FOR
ALL SHERLOCKIANS

by Sue and Ben Vizoskie



MICHAEL FRANCIS WHELAN

A MAN FOR ALL SHERLOCKIANS

*Sue and Ben Vizoskie**

Michael F. Whelan's death, on October 25, 2021 at age 83, was a great loss for the Sherlockian community. Mike held the position of "Wiggins" in the Baker Street Irregulars for 23 years, receiving the reins from Thomas L. Stix, Jr. after the annual BSI Dinner in January 1997 and passing the title to Michael Kean in January 2020. Over the period of his leadership, Mike Whelan invested many Sherlockians into the BSI, but one didn't need to be a BSI member to know Mike. He enjoyed meeting Sherlockians wherever he was. He enjoyed being in their company, conversing with them, listening to them, and laughing with them. Mike had a great sense of humor, and he didn't take himself too seriously, but he did take his stewardship of the BSI as a serious responsibility. He was always mindful of doing the best for the organization and its members, and all Sherlockians have benefited and will continue to benefit from his leadership and his initiatives.

One of Mike's earliest innovations occurred in January 1998 when he established the Distinguished Speaker Lecture. It has taken place on the Thursday evening of the January Birthday weekend annually since then. Open to the extended Sherlockian community, the lectures have featured prominent authors, editors, scientists, and professors who have all shared knowledge and observations from their unique perspectives, provoking thoughtful questions and stimulating discussion.

Mike also revived the BSI-sponsored Silver Blaze race and expanded it into a triennial weekend event occurring at the beautiful Victorian race course in Saratoga Springs, NY. Attendees gather on Saturday for luncheon and an afternoon of racing and re-assemble the next morning for brunch and a Sherlockian program of race-related presentations. Beginning in 2000, the event, open to all Sherlockians, has taken place in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018. The 2009 race was held in Chicago in a joint celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the BSI and the 50th annual running of the Silver Blaze race held in Chicago. The pandemic has interrupted

* Sue and Ben Vizoskie have long served as officers of The Three Garridebs, in Westchester County, NY. All photos are by Ben, unless stated otherwise in a caption. Copyright 2022 Sue and Ben Vizoskie. The text of this article is adapted from the following: Susan Vizoskie, "A Man of Letters," in *A Quiet Air of Mastery: An Appreciation of Michael Francis Whelan*, ed. Leslie S. Klinger (New York: Baker Street Irregulars Press, 2020), 125-127.

the regular schedule of the BSI's Silver Blaze, but we look forward to its resumption.

BSI publishing, revitalized by Mike, has expanded and continues apace. Throughout his tenure, Mike organized and reorganized the Baker Street Irregulars Press as necessary. The Press publishes books in a variety of categories, including the Manuscript Series, History Series, Biography Series, International Series, Professional Series, and non-series volumes. New titles are always being written, edited, and published and added to the pool of Sherlockian scholarship appreciated and enjoyed by so many.

The Baker Street Irregulars Trust was organized under Mike's leadership. Realizing a long-held goal beginning with Edgar W. Smith, an archive, administered by the Trust, was established initially at the Houghton Library at Harvard. The BSI Archive was relocated to the Lilly Library (part of Indiana University at Bloomington, Indiana), and the celebration of its arrival was held in November 2019. The Archive continues to expand as additional material related to the history of the BSI organization and its members and friends is collected. The contents of the Archive are available to all for research and study.

BSI conferences, open to all, were a result of Mike's creativity, enthusiasm, and initiative. The first conference, "The Valley of Fear Expedition," took place in 2004 in Jim Thorpe, PA and its environs; next, the "Expedition to the Country of the Saints" was held in Salt Lake City, UT in 2008. Located on the UCLA campus, the 2012 conference, "Behind the Canonical Screen," focused on the cinematic Holmes. In 2016, Sherlockians assembled at the Chautauqua Institution, a summer resort with educational and artistic programs in Chautauqua, NY, for "The Mind and Art of Sherlock Holmes." The next conference, "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire," is scheduled for July 29-31, 2022 at the Bear Mountain Inn near West Point, NY.

All Sherlockians owe Mike Whelan thanks for broadening and deepening the Sherlockian experience. When an individual attends a Lecture, a conference, or a Silver Blaze; reads a BSI Press volume; or makes use of the Archive, that Sherlockian is benefiting from Mike's leadership, enthusiasm, ingenuity, and innovation. Mike enhanced, enriched, and expanded the Sherlockian world for all of us to enjoy.



**DISTINGUISHED
SPEAKER
LECTURE**

Mike Whelan welcomes attendees in 2017 (left). Speaker Martin Edwards at the podium in 2018 (above left). Leslie Klinger fields questions for speaker Sara Paretsky in 2017 (above). A packed audience listens attentively in 2010 (below).





BSI PRESS

Mike Whelan announcing publication of *To Keep the Memory Green* in 2008 (above), and, in 2010, displaying the Eddie Award, presented to editors of BSI volumes (left).



SILVER BLAZE

Susan Rice, program organizer, opening the Sunday slate of speakers in 2006 (above left). Mike Whelan and his wife, Mary Ann Bradley, enjoy the buffet lunch in the At The Rail Pavilion in 2006 (above). Entrance to Saratoga Race Course in 2015 (left).





BSI TRUST & ARCHIVE

Tom Horrocks, Mike Whelan, and Steve Doyle (l. to r.) at a board meeting of the BSI Trust in Bloomington, Indiana in 2019 (above left). The Lilly Library, home of the BSI Archive, in 2018 (above right). Michael Kean and Mike Whelan speaking during a panel discussion at the conference celebrating the Archive's arrival at the Lilly Library in 2019 (right). Sherlockians viewing the Exhibition celebrating the arrival of the Archive at the Lilly Library in 2019 (below).





**VALLEY OF FEAR
EXPEDITION — 2004**

Mike Whelan welcoming conference attendees (left). Al Rosenblatt introducing local experts who spoke at the court house in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, on Sunday morning (above). The tour buses met at Kehoe's Hibernian House (the model for McGinty's) for lunch (below).





IN THE COUNTRY OF THE SAINTS — 2008

Sherlockians entering Salt Lake City's Heritage Park for Saturday morning's program, with Mike Whelan in the lead (above). Mike (right) with some of Saturday's speakers.



**BEHIND THE
CANONICAL SCREEN
— 2012 —**

Mike Whelan opening the program at UCLA (right). Two directors discuss the animated Sherlock Holmes (below left). The program included a discussion of intellectual property and copyright issues led by Betsy Rosenblatt (below right). Winners of the Canonical Academy Awards were enthusiastically applauded at Sunday evening's banquet (bottom).





THE MIND AND ART
OF SHERLOCK HOLMES
— 2016 —

The Victorian Athenaeum Hotel (above left), in Chautauqua, New York, site of the conference. Attendees were treated to silent films accompanied by live piano music (above right). The conference included a cruise on Chautauqua Lake aboard the paddle-wheeler *Chautauqua Belle* (below). Mike Whelan aboard the *Chautauqua Belle* (right).



I HEAR OF SHERLOCK EVERYWHERE
The Definitive Sherlock Holmes Show And Website At The Intersection Of News And Popular Culture.



Home » BS2 » episodes » Interview » special episode » Episode 231: A Quiet Air of Mastery

Episode 231: A Quiet Air of Mastery

by Scott Monty December 30, 2021

"put forward with such a quiet air of mastery" [STOC]



Search IHOSE & Trifles

SEARCH BY Google

Subscribe



A QUIET AIR OF MASTERY

BAKER STREET IRREGULARS REMEMBER
MICHAEL F. WHELAN

*Scott Monty and Burt Wolder**

In December, 2021 we gathered Baker Street Irregulars who knew Mike well to share their memories of his interests, personality, and character. Peter E. Blau, Ross Davies, Steven Doyle, Les Klinger, Hartley Nathan, Otto Penzler, and Steve Rothman had much to share. Listen to the *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* Podcast — *Episode 231: A Quiet Air of Mastery*, here: ihose.co/ihose231. These highlights from the podcast have been edited for the *Baker Street Almanac* in Mike's memory.

* Scott Monty and Burt Wolder host two Sherlockian podcasts: *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* (www.ihearofsherlock.com) and *Trifles* (www.sherlockholmespodcast.com).

Otto Penzler

Otto Penzler (“The King of Bohemia,” 1976) is the president and CEO of MysteriousPress.com. He is also the proprietor of The Mysterious Bookshop in New York City and is an authority on crime, mystery and suspense fiction. A prolific editor and publisher, he won the Edgar® for the *Encyclopedia of Mystery and Detection* in 1977 and *The Lineup* in 2010. The Mystery Writers of America awarded him the prestigious Ellery Queen Award in 1994 and the Raven, the group’s highest non-writing award, in 2003.

Mike had a wonderful ability to draw people in, to volunteer to do things. Volunteering is a pliable word around Mike. He would say, “This is what I want you to do. You want to do this, right?” I don’t know how anybody could turn him down.

He trusts you. He trusts you to do a good job. I think everybody who worked with him, for him, wanted to do that, wanted to recognize and honor the sense of trust that he had in you.

I think he could talk to anybody about anything. If he didn’t know a lot, he would ask questions. But he was responsive. He was interested. He would get into a conversation about any esoteric subject at all, and wouldn’t blow it off. He would listen, and contribute in some way, by asking questions, or whatever it took, to keep the conversation going. At a high level, and a friendly level. It was a rare ability, one that I wish I had, and I wish more people had.

Mike was unique because of his ambition to grow the organization, and to expand what the organization did. We published many more books during his tenure. When I say we, I mean the BSI, of course. Mike produced many more books than any of his predecessors, probably more than all of his predecessors combined. It has been a very ambitious publishing program.

I love the Manuscript series more than you could possibly know. They are masterpieces of production. The people who work on that, the Gasogene Press people and others, they do such a wonderful, wonderful job of producing those books. I sold my collection, virtually my entire collection, a few years ago at auction. But I keep the Manuscript series. They’re just too wonderful to not have on the shelves.

Peter E. Blau

Peter E. Blau (“Black Peter,” 1959) found the world of Sherlockians as a teenager, thanks to Ben Abramson, who wrote “I publish a magazine you will enjoy reading. Tell your father to send me \$10.00.” The magazine was

The Baker Street Journal. He sometimes claims that everything he knows about being a Sherlockian and a collector he learned from John Bennett Shaw, and serves as the “Simpson” (secretary) of the BSI, as did John before him. His career as a geologist and a journalist has allowed him to travel widely, meet a host of interesting Sherlockians, and recount hundreds of wonderfully entertaining stories.

Mike had some very firm ideas about how the BSI should change. He wanted it to be a literary society, which I think is fascinating because that’s how we started back in the ’Thirties and the ’Forties. It was a bunch of people in the literary world, friends of Christopher Morley, writers and things like that, who were members of the Three Hours For Lunch Club or the Grillparzer Club and the Baker Street Irregulars. And now Mike Whelan brought in authors and playwrights and really started paying attention to people writing things again.

What any good executive has to be good at is identifying people who can do something and persuade them to do it. And the one really great thing about Mike was that if he picked the wrong person, if it didn’t work, he didn’t take it personally. He just picked somebody else, just kept going.

He could be very firm, but he was kind. If Mike decided that he wanted something to happen a certain way, that it really needed to happen that way, that was it. And if it didn’t, then he didn’t like it.

Mike will be remembered for the corporation, the organization. He turned it over to Michael Kean as a going concern. Think about poor Julian Wolff. After Edgar Smith’s funeral, a few of the guys in New York got together and said, “What are we going to do now?” And Julian said, well, he’d retired early, and he said, “I’ll plan the annual dinner.” And then he did. And he was the Commissionaire forever. And he just did it.

And eventually, he wisely decided it was time to turn it over to Tom Stix, who wisely decided to turn it over to Mike. Mike Whelan created an organization and did what every good business executive should do, which is bring people up who can deal with the boss being hit by a bus crossing the street. The one thing you can’t do in business is have a company depending on one person; there have to be people prepared. And it was Mike Whelan who actually decided, well, we ought to have officers who can actually do something, and so he turned over to Michael Kean something that’s working. And I’m sure Michael Kean will keep it going, and thriving.

Steven Rothman

Steven Rothman (“The Valley of Fear,” 1986) discovered he was a Sherlockian when he read Baring-Gould’s *Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street* at age 12. He soon discovered that his other love in literature, Christopher Morley, was entwined with the BSI. In 1990 he edited *The Standard Doyle Company: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes* (Fordham University Press). He has been editor of *The Baker Street Journal* since 2000.

I got a phone call out of the blue. It was in 1999, in the spring. Mike called up and said, “So Steve,” after some bits and pieces, “would you like to be editor of the *Baker Street Journal*?” I said, “Well, that’s something that I never expected to be offered.” And I asked some questions. I probably had one or two more phone calls with Mike, to understand what he expected and to get an idea of how much autonomy I would be given. I knew Mike and I felt reassured enough. And so I said, “Absolutely.”

Benevolence was something that he did strive for. But he loved the group corporately, as well as the individuals in it. And he wanted the most from them. In his annual letters, that’s what he was asking for. He was saying help us, because he more you help us, the more you’re involved, the more you’ll like the group. And the more you like the group, the better it will be for you and all your fellow members and for Sherlockian activities worldwide. That’s what he was thinking of, and that’s what he was aiming for with his benevolent dictatorship.

I think two streams of Mike’s life came together for the Baker Street Irregulars. One was the corporate stream, where the more people you knew, and knew their abilities, the better it was for you and for the company. And the other was his personal experiences with the scions. Long before he was head of the Irregulars, he had gotten to know a great many people because he had always traveled around to lots of groups.

Mike’s major accomplishments were setting up the BSI Trust and the Archives. Absolutely. Beyond anything else, we’ve really gotten a good start, especially with gifts of papers from Glen Miranker, and gifts of material from Costa Rossakis. We formed a good group of people on the Trust who work hard. We formed good alliances with the people at the Lilly, which is a wonderful library, with wonderful librarians who will be excellent shepherds for our material. And this will allow scholarship, both the “scholarship”... there were air quotes there you couldn’t see ... the scholarship of Sherlockians and the scholarship of real people with university positions who will be examining our organization. After all, we’re in shouting distance of a hundred

years since 1934. With 2034 almost upon us, it will be good to see what we've done, how we've changed, what we've meant for Sherlock Holmes overall. Mike Whelan mustered the finances and the material, and it has been a wonderful contribution which we all benefit from.

I think Mike was very proud of what he had done, and felt that he had found a good successor in Michael. And I'm sure he wished he could see another 20 years of what was going to happen, but we all benefit from what he did, and we all benefited from his friendship. He was fun to talk to — that was one of the best parts.

Ross E. Davies

Professor of Law Ross E. Davies (“The Temple,” 2017) teaches administrative law, civil procedure, contracts, employment discrimination, legal history, legal profession, and torts at George Mason University’s Antonin Scalia Law School in Arlington, VA. He is also Editor-in-Chief of *The Green Bag, An Entertaining Journal of Law*. In addition to his many Sherlockian projects, publications and pursuits, he serves on the steering committee of The Wolfe Pack, is a two-time winner of the Doug Pappas Award from the Society for American Baseball Research, and is a charter member of the Bill the Cat Buyers Club.

My first experience with Mike was at my first BSI dinner. I was talking with someone after, when people are sort of milling around, after things wrap up. And Mike Whelan, who had been pointed out to me, walks up and says, “I’m sorry to interrupt. My name’s Mike Whelan. It’s very nice to meet you. And would you autograph this for me?” And he had a copy of a book I’d published that had a bunch of Sherlockian stuff in it. And I learned later that he was an essentialist about making sure that his copies of things were properly inscribed, which has its own charm. But stop and think about that for a moment. He sought me out, a nobody, and then apologized for interrupting and then asked for my autograph.

And that’s the way he was. And so each of us at our first dinner was special to him, in both a procedural way, but also in a personal way. Because once you know that’s the way he works, you could watch, you could see him walking around the room, basically with an armload of stuff, because he had something from everyone who had produced something. This was coming from his heart, from his passion and his caring for the people who were going to be involved in this community. Mike Whelan walks up to me with something that I

have created and asks me to customize it for him. He's saying something about how he values me and my work.

Mike was interested in people, their welfare, their flourishing, their capacities. So he was interested in very nearly everything in the world. In that sense, he was in some ways like one of the inside jokes in the Sherlockian Canon, which is that Sherlock Holmes only kept the important things in his head. But the truth is that everything is important, so he was keeping every darn thing in his head, and so was Mike. He was an amazing guy.

Steven Doyle

Steven Doyle ("The Western Morning News," 1996) has been captivated by Sherlock Holmes since receiving a copy of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* at age 14. In 1987, Doyle founded and edited the quarterly journal, *The Sherlock Holmes Review*, which ran for ten years. In 1992 he cofounded Wessex Press and its imprint Gasoline Books, the premier Sherlockian publisher in the world. Since 2008 he has been publisher of *The Baker Street Journal*. Steve has authored countless essays and edited or co-edited six books on Sherlock Holmes, including *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies*.

Mike was sort of a legendary person around Sherlockian circles. He had revived the Illustrious Clients, we had been in a sort of semi-dormant state as an organization for about 15 or 16 years, and upon getting back here, as he had a habit of doing, if there was a Sherlock Holmes society to be revived, he would jumpstart it, or he would just start a new one. I don't think people realize that there's probably a good number of clubs and organizations in our hobby community that owe a debt to him.

Sometimes there was a job that needed to be created, and Mike had a talent to recognize that as well and then find the person to go into it. I think he came to me at one point because he and I had been talking, maybe on one of those basketball trips or something. And I do remember one day he asked me about the *Journal*, he said, could it look better? And I said, yes, I think it could. Because that's why he was having us do book covers. So, some time passed, and then he said, I've got some things I want to talk to you about. Which was, at first, like getting called into the principal's office. And so, I remember going over and he said, "I was wondering if you would think about taking on the role of publisher of the *Journal*. You obviously have done a periodical in the past. You know about printing and publishing. I think you'd be good at it. Would you take it on?"

I had to think about it for a little bit, and so I came back to him and said, well, I'll be interested in doing it, but there's a few things I'm going to need a free hand on. Certainly aesthetically, we can give it a brush up, but I have to do it incrementally because everybody's got an opinion about how the Journal should look. And he just said, "Well, that's why I want you to do it. You do just do it." That's when I started to introduce incremental changes to the cover and to the binding, and things like that.

Mike was always extremely supportive. He never second guessed me. Once in a while he said, I remember him saying, "Wow, that's a big change, are you going to be able to keep that up?" But he never second-guessed me, never really told me I couldn't do anything, and never made me get permission. I've always been really grateful for that. I respected that in him, that he trusted me enough to let me do that.

He loved the Baker Street Irregulars, but even outside of that, he was a really good friend. He had a big heart and really cared about everybody in the organization. He had a great sense of humor, and he really valued loyalty, not just to him, but among people too. I think he transformed this group. Mike is going to be seen as one of the great leaders of the BSI. The BSI is not the beginning and end of the Sherlockian hobby, but it still has a place, and can still sort of inspire people and kind of chart a course, in a way, for the hobby. He had a lot of foresight in positioning the Irregulars for the future, and we all owe him a huge debt for that.

Leslie S. Klinger

Leslie S. Klinger ("The Abbey Grange," 1999) is an authority on Sherlock Holmes, Dracula, H.P. Lovecraft, Frankenstein, and the history of mystery and horror fiction. His work has received numerous awards and nominations, including the Edgar® for Best Critical-Biographical Book in 2005 for *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes: The Complete Short Stories* and the Edgar® for Best Critical-Biographical Book in 2019 for *Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s*. He edited *A Quiet Air of Mastery: An Appreciation of Michael Francis Whelan* in 2020.

Mike, I gather, was a very successful businessman. He was a rescuer of companies. He would come in, build them up, and then move on. Fortunately for us, he didn't move on with the BSI, but he took an organization that, while vital, was not very businesslike, and implemented a lot of new ideas.

He did delegate, and he did let people run with the things that he had delegated to them, as is evident today. He himself talked about the statistics of how many Sherlockians were involved and how many activities, that it was not a small little group leading everything. It was a very widespread group of people with a lot of responsibility. But he could also drive you crazy.

I'm thinking of "Sherlock Holmes: Behind the Canonical Screen," the conference which Michael Kean and I did with UCLA in 2012. It was the third conference sponsored by the BSI, and the first on the West Coast. Not only did Mike and Mary Ann drive out to Los Angeles to look at the facilities themselves, to make sure that they were totally comfortable with it, they wanted to know everything about what we were doing. And it used to drive us crazy. But then I realized that he only really did that with the projects that he was totally passionate about, and he didn't do it because he doubted you, he did it because it meant so much to him that he just wanted to see if he could help, see what needed to be done, and make sure that it got done.

The BSI Trust is a perfect example of that. Mike always treated himself as one of the group of trustees. He attended the meetings of the trustees, but he was not in charge. He viewed himself as just a source of ideas, one of the trustees who had input. And ultimately of course, he ended up doing that with the BSI Press as well, where he ceded tremendous authority to Bob Katz, John Bergquist, Michael Kean, and Steve Doyle over the years to make decisions. Did he like to be kept informed? Sure. Did he appreciate having input? Absolutely. But he was far from a dictator about the things that he thought were going well.

I think Mike's greatest legacy is he perceived that we could do more to keep green the memory of the master, and be what we are, an educational organization. And that that could include conferences and books. I think that's his legacy. And of course the archives, the Trust. That we were old enough to start paying attention to our own history and hopefully learning from it. So those three things I think are the great legacies that he left with the BSI, that we're going to carry on for a long time.

Outside the BSI, his legacy was that people loved him. And as long as those who knew him live, we'll remember him, and he will live on.



AROUND THE WORLD IN 2021

SCIONICAL AND SOCIETAL REPORTS

EDITED BY

JAYANTIKA GANGULY (GLOBAL) AND MONICA SCHMIDT (U.S.A.)

AUSTRALIA • CZECH REPUBLIC • DENMARK
HUNGARY • ITALY • JAPAN • SWITZERLAND
UNITED KINGDOM • UNITED STATES
WORLD WIDE WEB



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

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

Editors' note: This still hurts.

SHERLOCK IN AUSTRALIA 2021

*Bill Barnes**

Sherlockian groups in Australia naturally all marked turning a year older in 2021, even though normal activities were somewhat necessarily restrained by various coronavirus pandemic restrictions, some more so than others depending upon which part of the country each group is located in. State borders were closed, re-opened, closed again, or just stayed closed, according to the philosophies of the respective state governments.

Nevertheless it is with pride that we record the ages of our societies. May they have many more years of friendship and fun in the pursuit of Sherlockian interests:

- 38 years — The Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia
- 36 years — The Sydney Passengers
- 25 years — The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne (meetings hiatus in 2021)
- 17 years — The Unscrupulous Rascals

As usual, The Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia, based in Perth, was the most active group in 2021, holding an event in most months of the year. Due to restrictions on venues and social gatherings The Sydney Passengers concentrated on online events at regular intervals and were most fortunate in being able to attract a bevy of interesting speakers throughout the year.

The Unscrupulous Rascals from Adelaide met every few months, including a highlight of the year when they commemorated the 101st anniversary of Arthur Conan Doyle's visit to Penfolds Winery at Magill in 1920. In *The Wanderings of a Spiritualist*, Doyle wrote of his visit there and noted: "The product can be most excellent, but little or any ever reaches Europe, for it cannot overtake the local demand". I can report that local demand remains as strong as ever but thankfully our producers now make sufficient quantities of their fine products to also share with the rest of the world.

We are all looking forward very much to 2022's Sherlockian events and we hope that social gatherings everywhere can take place without restriction.

* Bill Barnes is the Captain of The Sydney Passengers. Copyright 2021 Bill Barnes.

SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITY IN AUSTRALIA 2021

Key

SP = The Sydney Passengers

SHSWA = Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia

SHSM = The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne

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

Date	Group	Event	Location	Details
17-Jan	SHSWA	SH Birthday Bash & AGM	Member's home	Annual "Leo Laden Memorial Empty House Shoot"
20-Feb	SHSWA	Informal catch-up	Sayer's Café, Leederville	
21-Feb	SP	Meeting	Online	Talk by Erin O'Neill on "The Television Rivals of Sherlock Holmes"; and a talk by crime writer Candice Fox
28-Feb	UR	Meeting	Rob Roy Hotel	Group chat - "How I Became Interested in Holmes". Quiz on 3GAR.
20-Mar	SHSWA	Meeting	Member's home	Talk by Damian Magee on "Jeremy Brett's Acting Career" and two video screenings of Brett in action.
17-Apr	SHSWA	Informal catch up	Lane Café, Claremont	
15-May	SHSWA	Detective Trail Walk	Fremantle	The 'crime' was solved from clues picked up along the Walk.
16-May	UR	Meeting	Caledonian Hotel	Talk by George Galloway on "Where's Watson?: The Battle of Maiwand and Debunking Some Myths of Sherlockian Proportions". Quiz on BERY.
23-May	SP	Meeting	Online	Talk by Howard Ostrom on "The First Appearance of Sherlock Holmes on Stage and Other Notable Performances"
19-Jun	SHSWA	Informal catch-up	Cranked Café, Leederville	
17-Aug	SHSWA	Annual Maiwand Luncheon	The Cove Indian Restaurant, Attadale	Attendees were splendidly attired in Victorian outfits.

SHERLOCK IN AUSTRALIA 2021

Date	Group	Event	Location	Details
8-Aug	SP	Meeting	Online	Talk by Daniel Friedman on "The Sign of Four and 'The Empty House' - Hidden Tributes to Two Great Writers"
15-Aug	UR	Meeting	Rob Roy Hotel	Talk by Martina Taker on ""Holmes vs Dupin: Why Doyle's detective is more popular than Poe's". Quiz on YELL.
21-Aug	SHSWA	Informal catch-up	Brew-Ha Cafe, Subiaco	
18-Sep	SHSWA	Meeting	Members' home	Show and Tell - always an interesting night.
26-Sep	UR	"ACD 101" - tour of Penfold's Winery to commemorate the 101st anniversary of ACD's visit there in 1920	Magill	Short talk by Mark Chellew on ACD's visit to Adelaide.
24-Oct	SHSWA	Annual Croquet Day	Members' home	Playing of this genteel game by attendees in Victorian or Edwardian costume.
14-Nov	SP	Meeting	Online	Presenation by Keith Suter on "Afghanistan: The Great Game - Why was Afghanistan so important to the British Empire?"
20-Nov	SHSWA	Informal catch-up	Lane Café, Claremont	
21-Nov	UR	Meeting	Rob Roy Hotel	Talk by Mark Chellew on "Eille Norwood: The Forgotten Holmes". Quiz on VEIL.



SHERLOCK IN BOHEMIA 2021

CANONICAL NEWS FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC

*Aleš M. Kolodrubec**

Our Society has survived another year marked by worldwide turmoil. The situation did a job on our membership, as in-person meetings during most of the year were not possible. However, several members enjoyed attending Zoom meetings of various foreign Sherlockian societies they would never be able to join personally. Thus we could meet fellow Holmesians/Sherlockians known before only by their names and their reputations. And for some of us it also resulted in becoming members of some foreign societies.

At our January on-line meeting on the occasion of the *Toast to the Immortals* — to Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson — an idea of regular on-line meetings was spoken of. And in the following months a small study-group meeting on a monthly or bi-monthly basis started. Our last meeting held in December was partly focused on BLUE due to its Christmas atmosphere, and thus we talked about English Christmas habits. Instead of our traditional Christmas Pudding of Mrs. Hudson in the second part of the meeting, we watched a film — a Sherlockian pastiche, “The Case of the Christmas Pudding” — starring Ronald Howard as Sherlock Holmes and Howard Marion Crawford as Dr. Watson.

In January we will immerse ourselves in *The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle* again, this time more deeply.

As our domestic members live in various parts of the republic, it turned out to be quite practical to meet in this impersonal way. However, as soon as possible, some in-person functions will be held, as every member is looking forward to it rather impatiently.

* Aleš Kolodrubec is an Executive Founder and President of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes since its founding. The photograph of a Christmas pudding for 2021 is by him.

SHERLOCK IN DENMARK 2021

*Michael Skov Lambek**

Readers of “Sherlock in Denmark 2020” will not be shocked to learn that in 2021 the *Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark* did *not* continue to comprise its 50-odd members. For readers will no doubt remember that every Danish member was, in fact, elevated to the status of an individual one-member scion society! And absolutely *not a single one of these* did attend the traditional Annual Meeting in January!! However, as there *was* no traditional Annual Meeting in January this year, this may not come as such a shock as should be surmised at first.

HIGH POINT

For the first time ever, on Saturday the 9th of January 2021, the Danish Club held an *unofficial* Zoom-meeting (not to be confused with the *official* Annual Meeting). However, sadly, the usual plethora of traditions could not be upheld: no recitation of “221B”; no badges worn; no General Assembly held; no new members welcomed; not even the same old officers of the board unceremoniously re-elected. Neither was any Annual Dinner served; nor any old club songs rendered, raucously or otherwise.

In fact, only a few Conanical Toasts were proposed (BYOB!) — whereas only one irregular report (of Hr. Monggaard’s travels to the US in 2020) complete with slide shows (NYPL and PA 221b) merely managed to remind us all how wonderfully the world worked before it went all awry.

Thus fenced in, as all the one-member scions were, in their small, socially distancing, cage-like grilles, this meeting began to look less and less like a Zoom-meeting — and more and more like a regular Zoo-meeting. Could it really be that that certain species that is the Sherlockian community is in danger of becoming endangered?

Nevertheless, this first 2021 get-together of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben was after all proud to include some of the club’s several BSIs (not to be confused with PhDs). These included Hr. *Jacob Shafter* (a.k.a. Hr. A. Hammarqvist); *The Blanched Soldier* (Mr. J.B. Jensen); and *The Dynamics of an Asteroid* (Mrs. M.S. Lagergaard). The more observant reader will even recognize one of the Danish Club’s Hon. Members, *The Bruce-Partington Plans*

* M.S. Lambek is still *Scatmester* of the *Danish Baker Street Irregulars*, still regular contributor to their irregular journal, *Sherlockiana*, and — finally — author of *Sherlock in Denmark 2021!* Copyright 2022 Michael Skov Lambek.



Zoom-meeting of several Danish one-member scions (and friend).

(a.k.a. Ms. S.E. Dahlinger, usually of a US persuasion — but, thanks to the wonders of modern technology, there with us in the Danish Club). Wonderful what science can do nowadays for the Sherlockian BSI Investiture! *And now a certain Mr. A.C. Label was included there as well!*

HIGHER POINT

On Friday the 8th of January 2021, a few members (o, happy few!) of the Danish BSI were fortunate enough to be invited to the annual meeting of hallowed halls of the original *Baker Street Irregulars!* And what a feast it was to behold just how the good old traditions of present-day covid-19 virtual replacement meetings were being (and should be) upheld.

And one Danish member in particular was happy — as he was fortunate/deserving enough to be awarded the high honour of an investiture of the BSI: and that was our ever-prolific Vice-President, Newsletter Editor, and Author of Forewords, Notes and Annotations, Mr. S. Ranild (without whom there would not have been a Sherlock Holmes Club in Denmark today)! Thus, Ranild is now (and forever) simply known as “A Copenhagen Label.” And so now we all know what the year 2021 did bring: a truly great honour, a proud moment for the Club (and its many scions), and a true high point of the year!

HIGH ATUS

However, after this high point, things for some reason began to slow down a bit; so, this year there were no club mugs, no privately published publications,



no travels, no film screenings. Basically, there was not so much life in the old club as there used to be. (But fortunately, we hasten to add, not so many deaths of old members as last year, either.)

Obviously, there were still some irregular periods of lockdown in our part of the world. So, subsequently, the Danish club subtly (and only slightly involuntarily) chose to change its societal/social tactics, and for the rest of the spring and summer of 2021 slowed down their Sherlockian meeting frequency: and we Danes are by far too much into this “*hygge*” thing of ours really to be proper fans of Zoom-meetings. Instead, we chose to go for what in the Conanical vernacular is known as a “Hiatus.” Which, of course, is a Sherlockian concept, and therefore not necessarily a bad thing.

But that was merely what the Danish Club did during the irregular periods of societal lockdown hiatus. What of its many, many Solitary Scions? Let’s not forget those ...

WHEN WE REMEMBER SCION

It might be to carry things too far to go into the detailed activities of every single one of the 50-odd *one*-member scions throughout the year; so let’s instead concentrate on the scion societies holding slightly higher membership.

In 2021, the members of *The Copenhagen Speckled Gang* boldly adhered to their great, new-found tradition and bravely held only the one Victorian Picnic — whilst valiantly and traditionally cancelling (or at least stalwartly postponing) all other meetings, including their long-time proposed seminar on “Women in the Canon”! Luckily, the weather for the picnic was tradi-

tional: so instead of a winter snow gale we had a regular summer thunderstorm, as well as Conanical-educational activities courtesy of Hr. A.C. Label, without whom ...

As is his wont, Hon. President Byskov once more reported that *The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street* gallantly held not only their heads up high — but their Annual Meeting as well, as their buy-laws still suggest, “close to the 221st day of the year.” The calculation of which date should be a simple one.

Just like someone’s Aunt, we don’t really like to mention *The Common Loafers of Kolding*, for they actually did manage to meet regularly, toast regularly(!), and discuss Conanical stories regularly (which, obviously, makes them somewhat of an irregularity and thus a bit of the odd man out here, to be frank). Their choice of stories to discuss, however, was quite appropriate — *The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax* and *The Adventure of the Dying Detective* — and descriptive of the state of social and societal interaction at the time: disappearing, if not directly deceased.

However, the Hiatus Prize surely must go to *The Five Orange Pipes* for intrepidly and unflinchingly following their recent tradition of steadfastly refraining from meeting to light up those tawny-coloured calabashes *one single time* during the entire year! Tough task it was — and only by smoking-hot diligence and cool audacity, noses to the grindstone, was their resolution kept. Surely, such determined bravado and tenacious derring-do is bound to run out sometime?

Although not many meetings thus took place from which to report, the old Danish newsletter journal, *Sherlockiana*, was (and is) still going strong, and still under the strict helm of Hr. Label, without whom ...

- Thus, *A.C. Label* himself began a series of literary, cultural-historical and bibliographical articles (not to be confused with tragicomical-historical-pastoral) marking the centenary of the *Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*. (And reading in your own space at home doesn’t break social distancing.)
- The *Dynamics of an Asteriod* lived up to her investiture, as Mrs. Lagergaard in scientific detail explained NASA’s SHERLOC Mission to Mars in February 2021. (And, after all, outer space should be distant enough.)
- And our own Good Doctor continued to impress readers with his scholarly research of early trans-medial manifestations of Sherlock in Denmark (especially if they read Danish): Thus, we learned from Dr. Lauridsen of an old, forgotten stage-play in Copenhagen

from 1907, loosely based on an even older German dramatization of one of the most well-known Conanical stories: *viz.* the one where the audience might have been mildly surprised to find that Holmes was assisted by his well-known friend and chronicler, Forbs the pianist; that the villain of the melodrama was none other than the nefarious and very scandalous Scotsman named Argyll; indeed that the entire action took place in the Scottish highlands complete with men in kilts dancing on top of broadswords! Yes: that good old classic Sherlock Holmes story we all know, remember, and love as *Baskervilles Hund*. And as if the unintentionally comedic quality of the show was not guaranteed enough already with these amendments, a bumbling pair of London detectives named Knox & Smallweed put in a pre-Keystone Kops appearance — whilst the eponymous *Hund*, naturally, turned out to be a surprisingly docile and amicably disposed *Great Dane* (we are in Hamlet country, after all) which allegedly had to be dragged, unwillingly, across the stage — somewhat dampening the proposed horror and thriller effect of what possibly, if not probably, was not originally intended to be entirely a comedy.

What *was* intended to be comic, however, was a pair of volumes of the absolutely wonderful French comic book written and illustrated by *Messieurs* Cyril Liéron and Benoit Dahan, originally entitled *Dans la Tête de Sherlock Holmes*. So visually ground-breaking and yet so true to the Conanical spirit were these comics that Danish readers were very pleased that they at least were translated into our vernacular. They really deserve a wider readership: *c'est si bon!* Perhaps our Gallic colleagues over from “Sherlock in France” have something to say on this matter?

In conclusion, and in a true joint Nordic spirit, the Danish society was proud to announce that the Swedish streaming and publishing company of Storytel has signed a licence deal with the Conan Doyle Estate™ to produce a new series of original audiobooks under the corporate helm of Hr. Søren Vestergaard (quite unknown Danish executive producer) — but under the artistic helm of Mr. Anthony Horowitz (slightly less unknown British author of such splendid Sherlockian pastiches as *The House of Silk* and *Moriarty*). Sounds promising, to say the least!

But does that really conclude the high points of the year?

HIGHEST POINT

Well, for some time, some heretical members of the club have been known to voice a totally sacrilegious and unheard-of notion that the date of

the Annual Meeting should be moved from cold and wet January to a later and possibly less inclement time of year further away from Christmas and New Year celebrations. (Oddly enough, said members are still said to be members!)

But one should be careful about what one wishes for. This year, a later meeting did take place, in real life — and at our (by now) usual venue, an old-fashioned restaurant with the reassuring name *Vita!* Saturday the 25th of September 2021 finally saw the good old physical *Aarsmøde* of the Danish BSI: Better late than virtual!

And although the time was off by some 8½ months (but who's counting?), there was some of the same atmosphere as the traditional meeting in January (only the cold, wet and windy weather was something we had to imagine in our minds' eyes, though).

Luckily, at this occasion, the usual plethora of traditions were now upheld: "221b" was respectfully recited; badges were bravely worn; the General Assembly was duly held; new members were warmly welcomed (some in absentia); and the same old officers of the board were unanimously re-elected. The Annual Dinner was solemnly served; Conanical Toasts were proudly proposed (*none* in absinth); and old club songs were indeed raucously rendered!

And especially the Toasts were of exceptional, irregular quality this time: "*Keep That Knot Firmly Tied!*" was the most delightful new toast from our member, Hr. M. Bjarre, based on an old Scots toast to the effect that if you loosen the knot holding the earflaps of your Deerstalker in place, you might endanger yourself by not being able to hear *if another wee dram is offered!* So, from now on, all Danish Sherlockians remember to heed that most sound of axioms. Indeed, spirits were so high that no photographic evidence exists to corroborate the evening. And that is not necessarily a bad thing.

In final conclusion, and on that happy note, we are delighted to announce that finally we are all now well and safely out of the pandemic prison — and the once endangered species that is the *Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark* is proud to announce that we are going to hold our next proper Annual Meeting in real life in January in 2022! Naturally. I mean; what could possibly go wrong?

SHERLOCK IN HUNGARY 2021

*Zsófia Marincsák**

SHERLOCKIAN RECOGNITION

Our club and the two editors of the site¹ received the title BSS (Boom Shaka Sherlockian) from The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii. This is a great honor to us. Our sincere thanks to the society and especially to Dr. Joseph T. Page.

EVENTS REGARDING THE SITE SHERLOCKIAN-SHERLOCKIAN.COM

We have added several new articles to the site. Our topics widened with the articles of the award-winning American author Liese Sherwood-Fabre. We also continued our BBC Sherlock Season 5 fanfiction series, which is based upon logic riddles and is inspired by extraordinary events shown in seasons 1 and 2 of the series.

But the majority of the new materials of the site were interesting interviews. The following people kindly took the time to answer our questions: sculptor David Field, graphic artists József Sváb and David Hitchcock, artist and illustrator Travis Simpkins, Jonathan Goodwin, founder and artistic director of the Don't Go Into The Cellar theatre group, writer Richard T. Ryan, and actor Drew McVety.² You can follow the site on Twitter at @SherlockianC.

IMPORTANT THINGS THAT HAPPENED IN THE LIFE OF THE HUNGARIAN SHERLOCK HOLMES CLUB

We started a blog in Hungarian,³ and we also introduced the VIP membership card.⁴ We are proud to have the following VIP members:

- Aleš Kolodrubec — President of the Czech Sherlock Holmes Club (Ceská Spolecnost Sherlocka Holmese).

* Zsófia Marincsák is one of the founders of the Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club, and under the name Revati, maintains the website <http://www.sherlockian-sherlock.com> in English.

¹ English site: <https://sherlockian-sherlock.com>.

² Interviews: <https://sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlockian-interviews.php>.

³ Hungarian blog: <https://sherlock.blog.hu>.

⁴ VIP members: <https://sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlock-holmes-club-vip-members.php>.

- Timothy Kline — author and collector.
- László Tahi Tóth (1944–2018) — Kossuth award winning actor and painter – founding the Club was suggested by him, and he was our first president.
- Professor dr. Csongor Herke — criminalistics expert, senior lecturer (University of Pécs), lawyer.
- Professor dr. Gábor Lente — chemist, senior lecturer (University of Pécs).
- József Sváb — Pál Korcsmáros award winning graphic artist, art teacher.
- István Mészáros — writer, Mari Jászai award winning actor.

József Sváb designed the armour of the club, and he made a wall calendar and some greeting cards for us. He created calendars using his Holmes graphic novels based on the Granada series for the design. In the calendar collection there are an A3-sized wall calendar depicting Jeremy Brett and David Burke and also four pocket-sized pieces showing Jeremy Brett. These are available for free download on our site, both in Hungarian and in English version.⁵

In a pleasant surprise, the club was mentioned briefly on Hungarian television channel hatoscsatorna. In the programme *Nagykörút* which wasn't about our club, the presenter, Gábor Dombóvári mentioned us.

Though it is a plan for the future, we would like to organize a Sherlock Holmes exhibition in Budapest. We have started to collect the material for this. We have already received some great pieces as donations, and we warmly welcome all offerings.

We would like to say thank you for all who supported our site and our work. Special thanks to Roger Johnson and MX Publishing.

⁵ Link to the English version: <https://sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2022.php>.

SHERLOCK IN ITALY 2020-2021

*Brigitte Latella and 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.

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 (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). The current President is Brigitte Latella, BSI "Holmes's Alpenstock" (2019-). 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 120 members, spread all over Italy.

* Brigitte Latella is the current President of Uno Studio in Holmes and is "Holmes's Alpenstock" in the BSI. Michele Lopez is "Attenta, Pericolo" in the BSI. Copyright 2022 Brigitte Latella and Michele Lopez.

SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN ITALY 2020

In 2020 USIH's activities included the participation of all the members of USIH who are also BSI (Stefano Guerra, Brigitte Latella, Michele Lopez, Gianluca Salvatori, and Enrico Solito) in the Birthday Weekend in New York. The group also included two other USIH members: Vera Mazzotta and Manuele Ferrari. The group decided to attend especially to honor Mike Whelan's 23 years of service as the BSI's Wiggins, leaving his position to Michael Kean. The whole group attended the Distinguished Speaker Lecture, after which they presented Mike Whelan and his wife Mary Ann with two gifts especially thought to celebrate their service to the BSI and their friendship towards USIH; both objects could, fittingly, only come from Ginori, the porcelain manufacturer in Florence. On Friday the group attended the Dinner, except for Manuele Ferrari representing USIH at the Gaslight Gala, while at the Cocktail Party on Saturday we were all together again, celebrating the investiture of Mike Whelan as Wiggins Emeritus. The group was split between the remaining events of the day and on Sunday we were able to say goodbye to most of our friends attending the Birthday Festivities.

Another group of USIH members met in Rome on February 22nd, to have a small dinner together and then watch the performance of the play "Sherlock Holmes e i delitti di Jack lo Squartatore" (Sherlock Holmes and Jack the Ripper's murders), an adaptation and translation of the Spanish original *Sherlock Holmes y el destripador*.

The director, Ricardo Reguant, also directed the original Spanish play. Giorgio Lupano gave a convincing performance in the role of a tormented and introspective Sherlock Holmes, and with his stature and clean-cut features he was also well-suited physically. Francesco Bonomo was an excellent Watson, smart, alert, and competent, and the friendship between him and Holmes was duly put in good relief. Rocio Munoz Morales was a stunningly attractive Irene Adler, albeit a little stiff in her performance. Alarico Salaroli was a convincing Inspector Lestrade. The play itself was quite good; the plot is clearly inspired by works such as *Murder by Decree*, but is entertaining enough. A couple of additions, like Sigmund Freud's visit to Baker Street and a caricatural Queen Victoria cameo, could have been, perhaps, better left out, but on the whole the evaluation is positive. We chatted with the actors at the end of the performance, thus ending a pleasant Sherlockian evening. Little did we know that it would be the last meeting in person for a long time.

Actually, with the great help of our member Deana Posru, we had already planned an Annual General Meeting in Trieste between the 16th and the

18th of October. The conference would have been connected to the theme, “The East Wind is Coming,” because of the city’s geographical position and its rich history also relating to WW1. Many of us, as well as the guests from abroad, were disappointed to see the meeting cancelled, after hoping against hope that it could be held anyway (and especially since the pandemic situation seemed to improve over the summer), but the virus forced us to change our plans. The meeting was substituted with a Virtual Meeting, held in two evenings and open to anyone who was interested in attending. To save the papers prepared for the Trieste Meeting for the next chance to hold it, and to make the Virtual Meeting more accessible to people not so deeply into the Canon and Sherlockiana, it was decided to cover more generic themes. We had presentations by Michele Lopez, Carmen Savino, Alessandro Gebbia, Gabriele Mazzoni, and Brigitte Latella, covering collectionism, TV adaptations and new serials inspired to Sherlock Holmes, a “debunking” of popular myths on Sherlock Holmes, and the presentation of the new *Sherlock Holmes Encyclopedia* by Stefano Guerra and Enrico Solito. Our thanks for helping to organize this Virtual Meeting and providing the platform to hold it go to Luigi Pachi, head of Delos Books.

The General Annual Meeting in Trieste was moved to 2021, hoping that next time it would be possible to hold it in person.

The pandemic also influenced USIH’s publications. The two numbers of our review *The Strand Magazine* for 2020, no. 39 and no. 40, should have been in print together at the end of the year; they form, actually, a double number collecting the essays and papers presented at the 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Florence in September 2017, both in Italian and in English. The delay means that they should go to the printers by February 2021.

Our bi-monthly newsletter, *The Saffron Hill Gazette*, which collects reviews, news of Sherlockian interest, and special reports, was not influenced by the impact of the current pandemic and was regularly sent to society members in PDF form. Past issues (in Italian only) can be read online on the society’s website.¹

Among other publications of Sherlockian interest in Italy in 2020, the most important was certainly the already cited and long-awaited third and expanded edition of the *Sherlock Holmes Encyclopaedia* written by Enrico Solito and Stefano Guerra. With more than 1,200 entries, it was published in July 2020 in e-book form by Delos Books under the title *La grande enciclopedia di Sherlock Holmes. Baker Street dalla A alla Z²* and in November 2020 by Rogas

¹ <http://www.unostudioinholmes.org/tor/newsletter.htm>.

² <https://www.delosstore.it/ebook/53216/la-grande-enciclopedia-di-sherlock-holmes/>.

Edizioni under the title *Holmes e Watson. L'enciclopedia*, in a paperback volume of 530 pages. This work has become the reference volume in Italian for all Holmesian scholars and fans.³

The interest about Sherlock Holmes in Italy's publishing world remains high. Mondadori keeps issuing monthly its "Sherlock" book series, which collects pastiches from both Italian and foreign authors; this year, among others, works by Nicholas Meyer, Amy Thomas, Jamyang Norbu, and Barry S. Brown. Delos Books publishes its series of pastiches in e-book form, mainly short stories, both by Italian authors and translations from English. *Sherlock Magazine Italia*, also published by Delos Books, will start 2021 with a new column dedicated to presenting famous Sherlockians from all over the world to the Italian public.

The movie event of the year, *Enola Holmes*, has been well received in Italy. It was a major hit among Netflix subscribers, and it sparked a brief period of "Enola-mania" on social media. The movie got generally positive reviews, most of them focusing on Millie Bobby Brown's good performance, and was appreciated by the public.

The Sherlockian landscape in Italy continues to flourish, albeit with some difficulty. We hope that 2021 will allow us to unlock many works and events that have been put on hold, and to welcome once again visitors from other countries to talk about Holmes and Watson and extend them our hospitality.

SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN ITALY 2021

The year 2021 did not start so well. The country was confined in a semi-lockdown state during the holiday season and limitations to the circulation of people extended well into the spring. Therefore, Uno Studio in Holmes decided to keep the traditional "mid-term" spring meeting in virtual form and to schedule regular quarterly virtual meetings throughout the year, making the most out of a bad situation and so turning the virtual space into a way to involve more members in the society's activities. In 2021, two of these meetings were regularly held: on the 22nd of May, when the focus was on Arthur Conan Doyle, and on the 10th of December, with "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" as the main topic of discussion. The virtual gathering of the 9th of September was substituted with a quiz session because many members were unable to attend.

This year marked an important milestone in the annals of the society. Uno Studio in Holmes was transformed into a regularly registered non-

³ <https://www.rogasedizioni.net/product-page/holmes-watson-l-enciclopedia-di-stefano-guerra-ed-enrico-solito>.

profit cultural association under the national law, thus opening new opportunities for the recognition of our work and the possibility of obtaining public funding. The society was newly incorporated, retaining the historical name and confirming Brigitte Latella as the current President. Membership remains open to all those who desire to take part in the life of a Holmesian society. In lieu of the honorary membership that was awarded in the past to friends and helpers of the society, now not possible anymore under the new rules, the office of “Honorary Watson” has been established.

In the summer we had a presence and a Sherlockian exhibition at the “Festival del Giallo di Senigallia,” an important event where many authors of crime stories come to present new books, and give papers on various topics. The exhibition, “Sherlock Holmes Story,” by Gabriele Mazzoni — featuring carefully chosen pieces of his renowned collection — opened on the 19th of August and should have closed in mid-September, but it met with such a great success that it was extended to the 17th of October. The carefully crafted catalogue of the exhibition features “Sherlock Holmes e il caso della Madonna di Senigallia,” a comic created specifically to celebrate the event.

The peak of the year’s events was the Annual General Meeting in Trieste, which marked the return to in-person meetings after more than one year. Members of the society reunited in the beautiful border city on the 17th to 19th of September. The topic chosen was “The East Wind” referring to WW1 and the “Bora” — the wind that whips Trieste in the colder seasons. The meeting opened on the 17th (this first day was organized in cooperation with the “Circolo della Stampa”) with a general discussion on Sherlock Holmes conducted by Michele Lopez and Brigitte Latella, while Deana Posru read the details of Gabriele Mazzoni’s discovery of the first parody of Sherlock Holmes in Italian and in comic format. An original table and some pages of the comic were exhibited at the historic Caffè San Marco. On the following day six papers were presented: in the morning Michele Lopez told us about a real-life spy that could have been a match for Von Bork, Deana Posru reported on Arthur Conan Doyle’s visit of the Italian–Austrian front-line in 1916, and Rino Lombardi of the Museo della Bora di Trieste held an inquiry about the wind for which Trieste is famous. In the afternoon Stefano Guerra explored — applying Holmesian method — the relationship between Svevo and Weiss, Enrico Solito guided us through a sea of whiskey with his “Sherlock and Joyce, an Odyssey,” and Marco Grassi’s paper with a focus on the weapons in the Canon, especially Watson’s revolvers, closed the meeting. Some of the members met again on Sunday and enjoyed each other’s company with a visit at the Museo del Teatro, followed by a brunch.

Members of USIH were also present at the festival “Cassino Fantastica”, held in the southern town of Cassino on the 9th and 10th of October. The 9th was a “Sherlock Holmes Day” and featured a musical recital with Stefano Guerra and Vera Mazzotta, a paper about Holmes’s myth by Adriano Monti-Buzzetti, the presentation of a new comic by Cagliostro E-Press, “Mr. Holmes & Dr. Watson #4,” a paper by Gabriele Mazzoni about Sherlock Holmes collecting, a paper about Holmes’s influence on the Japanese comic culture of anime and manga, and a discussion about Sherlockian pastiches today. A small exhibition of selected pieces from Gabriele Mazzoni’s collection completed the events of the festival.

USIH’s publications returned to normal this year. The double number of our review *The Strand Magazine* (39-40) collecting the essays and papers presented at the 30th Anniversary Annual Meeting in Florence in September 2017, both in Italian and in English, was published in early spring. Number 41 followed in June. Number 42 is due to the printers in January 2022. Our newsletter in PDF form, *The Saffron Hill Gazette*, has changed its frequency from bi-monthly to quarterly.

Sherlock Holmes’s name is still in the spotlight in Italy’s publishing. Mondadori still issues the monthly “Sherlock” book series of pastiches from both Italian and foreign authors; in 2021 there were books by David Stuart Davies, James Lovegrove, Paul Gilbert, Arthur Hall, and Richard T. Ryan.

The TV series *The Baker Street Irregulars*, which premiered in March on Netflix, has been generally well-received in Italy. The reviews were mixed, but the positive aspects of Tom Bidwell’s work were appreciated.

2021 has been a year of rebirth for Uno Studio in Holmes and for the beautiful friendship between its members. To paraphrase Holmes, we were finally able to meet old friends and say: “But you, Watson ... I’ve hardly seen you in the light yet. How have the months used you?” We can but hope that we’ll be able to navigate among the shoals and the rapids of next year and bring the scheduled events to a happy and successful achievement.

SHERLOCK IN JAPAN 2021

*Mitch Higurashi**

THE ACTIVITIES OF JAPAN SHERLOCK HOLMES CLUB (JSHC) (Organizer: Akane Higashiyama)

In 2021, as in many other countries, Japan experienced a period of inactivity. All the conventions and meetings had to be organized either online via Zoom or in “hybrid” format (see below).

General Meeting

General meetings of JSHC are held twice a year — in Spring and Autumn. The 85th General Meeting was held on March 21, 2021 in Tokyo, and the 86th was on October 16, 2021 in Morioka-city, Iwate prefecture. Both were held in “hybrid” format. A dozen of members including presenters were in the Convention venue, and the other members joined through the Zoom. As always, the events included Sherlockian/Doylean presentations, speeches, auction, vendors, and keepsakes.

The 85th: The 2020 Japan Sherlock Holmes Award was presented for two books — *The Dictionary of Sherlockian Terms* by Naohiko Kitahara (author) and Enokoro Stuidio (illustrator), and *From Holmes to Sherlock* by Mattias Boströmn (translated by Yuichi Hirayama).

The JSH Encouragement Award was presented to the Theater OM for the plays *SCAN* et al. and the ambition to perform all the Canon stories in the future.

Presentation: “My Baker Street — a Quarter of a Century” was made by Hiroko Nakashima.

Keepsakes: Sherlockian mask (against COVID-19) and mini-tote bag.

The 86th: Presentation: “Did Kenji Miyazawa¹ Read Sherlock Holmes Stories?” Attraction: “Virtual Iwate Tour,” visiting the places in Iwate prefecture connected with canon or ACD using PowerPoint.

Keepsakes: Nanbu senbei (rice cracker made in Morioka).

* Mitch Higurashi is “Baron Adelbert Gruner” in the BSI, and the advisory editor of *The World of Holmes* and *The Baker Street Information* issued by JSHC. Copyright 2022 Mitch Higurashi.

¹ Kenji Miyazawa (1896-1933) was a famous Japanese novelist and poet of children’s literature, lived in Iwate prefecture.



The Sherlockian nanbu senbei from the 86 general meeting of the JSHC.

Seminars

The 9th Tokyo Seminar (annual): Held on March 20, 2021 in hybrid format. Presentations were “Shoes and Feet Concerning the Canon” by E-nichi Nakatsuru; “Solving a Riddle of the Lost World: Imagination of Conan Doyle and the Guiana Highlands” by Atsumi Yamada; “Why Shoso-in? — Some Observations on the Source of Baron Gruner’s Knowledge” by Mitch Higurashi; and “Nutrition and Sherlock Holmes: Did Holmes Eat a Healthy Diet?” by Tomoya Yoshida.

Karuizawa Seminar (annual): canceled.

Periodicals

Monthly bulletin: *Baker Street Information*. Editor in Chief: Kiyoshi Arai, BSI. Eleven issues (Nos. 475 to 485) were distributed to about 630 Japanese members besides several foreign members.

Annual bulletin: *World of Holmes*. Editor in Chief: Hirotaka Ueda, BSI. The 2021 issue was published in December 2021.

The 2021 issue commemorated 130 years since a short story of Canon was first published in *The Strand Magazine*. It also paid attention to the fact that a woman defeated Holmes in SCAN, the first short story.

Featured articles: “An Introduction: Conan Doyle, the Strand, and the Agent” by Mitch Higurashi; “Gender Issues in SCAN — Irene Adler as an Example” by Yu Wen-hsin; “Irene Adler — Exploring Her Image from the

Aspect of the Opera Singer” by Makiko Tachibana; “SCAN and the Detective Stories by Edgar Allan Poe” by Hirotaka Ueda; “The First 6 short Stories and Doyle’s Decision to Become a Full-time Writer” by Akira Kumagai; “On the Female-led Pastiches” by Mitch Higurashi; and “My Favorite Female Character in the Canon” from the members.

Contributed articles from the members: “Shoes and Feet Concerning the Canon” by E-nichi Nakatsuru; “Sherlock Holmes and the Seamen’s Act — The Legal Significance of the GLOR” by Hiroshi Hirakawa; “In Search of the Identity of the Barbarian Dog: About the Old HOUN Movie” by Takahiko Endo; “Sherlock Holmes As a Researcher — The Man Who Could Have Won Three Nobel Prizes” by Ryoichi Ando; “English Houses and Furnishings” by Mineki Watanabe; “A Study of Photography in the Canon — Readings from Burton’s book *Introduction to Photography*” by Takashi Ishii; “Did Haruki Murakami read Sherlock Holmes?” by Yoji Shinozuka; “Waterfalls and Water Bottles” [fiction] by Masami Kondo; “On the Location of the Pawnbroker” by Yumi Kobayashi; “When the World is Full of Oysters” [fiction] by Yoko Usuda; “Study of the First Parts of the Sherlock Holmes Stories” by Shoko Ando, Hiroko Koike, and Hiroko Nakashima; and “Digital Resources of Sherlock Holmes” by Ichiro Akeyama.

SHERLOCKIAN ACTIVITIES IN JAPAN 2021

Publications

- Elementary Sherlock Holmes by Naohiko Kitahara (pub. by Chuo Koron Sha)
Japanese edition of *Scientific Sherlock Holmes* by James O’Brien, translated by Mitch Higurashi (pub. by Tokyo Kagaku Dozin)
Japanese edition of *The House at Baker Street* by Michelle Birkby, translated by Masako Komatsuki (pub. by Kadokawa)
“Architecture and the Canon” (serial articles in the magazine *Kenchiku Chishiki*) by Naohiko Kitahara and Takashi Murayama
Japanese edition of *The Triumphs of Eugène Valmont* by Robert Barr, translated by Kaname Tanaka (pub. by Tokyo Sogen Sha)
“Saigo no Aisatsu — His Last Bow” by Erica Kobayashi (in the magazine *Gunzo* April issue)²
Japanese edition of *The Coming of the Fairies* by Arthur Conan Doyle, translated by Kimie Imura (pub. by Atelier Third)

² Erica Kobayashi is a daughter of (late) Tsukasa Kobayashi and Akane Higashiyama, founders of JSHC. This is a fictional story about the memory of her father.

Japanese edition of *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes* by ACD, translated by Masako Komatsuki (pub. by Kadokawa)

Plays

[Reading performance] *Sherlock Holmes — That Special Person* by Hiroki Okada, et al. (Jan 5 to 11 at the Kinokuniya Southern Theater)

[radio drama] *Illustrious Client* (Radio Theater “The Door to Literature”) by Toru Nomaguchi [Holmes] and Tomoko Nakajima [Watson] (May 23 and 30, TBS radio)

[musical] *Sherlock Holmes — The Game is Afoot! — Based on the Characters Created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle* by the “Sora” group of the Takarazuka Revue³ (written and directed by Hirokazu Ikuta, cast: Suzuho Makaze as Holmes, Minato Sakuragi as Watson) June 26-Aug 8 at the Takarazuka Theater, Aug 21-Sept 26 at Tokyo Takarazuka Theater.

The Speckled Band by Theater OM (written by Minoru Ohki, directed by Makoto Inamori) July 2-4 at the Theater OM

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Theater OM (written by Minoru Ohki, directed by Makoto Inamori) Dec 17-19 at the Theater OM

[Reading performance] *Music and Reading: Sherlock Holmes* (SCAN, IDEN, BERY) by Nosaka Lab (directed by Minoru Nosaka, music by Atsushi Yamanaka), Aug 28 & 29 at the Suntory Hall

Lectures

Reconsidering Conan Doyle — the Track of the National Writer Following Through Sherlock Holmes Stories by Mitch Higurashi, sponsored by The Kiyoshi Hayakawa Foundation, March 14 (online) and later via YouTube.

Of note is the work of one of the JSHC scions, “Adventures in the Empty House” (branch in Okayama prefecture). Its quarterly journal *Empty Holmes* is edited, produced, and distributed by its representative, Ms. Sadako Saito, alone, and 208 issues were published by the end of 2021. Many of its contributors are old JSHC members, but it is surprising that she herself turned 98 in the same year!

Please note: Regrettably, all of the articles above are only in Japanese language.

³ Takarazuka Revue is a Japanese all-female musical theater group based in Takarazuka, Hyogo prefecture.

SHERLOCK IN SWITZERLAND 2021

SERIOUS AND LESS SERIOUS MUSINGS FROM THE REICHENBACH IRREGULARS OF SWITZERLAND

*Marcus Geisser**

“**N**ever has so much been written by so many for so few,” Christopher Morley is known to have said about the *Baker Street Journal* when it entered its second year of existence in 1947. This resonates in a slightly different way with the experience of the small circle of Swiss Sherlockians. In other words, never have there been so many Sherlockian and Doylean sites that were home to so few enthusiasts. Besides Greater London, apart from Switzerland there is probably nowhere else that is home to so many sites where crucial moments in the lives of both Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle took place. Despite the impressive number of sites, however, it is an inescapable fact that this alpine republic is home to very few enthusiasts of the Sherlock Holmes stories and other works by Conan Doyle.

Still, these few Swiss Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts have welcomed fellow Sherlockians with open arms. Since their beginnings, which go back to a sunny Saturday morning in June 1989, when a handful of young Sherlockians met at the Parkhotel Du Sauvage in Meiringen, the model for The Englischer Hof, and founded The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland, they have made it their mission to welcome Sherlockians on their exploits in Switzerland. Organizing Sherlockian and Doylean conferences has become a firm fixture for more than 30 years. More recently, these encounters, organized by Marcus Geisser and Michael Meer, have welcomed dozens of enthusiasts from all over the world who enjoy the appealing combination of scholarly depth and alpine scenery in Meiringen and Rosenloui, naturally, but also in lesser-known locations like Hasliberg (which offers some of the best views of the Reichenbach Falls) or Splügen (Baron Gruner, elementary).¹ Many more locations remain to be discovered, be they the melancholic Daubensee, Lausanne, Baden, Basle, or Lucerne, to name but just a few.

Although the pandemic stopped these regular encounters in alpine heights, The Reichenbach Irregulars have not been idle. The year of 2021 has been particularly busy, and they report back on two highlights.

* Marcus Geisser is a founding member and first President of The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland. In 2001 he received his BSI investiture, Rosenloui.

¹ See www.221b.ch to learn more about past, current, and future adventures of The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland.

2021 started with a with a very well-attended reading on Zoom with Johanna Rieke and her husband Bryan Stone, who both live in Basle, Switzerland. Johanna is an author of highly atmospheric, meticulously researched detective stories which bring back to life Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson. Her seven novels are all set in the 1890s. Originally published in German, her books are now being translated by her husband Bryan Stone into English. On 25 February 2021, Johanna and Bryan jointly presented the reading of Johanna's most recent book, *Sherlock Holmes and the Cornwall Affair*.² This novel, her first book available in English, finds Holmes and Watson travelling in 1890 to Cornwall, where an aristocratic landowner has observed mysterious events, which turn out to be far more sinister than originally suspected, with smuggling, murder, revenge, and greed across a period of over fifty years coming to light.

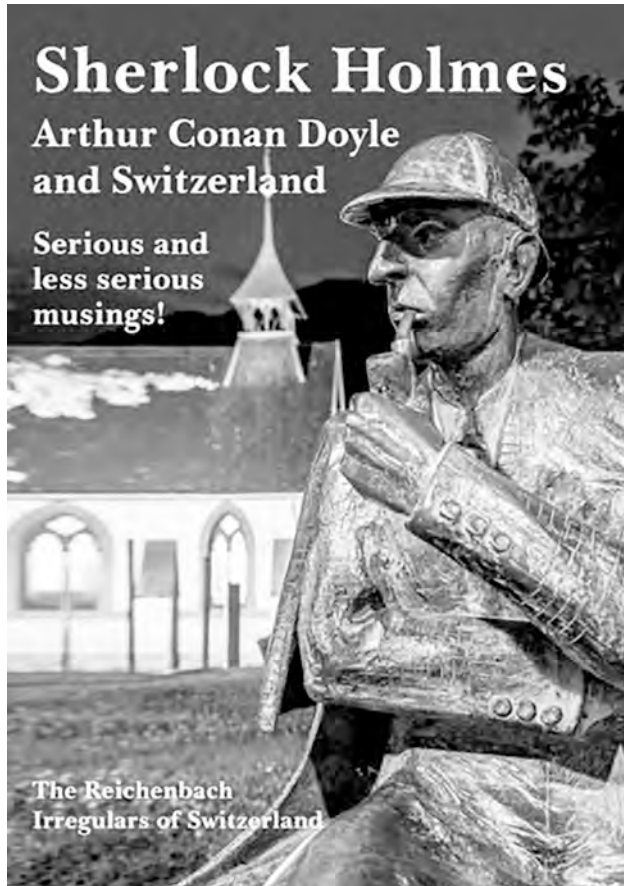
The second highlight of 2021 for The Reichenbach Irregulars was the arrival in late spring of their first book, *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland — Serious and Less Serious Musings from The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland*.³ Edited by Marcus Geisser, Michael Meer, and Guy Marriott, this handsome volume almost exclusively draws on papers delivered at the 2014 conference *Alpine Adventures — Arthur Conan Doyle* and the 2017 *Reichenbach and Beyond* conference. It was officially launched by a joint event of The Reichenbach Irregulars and The Red Circle of Washington DC, in July of 2021. A recording of the event, titled *Routes from Reichenbach*, is available on YouTube.⁴

Eloquently introduced by Peter E. Blau, who recalls his Swiss experiences when he attended the opening of the Sherlock Holmes museum at the Château of Lucens and was hosted by Adrian Conan Doyle, the first part of the book is a selection of papers from the 2017 *Reichenbach and Beyond* conference, which explored the premise that “The Final Problem” was not final at all, but in fact the beginning of something new. Holmes survived. First, Eva Zenk Iggland, Guy Marriott, and Bryan Stone take the reader to truly alpine

² Johanna Rieke, *Sherlock Holmes and the Cornwall Affair*, MX Publishing, London, 2020, price approximately £9.99, €12.99, \$14.95, easily available via Amazon.

³ *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland — Serious and less serious musings from The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland*, edited by Marcus Geisser, Michael Meer, and Guy Marriott. Published by Books on Demand, 2021. ISBN 9-783753-461793. Price approximately €21.99. For Europe-based readers, it's easiest to order via the publisher Books on Demand (postage free for Europe): Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland (bod.de). Or worldwide via www.amazon.com; ideally via the German portal of Amazon: Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland: Serious and less serious musings!: Geisser, Marcus, Marriott, Guy, Meer, Michael A.: Amazon.de: Bücher.

⁴ Routes from the Reichenbach (July, 2021): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDyBUGbG0ZA>.



heights as they each discuss different mountain passes that Holmes might have taken when he “took to {his} heels [and] did ten miles over the mountains in the darkness” after his encounter with Professor Moriarty at the Reichenbach Falls. We learn a lot about mountain passes and mountaineering, as well as about the celebrated Swiss guide who may have helped Sherlock Holmes to survive those hostile and truly life-threatening alpine environments. Enrico Solito then takes the reader further south. Himself a Florentine, Enrico presents fresh revelations about what work Holmes undertook during his stay in Florence. Catherine Cooke’s exposé ends this section with a fascinating insight into who Conan Doyle could have been thinking of when he decided to send his hero Sherlock Holmes disguised as Sigerson all the way to Tibet.

Part II offers a diverse mix of Sherlockian reflections. It starts with Marina Stajić's striking and provocative thoughts about a hitherto unknown, intimate connection Sherlock Holmes had with a Swiss girl. Reinhard Hillich's paper surprises with a literary engine comparison between the racing engine Sherlock Holmes and the heavy oil engine Swiss policeman Sergeant Studer, the Commissaire Maigret of Switzerland. Marina Stajić's second exposé offers what the editors believe to be the definite answer to the vexing question of which Baden Lady Frances Carfax visited after her departure from Lausanne. Julie McKuras finishes Part II with her immaculately researched account of the fathers of the one of the earliest Sherlock Holmes memorial plaques, which has for more than 60 years greeted Sherlockians from all over the world as they arrive to ascend the iconic Reichenbach Falls.

Part III is an extended journey through Arthur Conan Doyle's multiple experiences and connections with Switzerland and the Alps. Marcus Geisser begins with an account of Conan Doyle's numerous stays in the Alps, illustrated with rarely seen snapshots taken by Conan Doyle himself when he toured through Switzerland. Michael Meer puts a particular emphasis on how not only the beauty, but also the horror, of the Swiss Alps influenced Conan Doyle's writings set in Switzerland, not only in "The Final Problem" but also in other stories. The late Jon Lellenberg and Daniel Stashower then examine the relevance of *The Stark Munro Letters* in Conan Doyle's oeuvre; it is a book that Conan Doyle wrote whilst spending time in the alpine resort of Davos. Cliff Goldfarb offers a lively portrait into the serial character that Conan Doyle invented after having disposed of Sherlock Holmes at the Reichenbach Falls: Brigadier Etienne Gerard — some of these stories were also written when Conan Doyle was staying in Davos. Marcus Geisser ends this compilation of conference papers by retracing some elements of what he calls the journey from "The Final Problem" to The Final Return and returns to the very edge of the Reichenbach Falls where this unique, Swiss volume of Sherlockian and Doylean encounters commenced. The book ends with an afterword by Akane Higashiyama and Mitch Higurashi with recollections of the Sherlockian encounters on Swiss alpine heights that provide the groundwork for this book.

Although almost 150 copies have been sold thus far, The Reichenbach Irregulars don't plan another publication in the near future. However, a new conference in the Swiss alps is in the making. It will hopefully take place in 2023. Anyone who wants to know more should get in touch with Marcus Geisser: reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com.

Contact: reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com; www.221b.ch

SHERLOCK IN THE U.K. 2021

*Roger Johnson and Jean Upton**

Last year's summary concentrated on the activities of The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The same situation holds this year, as our smaller Holmesian societies have been mostly dormant.

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, based in the south-west of England, published the expected Spring and Autumn issues of their estimable journal *The Torr*, thanks to the dedication of the editor, Stephan Arthur. Late in the year, at the Nobody Inn on the edge of Dartmoor, the Poor Folk were able to hold their Annual General Meeting, at which Stephan Arthur was elected Chairman.

Our friends in Northern Ireland, The Crew of the S.S. *May Day*, had held no meetings (officially "sailings") and published no newsletters since February 2020, but managed both late in 2021, with issue 158 of *Mayday Mayday* in November and the 25th Annual Dinner Sailing at Belfast's Ulster Reform Club on the 9th December.

The Shingle of Southsea, we're pleased to report, has continued active throughout the pandemic, but, as Paul Thomas Miller is the sole member, meetings aren't too difficult to arrange. (You can revel in Paul's gloriously zany humour online.¹)

Other societies seem to have gone to ground, and we can only hope that they emerge from the undergrowth before too long.

2021 was a very significant year for The Sherlock Holmes Society of London. The Society was founded seventy years earlier, by five of those who were setting up the great Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at 221 Baker Street. The 70th anniversary — our Platinum Jubilee, no less — *had* to be celebrated.

It was a very different "Annual Dinner" on the 16th January, as was inevitable in this time of pandemic. For one thing, the provision of comestibles and potables was entirely up to the individual, so for many it really was "Not the Annual Dinner." But the delightfully named *Louche Lockdown Libation* was, in spite of everything, not merely different but very special, thanks to four of our members, namely Meetings Secretary, Catherine Cooke, technical wizards Jane Arnold-Forster and Jonny Hough, and Bonnie MacBird, of whom more later.

* Roger Johnson and Jean Upton are members of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, for whom Roger edits *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* and Jean edits *The District Messenger*. Copyright 2022 Roger Johnson and Jean Upton.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCowuAoB3cHiebCxlM5JlYkw/videos>.

Before the formal business, members and guests were invited to gather in “breakout rooms,” to chat, reminisce, discuss, and no doubt gossip. Seven “rooms” in all, which may have been just about enough, as approximately 240 members and guests around the world attended the event.

Apart from the fact that people had to provide their own dinners — or not — things proceeded pretty much as normal. The President, Jonathan McCafferty, proposed the loyal toast. The Chairman, David Jones, welcomed new members and a remarkable number of overseas members, and led us in celebrating the immense contribution made to the Society by our late Founding Member, Freda Howlett, before announcing that this year’s recipient of the Tony Howlett Award was our former Chairman Elaine McCafferty.

Responding to the toast of “The Immortal Memory” was the Guest of Honour, Leslie S. Klinger, addressing us from Los Angeles. *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* alone would secure Les Klinger’s reputation as one of the great Holmesian scholars, but there’s a reason why he has been called the world’s first Consulting Sherlockian.

This evening he told us of his mixed delight and bafflement on first reading “The Blue Carbuncle” — delight because it’s such an atmospheric and entertaining story; bafflement because so much of it was alien to a child in mid-20th century Chicago. Fast forward a few years, and Les was given a copy of Baring-Gould’s *Annotated Sherlock Holmes*; he read it from cover to cover and was hooked for life. He subscribed to *The Baker Street Journal* ... and he conceived the idea that someday he might be the person to produce an updated version of Baring-Gould’s monumental work.

“The Blue Carbuncle” still posed problems, though different from those that puzzled the young Leslie. “In the end,” he said, “I think none of this matters. When I look back at my first reading of the story sixty-five years ago, I recall that despite my problems in fully grasping it, I enjoyed it immensely. Part of that was of course seeing Holmes catch the crook and then majestically letting him go, in celebration of the holiday season. But I remember even now what struck me most. That was the depth and warmth of the friendship between Holmes and Watson.”

Peter Horrocks proposed the toast to Dr. Watson, in a speech that was pun-filled, occasionally absurd, and witty. At one point, indeed, it was actually *Whitty* — Professor Chris Whitty, that is. Having suggested that Covid-19 was foretold in a certain ex-professor’s paper, *The Pandemics of an Asteroid*, Peter demonstrated that the Chief Medical Officer for England bears a disconcerting resemblance to the Napoleon of Crime.

But through all the vicissitudes of his partnership with Sherlock Holmes, John H. Watson remained steadfast, true to his friend and true to his essen-

tial remedy for all ailments — alcohol. Good old Watson!

The evening concluded in grand fashion with Bonnie MacBird’s dramatisation of *The Blue Carbuncle*, specially created for the occasion. Bonnie and her co-producers assembled a fine cast of British and American actors — or, more accurately, assembled their performances into a delightful whole, with original music by Ryan Thomas Johnson. As a finale, Holmes took the lead in an adaptation of the Major-General’s song from *The Pirates of Penzance*, to wit: “I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major Super Sleuth!”

If you missed the play and the song, or if you’d like to enjoy them again, you’ll find them on YouTube.²

The Spring meeting, on the 18th March, was entitled *The Problematic Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*. The stories in the final volume of the Canon have attracted critical comments from the start. As Catherine Cooke observed, there are notable differences from the earlier tales. Two accounts were supposedly written by Holmes himself, and one is told in the third person. D. Martin Dakin, in *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary*, dismissed all three as “spurious,” along with a fourth, and cast severe doubts on at least two more. Catherine introduced our three speakers, each approaching the Problematic Casebook from a different angle.

The first, speaking from Toronto, was Peggy Perdue. In *Dr. Watson’s Genre Play: Elements of Science Fiction, Horror and Fantasy in The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes*, Peggy surmised that Watson, though pressured into recording more of those exploits in which his own rôle, as always, was that of the sidekick, used the stories to show what he could achieve as a writer of the weird and fantastic. Thus we get a distinguished academic who develops ape-like tendencies, a suspected vampire, a woman with only half a face, mysterious deeds in a mediaeval crypt ... His goal, perhaps, was to abandon the chronicles of Sherlock Holmes for a sensational novel. No such novel was published — but the manuscript may still exist. We only have to find the authentic tin dispatch box ...

Second was Alistair Duncan, who noted that the twelve stories began with “The Mazarin Stone,” published in October 1921. It recycles the plot of his unsuccessful one-act play *The Crown Diamond*, which in turn may have been prompted by the popularity of the films starring Eille Norwood as Holmes. Five more stories appeared over the next five years, and the last six came at monthly intervals, from “The Three Gables” in October 1926 to “Shoscombe Old Place” in April 1927. The stories are notably uneven; there’s no doubt that Conan Doyle saw them principally as “a way to fill the war chest that

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iMPBDtjJno&ct=1s>.

underwrote his spiritualist crusade.” Nevertheless, the best are as good as any in the Holmesian canon.

Finally, Paul Thomas Miller addressed us from the “Sherloft,” the attic room of his house in Portsmouth, where meetings of The Shingle of Southsea are held. In *The Secret Message in “The Blanched Soldier”*, by logic worthy of Lewis Carroll or Spike Milligan, he demonstrated that Sherlock Holmes predicted the present pandemic and left us a warning in this unusual tale. (Paul has re-recorded his compelling lecture, and you can watch it on YouTube.³)

The traditional long weekend of events was unavoidably cancelled in 2020, but by May 2021 our indefatigable technical experts could deliver a remarkably full weekend’s programme. The result was *Capital, Virtually! The London Mini-Festival — Online*.

David Jones had come to the end of his three-year term as Chairman, and at the AGM on the 13th Catherine Cooke was elected to the post. Jane Arnold-Forster took over from Catherine as Meetings Secretary, and Jonathan McCafferty accepted the Council’s invitation to remain in post as President.

After the formalities, we were treated to a one-act play, written in 1990 by David Stuart Davies: *Fixed Point: The Life & Death of Sherlock Holmes*. “The year is 1939 and Watson is in a nursing home when he receives the news of Sherlock Holmes’ death. He is visited by a reporter to interview him about his relationship with the great man. As Watson reminisces, Holmes materializes in the background to comment on Watson’s observations of their time together” Watson was played by Matthew Booth, Holmes by David Stuart Davies, the nurse by Kathryn White, and the reporter by Mark Jones, who also directed and oversaw the recording.

It would be easy to think of *Fixed Point* as a sort of trial run for David’s later play *Sherlock Holmes: The Last Act!* We suspect it was at least an unconscious inspiration, but *Fixed Point* is complete in itself. It remains fresh, and the restricted circumstances under which it was performed and produced did nothing to lessen its impact. This production was impressive, intelligent, amusing, exciting, and moving.

The main event of the mini-fest was *The Platinum Anniversary Party* on the 15th, in which the Society’s seven decades were encapsulated in a documentary, created by our own members, led by the Platinum Group: namely, Marcus Geisser, Bonnie MacBird, Jonathan McCafferty, and Ashley Mayo. Special thanks are due to Jane Arnold-Forster, who did a great deal of work putting the film together and interviewing a number of people for the film.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXJdWeQQVhI>.

The programme was introduced, with his inimitable amiable charm, by Stephen Fry, once the Society's youngest member and is now, surely, its most famous. The next voice we heard was that of Helen Dorey, whose authoritative narration held the whole production together. Then Roger Johnson gave a short illustrated talk about the great Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in 1951, and how it lives on in both the Society and the renowned Sherlock Holmes public house.

Nicholas Utechin, who edited *The Sherlock Holmes Journal* for thirty years, told of its evolution from the first issues, produced on a typewriter and an office duplicator, to today's handsome, colourful periodical. From the start, the content and the spirit were thoroughly professional, and successive editors — notably Lord Donegall and Heather Owen — have ensured that the appearance matches.

Next, a brief illustrated trot through various of the expeditions we've made within the UK, including Cornwall, the Peak District, Norfolk, Sussex and Hampshire, Edinburgh, Dartmoor (of course), and the great universities at Oxford and Cambridge. At Cambridge in 2016 we actually met Professor Moriarty: that is, Michael Moriarty, Drapers Professor of French. Now he appeared on our screens, channelling his nefarious namesake, to wish us well on our Platinum Anniversary.

Fellowship and scholarship are at the heart of the Society's activities, but they are all grounded in scholarship, much of which is gathered in the many handbooks we've published to accompany them. Our meetings throughout the year are based on scholarship too, notably the Richard Lancelyn Green Memorial Lecture, delivered each year by an invited speaker. In 2017 that was the *Washington Post's* literary critic Michael Dirda, who now told us that, for an American, spending time with British Holmesians is almost like being with the detective himself. (What a compliment!)

After the Society's British jaunts, former Chairman Peter Horrocks recalled some highlights of our visit to France in 1993, when the travellers, in full Victorian garb, were royally welcomed by diplomats, university officials, and native Holmesians alike. In 2000, a smaller party spent a grand weekend in Paris, and the next year's Golden Anniversary was celebrated in style with a cruise around the Baltic Sea, meeting kinsprits in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Germany — and Estonia, on the grounds that Colonel Moran may actually have been an Old *Estonian*. Our most recent venture abroad, except for the Swiss Pilgrimages (of which more later), was in 2007, when we explored Sherlockian connections in and around Prague, with the help of the Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes.

Then Martin Freeman called in, with Watsonian wishes on this special anniversary. And then Nick Utechin returned, to talk about the Society's connection with one of Conan Doyle's favourite sports. Twenty years ago, we accepted a challenge from The P.G. Wodehouse Society to a one-day cricket match against their team, the Gold Bats — and to play by the laws pertaining in 1895. That match was the beginning of an annual series, and to date the Holmesian XI are one match up!

During the Statue Festival in 1999, we took morning coffee at Lord's Cricket Ground, where Arthur Conan Doyle once scored a century, playing for The Authors against The Press. The bat he wielded is now, thanks in part to the Society, on display in the MCC Museum at Lord's, and in 2019 a party of members was treated to a private view and a tour of the Pavilion and the Media Centre.

Next came Bob Ellis, on the subject of horse racing, the core of two grand stories in the Canon. In 1991, a group of members visited the site of the Winchester racecourse, and Peter Horrocks arranged for the world's greatest racing commentator, Sir Peter O'Sullivan, to record a commentary of the Wessex Cup, famously won at Winchester by Silver Blaze. "Silver Blaze" races are long established in America, Denmark, and Canada; our first *Silver Blaze Wessex Cup* took place at Kempton Park in 2010, and Sir Peter was the Society's guest in the Royal Box. Two more have been held since.

Mark Gatiss, one of the wittiest and most memorable, of the many wonderful Guests of Honour at our Annual Dinners, next appeared on our screens. Back in 2006, he told us of the mad idea he and Steven Moffat had for a Sherlock Holmes television series, updated to the present day; now he confirmed that our positive, if perhaps alcohol-influenced, reaction that evening reassured them that, mad or not, it was a *good* idea! Mark is especially proud of the fact that *Sherlock* encouraged many to discover the delights of the original stories.

After Mark, we heard from our Honorary Member John Doubleday, sculptor of two spectacular statues of Sherlock Holmes. He told us that his statue of Charlie Chaplin in Leicester Square inspired the Swiss authorities to commission him to create a statue of Holmes in Meiringen — which was unveiled during the Society's fourth Swiss tour in 1988. That in turn led to John's commission for a statue of Holmes in London, and again, the Society played a leading rôle, culminating in the Statue Festival of 1999.

In 1968, the first of our seven pilgrimages to Switzerland made the Society world-famous. Shirley Purves now recalled the 1991 trip, which centred upon the official opening of Switzerland's (and the world's) second Sherlock Holmes Museum, in Meiringen's former English Church. Dame Jean Conan Doyle

cut the ribbon, but Tony Howlett and other members of the Society gathered the exhibits and ensured that the design of the Baker Street sitting-room was entirely authentic. Over to Peter Blau — otherwise “Black Peter,” BSI — who told how Tony persuaded him to donate his harpoon to the Museum, and the how the problem of getting it from Washington, DC to Meiringen was solved.

Next, Philip Porter, who portrayed Sir Robert Norberton on the 1978 Swiss Pilgrimage, told how he was allocated the rôle of Dr Watson in 1987 — until, at *very* short notice, he was instructed to shave off his moustache and become Sherlock Holmes! And Holmes he remained, for some twenty years. Outstanding among his many happy memories of Switzerland are *Les Vaches Dansantes*, members of the Covent Garden Minuet Company, coerced by Kate and Peter Horrocks to join the party and perform as Dancing Cows. (Our favourite Spanish member, Maria Veiga-Hayzen, made a brief but welcome appearance here to register her own appreciation for the bovine terpsichoreans.) Those Swiss trips gave us time to get to know each other, to enjoy our shared passion, and to become friends across the generations. How lucky we are!

Having opened the programme, Stephen Fry closed it, with a toast to the Sherlock Holmes Society of London. “*Let us continue to enjoy the serious fun of Playing the Game!*”

The weekend concluded on the 16th with *Sherlock Holmes Saves the Nation!* — a virtual walk, adapted by our member Richard Burnip from one of the actual tours he leads for the famous London Walks company. As the title suggests, the area visited is what you might call “Mycroft country,” from the clubland of Pall Mall to the powerhouse of government in Whitehall.

Conan Doyle was a member of both the Reform Club and the Athenaeum, either of which might have been the “real” Diogenes Club. The Reform has actually featured as the Diogenes in two different screen productions, and as the Café Royal in Guy Ritchie’s *Sherlock Holmes*. Opposite the Reform, at 17 Pall Mall, was a private hotel where one could picture Mycroft and Mr Melas living. Also in Pall Mall were the Carlton Club, where Sir James Damery was a member; and, until 1906, the War Office. Nearby are the Duke of York’s Steps, where the little side entrance to the old German Embassy can still be seen. In Carlton House Terrace, the exterior of the British Academy served for the Diogenes Club in *Sherlock*, and at the other end of the Terrace, Carlton Gardens was a location in *Murder by Decree* and Granada’s *The Second Stain*. North of Pall Mall, in St James’s Square, is the London Library, where Watson’s friend Lomax was sub-librarian.

Heading over to Whitehall, we find the Admiralty and the Foreign Office — where we may ponder on that curious sketch in “The Naval Treaty.” On the far side of Westminster Abbey, Dean’s Yard featured in *Murder by Decree*, and Barton Street stood in for Baker Street in both *Murder By Decree* and *Without a Clue*.

Richard is a first-class guide. After his virtual tour, we look forward to taking the real one!

Like the previous year’s, the 2021 Victorian Cricket Match had to be cancelled, and the long-planned expedition to explore the locations of “His Last Bow” in and around the ancient port of Harwich was provisionally postponed until 2022. On the 15th October, however, we were at last able to hold the Richard Lancelyn Green Memorial Lecture as a real in-person meeting at our usual venue, the National Liberal Club in Whitehall Place.

Our speaker was the historian Catharine Arnold, whose books include *Bedlam: London and its Mad*, *Necropolis: London and Its Dead*, *City of Sin: London and its Vices*, *Underworld London: Crime and Punishment in the Capital City*, and most recently *Pandemic 1918: The Story of the Deadliest Influenza in History*. Her topic this time was *London’s Femmes Fatales*, beginning with a reference to Irene Adler as “the *femme fatale par excellence*” (not literally fatal in her case, of course). The women Ms Arnold chose to talk about, though, were rather different: “some were innocent victims of a callous system; others were victims of their own poor judgement and over-active imagination”. First was the maidservant Eliza Fenning, convicted and hanged in 1815 for the attempted murder of her employer and his family by poisoning, a crime of which she was almost certainly innocent. Her execution caused widespread outrage.

Next was Ethel le Neve, who disguised herself as a young man in order to flee to Canada with her lover, Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen. A mild little man, he seemed to be dominated by his wife Cora, a flamboyant vaudeville singer with a forceful personality, who went by the stage name of Belle Elmore. She had a string of lovers; he had the one, his secretary Ethel le Neve. Cora was last seen on the 31st January 1910, and Crippen told enquirers that she’d returned to Los Angeles to care for a sick relative and had died of influenza. Eventually the police became interested, and Crippen panicked. Hence the flight to Canada, under assumed names, with Ethel posing as his son — but the pretence wasn’t convincing. Remains of a body were found in the cellar of his house, and he was arrested before his ship landed. He was tried for murder and convicted; Ethel was tried as an accessory and acquitted.

Edith Thompson was not so lucky. On the 3rd October 1922, Edith and her husband Percy were returning from the theatre, when a young man suddenly appeared; to Edith's horror, he stabbed Percy to death and ran off, leaving her hysterical. The next day, she named him as their former lodger — and her lover — Frederick Bywaters. Both were arrested and charged with murder. The case against her was largely based on the passionate and indiscreet letters she had written to Frederick while he was away at sea. Against her counsel's advice, she insisted on testifying at the trial, seemingly pleased to be the centre of attention, and the result for her was fatal. Despite Bywaters' claim that Edith was entirely innocent, both were convicted and executed.

The case of Marguerite Fahmy shows that a woman's high status and wealth can be as important as a good barrister. On the 10th July 1921, she and her husband Prince Ali Kamel Fahmy Bey quarrelled publicly in the restaurant of the Savoy Hotel. In their luxury suite at about 2.00 a.m., she shot him dead. At her trial, it emerged that the Prince was a sexual pervert who indulged in "oriental practices" — but after her acquittal, the British press gleefully revealed that Marguerite had been a high-class prostitute with a very colourful history. Although on returning to her native Paris, she found that she had no claim on her husband's estate, she was still a survivor.

Our final *femme fatale* was Ruth Ellis, hanged at Holloway Prison for the murder of her lover David Blakely. She was manageress of a Kensington nightclub and survivor of an abusive marriage. He was an up-and-coming racing driver from a wealthy family, and he turned out to be, like Ruth's ex-husband, a violent alcoholic. When she told him that she was pregnant, he hit her so hard she miscarried. On Easter Sunday 1955, after several rebuffs, she traced him to the Magdala pub in Hampstead. When he emerged, she shot him at close range, and calmly told horrified onlookers, "Call the police." At her trial, she chose to plead guilty, on the grounds of Blakely's brutal abuse. And when the prosecuting counsel asked, "When you fired that revolver at close range, into the body of David Blakely, what did you intend to do?" she replied, "It is obvious. When I shot him, I intended to kill him." The guilty verdict was inevitable, as was the death sentence. She refused to appeal. It seems that she was unable to live with Blakely and unable to live without him. Ruth Ellis was the last woman to be executed in the UK. Her family continues to campaign for a posthumous pardon.

Unlike Irene Adler, these women were all victims. Only Ethel le Neve and Marguerite Fahmy survived, and their lives were effectively ruined. "These real-life *femmes fatales*," said Catharine Arnold, "proved fatal only to themselves."

The last meeting of 2021 was the Annual Film Evening, and, like the previous year's, it was conducted online. On the 18th November, Matthew J. Elliott presented a programme he called "*Nothing But a Hound Dog*", comprising two very different early screen adaptations of the same story. First was the 1921 British movie *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, whose stars, Eille Norwood and Hubert Willis, were already famous as Holmes and Watson thanks to a series of short films for the same company, Stoll. Dartmoor was convincingly re-created in rural Surrey, and the night sequences are wonderfully atmospheric. The phosphorescent glow of the phantom hound, produced by scratching the surface of the film is an exceptionally imaginative touch.

That was a silent picture, of course. By contrast, *Der Hund von Baskerville*, released in 1937, was a talkie. Bruno Güttner's Holmes has the right profile, though his roll-neck sweater, leather overcoat and flat cap look odd to the British viewer. Still, as *Der Mann der Sherlock Holmes war* suggests, this was how Germany in the 1930s pictured the great detective. Erich Ponto is an excellent Stapleton, and Fritz Rasp, who was Stapleton in the 1929 *Hund*, is a deliciously sinister red herring as Barrymore. A talkie it may be, but this third German adaptation owes much to the expressionist masterworks of the silent era. It almost overflows with atmosphere.

Well, that must suffice as our summary of the year 2021 in the UK. There were books published, theatrical productions, and no doubt much else. To catch up with those, we suggest you visit the website of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and consult the year's issues of *The District Messenger*. You'll find them at <https://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/newsletter/>.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

Editor's note: Due to the admirably generous and energetic involvement of scions across the country, this section continues to grow not only in size, but also in both information and entertainment value. If you do not find your scion here and would like it to be included in “Sherlock in the U.S.A. 2022” in the 2023 *Baker Street Almanac*, please contact me at Sweeper887@gmail.com. — *Monica Schmidt**

ARIZONA

The Transfixed Correspondence of Phoenix — Lauren Cercone

January 2021	No festivities, alas
February 3, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Priory School”
March 3, 2021	Zoom discussion of “Lady Frances Carfax”
April 7, 2021	Zoom discussion of “Thor Bridge”
May 5, 2021	Zoom discussion of “Shoscombe Old Place”
June 2, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Three Gables”
July 7, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Illustrious Client”
August 4, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Red Circle”
September 1, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Blanched Soldier”
October 6, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Mazarin Stone”
November 3, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Creeping Man”
December 1, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Lion’s Mane”

The Transfixed Correspondence, founded in 2015 by Lauren Cercone, meets on the first Wednesday of the month except in January, when we usually observe The Great Detective’s birthday as close to January 6th as we can schedule. For our monthly events, we begin with a virtual Happy Half-Hour at 6 pm Arizona time, then discuss a Canonical story. In February 2022 we will finish our first circumnavigation through the Canon. For our next pass, our schedule will follow first publication dates in the UK.

Discussion leadership rotates among members. The story leader supplies a quiz, a presentation or background on the story, and discussion topics. Pre-pandemic, we met in downtown Scottsdale at the condo of our member Peter Cass, with plenty of member-supplied food plus adult beverages courtesy of

* These authors have retained copyright in their reports: Behrens, Brydges, Cercone, Coppola, Dobry, Harnois, Houle, Hunt (Harrison and Linda), Keefauver, Magee, Mason, McCammon, McClure, Morris, Musial, Reynolds, and Weiner.

Peter. With the ongoing pandemic, we meet only on Zoom and so can welcome guests from throughout the Sherlockian world.

The Transfixed Correspondence is on Facebook. There is no website; we organize our meetings through Meetup.org: www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Sherlockians/. Membership is open to all Sherlockians; the annual fee is \$25, payable in January, to offset the costs of Meetup and Zoom. E-mail Lauren at transfixedcorrespondence@gmail.com for further details or join directly on Meetup.com.

CALIFORNIA

The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (Los Angeles) — Chrys and Jerry Kegley

January 18, 2021	Lost In New York With A Bunch Of Sherlockians (Virtual — ZOOM)
March 27, 2021	Addicted To Holmes (Virtual — ZOOM)
June 12, 2021	Men Of Mystery (Virtual — ZOOM)

The Curious Collectors of Baker Street (CCOBS) were founded and have been presided over by Jerry Kegley, BSI and 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.

2021 was to mark the Collectors’ 31st year of keeping the Master’s memory green in Southern California, but the continuing Covid-19 pandemic necessitated the halting of in-person events in favor of virtual ones hosted on the ZOOM platform.

The Baker Street Irregulars’ weekend festivities for January of 2021 were an unfortunate casualty of Covid-19 and a switch to a virtual BSI Dinner kicked off the Sherlockian year. The Collectors followed suit with a web-based “Lost on the web” meeting held the Saturday following the BSI Dinner the afternoon of January 18th. The usual “Lost” traditions were upheld, and Canonical toasts were presented by Tamar Zeffern, BSI and Jim Webb, BSI. Chuck Kovacic presented a talk on “Building Baker Street” and the meeting culminated with a video montage of “Lost In New York’s” 22+ year history.

March found the Collectors hosting their second virtual meeting with Canonical toasts presented by Aaron Rubin, Anastasia Klimchynskaya, BSI, Tiffany Knight, and Don Hobbs, BSI. Guest speaker Monica Schmidt, BSI delivered a dose of enlightenment as to Holmes’ addiction and our being addicted to Holmes with her talk entitled “The Seven Percent Evaluation.”

Curious TV continued in June of 2021, with the CCOBS hosting “Men of Mystery” on the 12th. Canonical toasts were presented by John Rabe, Bruce and Mela Heydon, David Pleger, and Susan Dahlinger, BSI. One half of the CCOBS’ Tin Boxes/Presidents, Jerry Kegley, BSI provided some conjecture on Holmes and Watson’s early days with his talk on “Men of Mystery.” A quiz on “Speckled Band,” and some of the usual fare associated with a Curious Collectors meeting rounded things out.

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

Until next time, keep those Holmes fires burning.

The Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea, California — John S. Postovit

March 13, 2021	Meeting and Video via Internet
May 8, 2021	Paper Presentation via Internet
September 11, 2021	Fiftieth Anniversary Dinner Meeting
November 13, 2021	Dinner Meeting

The first meeting of the Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea was held during April 1971, in Pebble Beach, California. The name derives from the London club of which Sherlock Holmes’ brother Mycroft, was a member. The purpose of the Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea is to recreate, for at least six evenings a year, the relaxed atmosphere of a London men’s club of the Victorian era. Ever since 1971, the Diogenes Club has met in black tie almost without fail every second Saturday of odd-numbered months for dinner, drinks, discussion and Sherlockian scholarship. The Diogenes Club is thoroughly planted in the traditions of 1895, and as a result remains perhaps the only all-male group left in the 21st Century. Diogenes Club members proudly label themselves “UnClubbable” in adherence to Holmes’ judgment of the original Diogenes Club.

Finally returning from its Great Hiatus, the Diogenes Club made tentative steps towards that window seat at 221B in March and May, with a series of two meetings via Zoom video. As the summer passed and restaurant restrictions due to the Black Sumatran Corruption eased, the Club was able to meet once again in person starting in September. The highlight of this year was our September 11th dinner meeting, marking the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Club with varied reminiscences from long-time members. This of course included Mr. Charles Winge, the Oldest Member, who has been with the Club since shortly after its founding in 1971 and has

missed only one meeting in all those years. A new Official Club Portrait was successfully taken using a Kodak Niagara Special view camera which was actually constructed in 1895. The Anniversary meeting also included Mr. John Postovit's presentation of his new paper, "The Sherlockian Police Detective: A Statistical Analysis."

Highlights of other meetings this year include a guest presentation from J.Gregory Hokanson of Rochester, Minnesota on "The Unsolvables of Sherlock Holmes," and the presentation by Mr. Marc Winqvist of Part Two of his paper "Food in the Time of Sherlock," for which he earned his investiture in the Club as "Neil Gibson, The Gold King".

Canonical study this year included "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter," "Thor Bridge," "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist," and "The Adventure of Silver Blaze." Dr. Bill Berg's quizzes on these stories were, as always, "ridiculously easy."

Sherlockian visitors to Monterey, California are invited to attend a meeting, should they be in the area on the second Saturday of an odd-numbered month. Please contact our Gasogene, Dr. Gary Taylor, for more information at gtaylor.doc@gmail.com.

The Knights of the Gnomon (Redwood City) — Marc Kaufman

January 4, 2021	Knights meet via Zoom
March 1, 2021	Knights meet via Zoom
May 3, 2021	Knights meet via Zoom
July 5, 2021	Knights meet via Zoom
September 13, 2021	Knights meet via Zoom
November 1, 2021	Knights meet via Zoom

The Knights of the Gnomon, Redwood City, California Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars of New York, began in 1978 after an eight-session course on "Sherlock Holmes and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Today" taught by Orval Graves through the Community Services Department of Cañada College in Redwood City. Some students from the class then met at the invitation of Graves and decided to form a scion, and by August petitioned the Baker Street Irregulars for official recognition. The gnomon is the part of the sundial that casts a shadow, and Mr. Graves had a special interest in sundials, which appeared several times in the Canon. A special sundial was made which has a gnomon with a cut out in the shape of Holmes' profile wearing a deerstalker. Members meet on the first Monday night of every

other month at the home of different members. The sundial is in the middle of the room, and placed on it are member pebbles/rocks, inscribed with name or initials, some with the dancing men cipher. At each meeting Starrrett's poem, *221B*, is read by the host, minutes are distributed and a quiz on an assigned story is given with discussion following. After a show-and-tell session, refreshments are served.

Unfortunately, we could not meet in person at all in 2021, but we tried to maintain the format, absent the refreshments. One upside, though, was the inclusion of members who do not live locally, including one in London.

January saw the Knights celebrating the 167th birthday of the via Zoom, rather than at a local restaurant. January is the month for the election of officers: Master Caster (he/she who casts the longest shadow, Amanuensis (secretary and reporter), and Cox & Co. (treasurer). For 2021 the officers were:

Master Caster: Amy Buckley (of London, England)

Amanuensis: Marc Kaufman

Cox & Co.: Cade Deverell

Hans Sloan of Our Age: Maxine Reneker (archivist)

There was a quiz (the Old Guaiacum Test) on Adaptations of the Canon, crafted by Amy. Randall Stock gave a book report on the facsimile edition of *The Lost World*. Randall says that there is a new facsimile edition of *The Lost World*, available: bestofsherlock.com/mss/lost-world-2020.htm Book Report by Maxine Reneker The Adventure of the Abbey Grange manuscript facsimile.

At the March meeting, the OGT on the Adventure of the Abbey Grange was presented by Katherine Doar. Book report by Marsha Pollak, series editor, on *Corporals, Colonels & Commissionaires: The Military and the Sherlockian Canon*.

The May quiz on the Three Garridebs was presented by Maxine Reneker. Suggested TV series include Enola Holmes and The Irregulars.

July gave us another quiz by Amy: Sherlock and America. Randall Stock presented several books by Stuart Douglas.

The September quiz was by Cade Deverell on The Missing Three Quarter. Book report was for Laurie King's *Castle Shade*.

Finally, the November quiz from Linda Johnson was Scandal in Bohemia. Marguerite Kaufman gave a book report on *Art in the Blood*, by Bonnie MacBird. We were all very hopeful that 2022 would see us meeting in person, again. But it looks like Zoom, for a while at least.

Contact info for the Knights is via the Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco McMurdo@Scowrers.org.

The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco — Marc Kaufman

January 16, 2021	Zoom — Happy Birthday Sherlock Holmes
April 25, 2021	Zoom — Spring Meeting
October 17, 2021	Zoom — Autumn Meeting

The Scowrers 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 Scowrers initially followed the tradition of a male only group, a female auxiliary, the Molly Maguires, quickly followed. Women did attend the second meeting, and this scion became the first to admit women to full and equal membership. Normally, the Scowrers meet approximately three times a year for a luncheon with toasts, papers, quiz, and frightful pun to close. 2021 was not a normal year. We met via Zoom, but were able to record most meetings. Overall, Zoom attendance was better than in-person attendance, with international attendees.

January found the Scowrers celebrating the Master’s birthday with the traditional reading of Marilyn MacGregor’s poem, “Happy Birthday, Sherlock Holmes.” The speaker was Michael McSwiggin on the topic “*Pharmacy in the Canon*.” There was also a Standing on the Terrace for Marilyn MacGregor, out long-time Bodymaster, who passed away on September 15, 2020.

Our speaker for April was Ray Betzner, on “*A Student of Starrett*.”

Finally, our October speaker was Burt Wolder, speaking on “*The Talented Mr. Altamont: Sherlock Holmes and Irish Secret Societies*”. Unfortunately, this meeting failed to record.

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

The Holmes’ Hounds’ Sherlock Holmes Society (Jackson) — Linda Hein

July 6, 2021	Guest speakers: Michael Kean and Walter Jaffee
September 7, 2021	Discussion: “The Priory School”
November 2, 2021	Discussion: “Black Peter”

The Holmes’ Hounds’ Sherlock Holmes Society, founded in January of 2014 by Linda Hein and Beth Barnard, meets the first Tuesday of every other month on odd-numbered months, except for January, wherein

Holmes' Hounds *always* meets on January 6. Holmes' Hounds boasts approximately 60 members. Irene Adler (Beth Barnard) is the Gasogene, Mrs. Hudson (Linda Hein) the Tantalus, and Inspector Alec MacDonald (Joe Svec) the Commissionaire. (And believe it or not, we do use quite a bit of ice!) A conical story is discussed at every meeting with questions submitted by our Holmes' Hound member, Wiggins (Andy Rodriguez). Every member in Holmes' Hounds receives a character name from the Canon upon joining the Society. Meetings give members opportunities to present their characters to the membership. When they have done so, they receive the Holmes' Hounds Society Pin. At most meetings, up until the Pandemic, a potluck has been enthusiastically entertained. In March of every year, Holmes' Hunt takes place within our 10,000 square foot building. The three-story edifice (Hein & Company Bookstore, Baker Street West, and Hein & Company Estate Sales floor) is used in imaginative ways to conduct a hunt with teams who search for clues amid books, antiques, hidden spaces, and invisible ink. Holmes' Hounds remained unhappily dormant shortly after the March of 2020 meeting until the July meeting in 2021.

July of 2021: Holmes' Hounds reunited with approximately 30 members after 15 months. (Historically, each meeting would bring approximately 45 members.) We invited BSI members Michael Kean (Wiggins) and Walter Jaffee (The Resident Patient) to be guest speakers. Walter Jaffee spoke on *Inspector Lestrade, Scotland Yard, and the French Connection*. Michael spoke on *Twain, Harte, and Sherlock Holmes*. This presentation by Wiggins touched our hearts, as Twain and Harte have history in the area in which we live, the Sierra Foothills. We had intended to discuss *The Adventure of the Priory School*, but due to catching up all Hounds with the goings on at Baker Street West and the brilliant guest speakers, this story was continued to our September meeting.

September of 2021: Holmes' Hounds met with approximately 30 members and discussed *The Adventure of the Priory School*. A spirited game of Sherlockian Balderdash ensued after our serious discourse of the unique case of The Priory School.

November of 2021: Holmes' Hounds met with approximately 30 members and discussed *The Adventure of Black Peter*. Since this meeting took place on one of the actual days of Dia de Muertos, we feasted on foods of our ancestors, toasted our dearly departed, and reminisced on the ones who have left us behind. Let us be clear that foods, toasts, and reminiscences were not extended to any nemeses of Mr. Holmes! A character presentation was enacted by Elsie Cubitt (Amanda Reis) of The Dancing Men, with the help of her dearly departed, Hilton Cubitt. Elsie received her Society Pin. A

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

new member of Holmes' Hounds, Sir Arthur Ignatius Sherrinford (John Lee), presented his character and received his Society Pin as well.

Holmes' Hounds shares a website with Baker Street West, which is www.bakerstreetwest.com. We also have a Facebook presence, which is www.facebook.com/holmeshound. Contact Information is: Holmes Hounds, 204 N. Main Street, Jackson, CA 95642. Phone is: 209-223-2215.

The Baker Street Breakfast Club (Los Angeles) — Bonnie MacBird

The Baker Street Breakfast Club did not meet in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our most sincere hope to resume in-person meetings in 2022.

CONNECTICUT

Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society (Cheshire) — Andrew Tranquilli

January 21, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Thor Bridge"
February 18, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Creeping Man"
March 18, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Lion's Mane"
April 15, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Veiled Lodger"
May 20, 2021	Hybrid outdoor meeting discussion of "Shoscombe Old Place"
June 17, 2021	Masked discussion of "The Retired Colourman" and "The Murders in the Rue Morgue" by Poe
July 15, 2021	Hybrid masked meeting discussion of <i>The Lost World</i> by ACD
August 19, 2021	Discussion of Sherlock Holmes Apocrypha including "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special"
September 16, 2021	Zoom discussion of "A Scandal in Bohemia" and "The Purloined Letter" by Poe
October 3, 2021	Eight CSHS members attended the Men on the Tor Meeting at Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale in Madison, CT
October 21, 2021	Doyle's Horror Stories, Zoom discussion of "The Surgeon of Gaster Fell", "Lot No. 249", and "The Brazilian Cat"
November 13, 2021	Three CSHS members attend the 50th Anniversary of The Cornish Horrors. Danna Mancini of the CSHS gave the Leon Sterndale Lecture at the meeting.
November 18, 2021	Discussion of the first three chapters of A Study in Scarlet
December 16, 2021	Holmes for the Holidays, the first dinner meeting of CSHS, at the Bone in Prime Restaurant in Cheshire, CT. "The Blue Carbuncle" was discussed.

The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society was founded by Andy Tranquilli in February of 2016. Many of the original members still regularly attend the monthly meetings on the third Thursday of every month. We have now met 70 times for well over 200 hours. Our scion has discussed all the stories of the entire Canon and has now begun to read Doyle stories in other genres. This year we compared two C. Auguste Dupin short stories by Edgar Allen Poe with Sherlock Holmes stories. We read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World* and watched the 1925 film. Our scion tackled the possibly apocryphal stories "The Man with the Watches" and "The Lost Special" by ACD. For a Halloween theme, we read three ACD horror stories. The many topics presented at our meetings included the abilities of dogs, drug use, evolution, science fiction, beehives, red herrings, retirement, love triangles, domestic abuse, dark horses, gothic literature, Watson's gambling problem, Tarzan of the Apes, the Wold Newton Universe, the grammar of silent cinema, train journeys, the value of reputation, Victorian horror, supernatural elements in the Canon, and Sherlock Holmes apocrypha. A regular feature called "Dates and Fates in Sherlockian History" was introduced to our meetings.

Andy Tranquilli, Inspector Lestrade of the CSHS, was invited to the 2021 BSI Weekend Virtual Dinner. He also attended all the virtual events of that weekend. Several members of CSHS were given digital investitures at our January meeting (later delivered in person at a live meeting). Carol Beitel was invested as "Miss Grace Dunbar", Sharon Foster as "the Persian Slipper", Jerrold Rubak as "Mr. James Dodd", and William Curatolo as "The Devil's Foot". Mr. Sherlock Holmes, sometimes known as John Sherwood, attended our February meeting online and quite amusingly answered some very pressing questions about the last 167 years of his life.

This was the year for attending diverse scion Zoom meetings, lectures, and conferences. But we had four face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) events, the meetings in May (outdoors), June, July, and December. The holiday meeting in December was the *very first* dinner meeting of our six-year-old scion (originally planned for two years ago). BSI's Mike Berdan and Greg Darak, the leaders of the Men on the Tor, spoke at the meeting along with Andy. Carol Beitel and Rob Hammerman gave the toasts. This year Andy joined The Literary Agents of the ACD Society, became a member of the Friends of Gillette Castle, and was admitted into The Legion of Zoom scion. If you would like more information about our scion, please send an email to tranquilli@hotmail.com.

The Men on the Tor (Trumbull) — Greg Darak

In 2020, there was an unfortunate series of miscommunications and an innocent foul-up on the copyright paperwork by this section editor causing the delay in publication of the 2020 report. With significant apologies to The Men on the Tor and Greg Darak, we present both the 2020 and 2021 reports.

2020 Entry

August 30, 2020	“Spring” Meeting
October 18, 2020	Fall Meeting

The Men on the Tor was founded in April, 1977 by Harold (Tyke) and Theodora (Teddie) Niver, of Rocky Hill, Connecticut. (As should be obvious from the name Theodora, The Men on the Tor has never been a men-only group).

In 2010, after a full third of a century, the Nivers opted to pass the leadership of the group on to Greg Darak and Mike Berdan. But they hardly retired from either the scion or their long-standing arrangement of welcoming guests inside the castle at Gillette Castle State Park in the guises of William and Helen Gillette. And while the castle itself was closed this year due to the virus, the grounds remained open, thus allowing the Nivers to continue their roles by standing, cordoned off and safe-distanced, upon the castle’s encircling flagstone terrace.

We’d originally planned an April meeting to commemorate the 125th anniversary of “The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans” by convening near Groton, CT, “the submarine capital of the world”, and beginning with a tour of the USS Nautilus, the world’s first nuclear-powered submarine. When the coronavirus began surging, we realized we had to change our plans, and decided to hold off the spring meeting until June — the whole virus thing would have to have blown over by then, of course.

Little did we know

As the months went by, it became obvious it would be impossible to hold a traditional restaurant dinner meeting with a feature presentation. We didn’t want to let the year pass without a meeting though, so we decided to try to actually hold one. It would not be the usual type, but an informal get-together, with brief talks, toasts, a quiz, and general Sherlockian conversation. Most importantly, it would follow all state and CDC guidelines, including masks and safe-distancing.

Our member Danna Mancini generously offered to let us have the meeting at his home in Niantic, and determined that socially distancing outside, we

could have an attendance of 16, which was well below the current state-allowed limit of 25.

We notified our members of the event, which would now be commemorating the 125th anniversary of “The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist” — it was another adventure from 1895, and the only one in which social-distancing was practiced. Fourteen Sherlockians from two states attended on a mild late August afternoon. During the course of the meal (for which people provided their own picnic lunches), toasts were given by Michael Barton (Sherlock Holmes) and Andy Tranquilli (Violet Smith). Andy also contributed a paper on the history of the bicycle, Mike Berdan spoke of the preposterousness of the story’s antecedents, and Greg Darak talked about the story’s connection with “The Hound of the Baskervilles”. The winners of the quiz were Jose Rodriguez, Andy Tranquilli, John Sherwood, and Carol Adams. Although social-distancing was maintained (except momentarily when taking a group photo), everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to get together, and a two-weeks-after check showed that all attendees were still healthy, so — to maintain the scion’s tradition of two meetings a year — we scheduled another one for October 18, devoted to “A Case of Identity”.

Danna Mancini again offered us his home as the venue, so on a New England fall afternoon we gathered again in Niantic.

Although unable to attend, David Houle sent (as he had for the previous meeting) authentic Victorian photographs of the characters in the story, taken from Sherlock Holmes’s photographic archives, which David had discovered at Cox and Co. Particularly impressive was a picture of Mary Sutherland and Hosmer Angel taken at the Gasfitter’s ball.

Toasts were given by Bob Stek (Dr. Watson), Jose Rodriguez (Conan Doyle), John Bomba (James Windibank), and John Sherwood (Mrs. Hudson). Mike Berdan read a paper on “A Case of Identity” in its sequential canonical context, and, in honor (if that’s the right word) of Hosmer Angel, also supplied a case of sodas from a local Connecticut company, Hosmer Mountain. Greg Darak delivered a defense of the way Holmes dealt with the case, which led to a discussion of whether Holmes was justified in not telling Mary Sutherland why she would never hear from her fiancé again. Vickie Wittman then led us in a game she had created, a Sherlockian form of Bingo called SHRLO. Questions about “A Case of Identity” were asked, and if the answer to the question was in a square on your SHRLO card, you covered it up.

The winners of the quiz were Jose Rodriguez, John Sherwood, and Vickie Wittman. The meeting closed with a reading of “221B” by Tom Sullivan. And again, we checked two weeks after the meeting, and everyone was still healthy.

So even in the face of a pandemic, The Men on the Tor were able to continue their tradition of honoring Sherlock Holmes twice annually.

The Men on the Tor (Trumbull) — Greg Darak
2021 Entry

June 13, 2021	The Blue Oar, Haddam, CT — The Boscombe Valley Mystery
October 3, 2021	Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale, Madison, CT — The Adventure of the Creeping Man

The Men on the Tor continued their tradition of having two in-person meetings a year in 2021. There were worries, of course, if such a thing would be possible, but increased rates of vaccination allowed restaurants to open with outdoor dining, and so — after a survey of members showed they were vaccinated and willing to gather at such a restaurant, The Men on the Tor scheduled their spring meeting for Sunday, June 13th, at The Blue Oar in Haddam, CT.

The weather was fine, and 31 people dined at picnic tables looking out at the Connecticut River on a bright sunny afternoon. The adventure of the day was “The Boscombe Valley Mystery”, and the lead speaker, Kate Karlson, gave a talk titled, “The Gold Diggers of ‘95”, about the prospectors in “The Boscombe Valley Mystery” and other Canonical tales.

Toasts were given by Jeff Bradway (the literary agent), Carmen Savage (Jeremy Brett), Walt Colby (Alice Turner), Mike Berdan (Mary Morstan), and John Sherwood (Basil Rathbone, whose 129th birthday it was that day).

Mike Berdan gave a brief talk, “What a Difference a Month Makes: How Doyle Regained His Groove after ‘A Case of Identity’”, and Greg Darak spoke about Emile Gaboriau’s influence on Arthur Conan Doyle.

Danna Mancini gave all attendees a commemorative challenge coin he created, showing on one side the Tor’s insignia, designed by Mike Nicastre, and on the other a photo of the founders of the group, Harold and Theodora Niver, in the Victorian garb they wear when appearing as William and Helen Gillette at Gillette Castle. The Nivers were at the meeting, and were both surprised and pleased.

The quiz on “The Boscombe Valley Mystery” was won by Jose Rodriguez, with John Sherwood and Isabel Rathbone coming in second and third. Tor investitures were given to Scott Savage, Carmen Savage, Michael Barton, and Jose and Aida Rodriguez.

Vickie Wittman led a new edition of the game she had created for a previous meeting, SHRLO (a Sherlockian form of Bingo), and the meeting was closed by Bob Stek reading “221B”.

Another survey showed that the members' preference for the fall meeting was another outdoor dinner, so 25 Sherlockians met at 4 PM, October 3rd, on a sunny afternoon at Lenny and Joe's Fish Tale in Madison, CT. This was not a pre-ordered group meal, but, as at The Blue Oar, one where everybody made their own order and then sat down to enjoy a Sherlockian afternoon.

"The Adventure of the Creeping Man" was the story of the day, and Bob Stek was the lead speaker, telling us of real-life rejuvenators parallel to Dorak of Prague such as John Brinkley, in a talk titled, "Professor Presbury: of Monkey Glands and Medical Science."

Toasts were given by Tom Sullivan (Conan Doyle as a science fiction writer), Bob Madison (Roy, the dog), and Pam Bedore (Dr. Watson). Other papers were read by Mike Berdan ("Loose Ends and Positive IDs in 'The Adventure of the Creeping Man'") and Greg Darak ("Trevor Bennett's Secret").

After eating their seafood dinners, everyone had a piece of a special cake, congratulating John Sherwood and Kim Forde on their recent wedding.

Vickie Wittman created a Sherlockian Word-Search game, in which everyone was given 10 minutes to find as many words as possible, Pam Bedore, Kim Forde, and Isabel Rathbone were the winners. Isabel Rathbone also won the quiz on "The Creeping Man", followed by Andy Tranquilli and Jose Rodriguez.

Although he wasn't able to attend, David Houle sent from his archives an authentic Victorian photograph of Professor Presbury and his pet lemur.

"221B" was read by Danna Mancini to close the meeting and another year of Sherlockian fellowship for The Men on the Tor.

HAWAII

The Shaka Sherlockians — Dr. Joseph T. Page Jr.

February 13, 2021	Zoom Meeting featuring Hal Glatzer
May 8, 2021	Zoom Meeting featuring Steve Mason, BSI
August 14, 2021	Zoom Meeting featuring Sonia Fetherston, BSI
November 13, 2021	Zoom Meeting featuring Nicholas Meyer, BSI

The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii was founded by Gasogene Dr. Joseph T. Page Jr. in 2020. 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.)

The inaugural meeting took place in November 2020 and featured Peter Blau, BSI (Black Peter) as the guest speaker. 2021 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 Mei*). After brief general announcements, each guest speaker was introduced followed by a Q&A session. The 2021 guest speakers were most excellent and, without exception, extremely well-received. (NB: Videos of all meetings are available online at www.shakasherlockian.com.) Following additional announcements of interest to Sherlockians, a challenging one-question Sherlockian Pop Quiz takes place with a prize for the first correct answer. 2021 winners include Monica Schmidt, Aleš Kolodrubec, Jennifer Lowe, Dr. Bob Katz, Charles Prepolec, and John Bergquist. Final comments and announcements were presented and each meeting ended with a traditional reading of Vincent Starrett's timeless *221B* poem. Official closure occurred with a final 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. Email certificate requests (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.

ILLINOIS

The Scotland Yarders (Chicago area) — Janice Weiner

January 12, 2021	Zoom meeting — Dan Andriacco on writing his mysteries, Dino Argyropoulos on "Tobacco in the Canon"
March 12, 2021	Zoom meeting — Michael McSwiggin on "Pharmacy in the Canon"
May 12, 2021	Zoom meeting — JoAnn Alberstat on the Mary Celeste

September 22, 2021	In person meeting — Steve Mason (on Zoom) on what people would like to own from the Canon
November 13, 2021	Holiday luncheon in person — Rudy Altergott on “Babylon in Victorian Chicago”

The Scotland Yarders was founded in 1988. Over the years, for various reasons and due to the pandemic, we have changed our meeting dates to varying Wednesdays from the second Tuesdays in January, March, May, and September, with a holiday party in November. The party is our only event with a charge, though we do have dues to be a member of the group. We have suspended dues during the pandemic. We gave up an informal summer July get-together at a suburban music venue due to changes in the venue’s classical music schedule. We started meeting at Scotland Yard Books (in a northern Chicago suburb) from where we got our name and then switched to meeting at various northern Chicago suburban public libraries. The pandemic caused us to use Zoom for some of our 2021 meetings. 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. We are open to anything that can be related to Holmes, crime, the Victorian Era, and other such subjects. We are not a serious study group for the Canon.

For the January meeting Dan Andriacco talked about how he wrote his mystery stories and Dino Argyropoulos who is a pipe and tobacco expert talked about the Arcadia tobacco mixture that Watson smokes. Mike McSwiggin, a pharmacist, repeated a talk he gave to another scion and talked about such things as: poisons pharmacies sold and how pharmacies operated. JoAnn Alberstat also repeated a talk for us about the ghost ship the Mary Celeste. Our scion once performed a short play on the ship and so this topic was of interest to us. Steve (on Zoom while attendees were in person) repeated a talk he did on a poll he took on what people would like to own from the Canon. Our attendees then talked about what they would like from the Canon. He also talked to us about ten books a Sherlockian should have in his/her library. Our luncheon was in person at a new restaurant and time of day for us. Rudy Altergott’s talk gave us Chicagoans some familiar and unfamiliar information on some of the characters that have “corrupted” Chicago in the past. We had seventeen attendees and all had a good time.

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

The Hansoms of John Clayton (Peoria) — Brad Keefauver

January 28, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “The Illustrious Client”
February 25, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “The Blanched Soldier”
March 25, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting “The Mazarin Stone”
April 22, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “The Three Gables”
May 27, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “The Sussex Vampire”
June 24, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “The Three Garridebs”
July 22, 2021	Hybrid library and Zoom discussion meeting on “Thor Bridge”
August 26, 2021	Hybrid library and Zoom discussion meeting on “The Creeping Man”
September 23, 2021	Hybrid library and Zoom discussion meeting on “The Lion’s Mane”
October 28, 2021	Hybrid library and Zoom discussion meeting on “The Veiled Lodger”
November 18, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “Shoscombe Old Place”
December 30, 2021	Zoom discussion meeting on “The Retired Colourman”

The Hansoms of John Clayton was conceived circa January 1976, when science fiction author Philip José Farmer was quoted in a local weekly paper saying he wanted to start a scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars in Peoria, Illinois. He immediately heard from Robert C. Burr, a USDA chemist that lived two doors down the street expressing interest, and Farmer put out a call for potential members in that spring’s issue of *The Baker Street Journal*. John Bennett Shaw stopped in Peoria that August to have dinner with Phil Farmer and another local Sherlockian named George Scheetz, and even after *that* dinner ... well, Peoria *still* didn’t have a Sherlock Holmes club.

Phil’s neighbor, Bob Burr, eventually got tired of waiting for Farmer and Scheetz to organize a meeting of the group that had been given a name more than a year before, and called the first meeting to order at his own home on November 17, 1977.

With Burr as the organizer, Farmer as the founder, and Scheetz as the publishing arm, the Hansoms of John Clayton quickly came together, publishing its own journal within six months, and holding a banquet the next fall, traditions that Bob Burr would continue for two decades after.

Meetings became much more sporadic during the 2000s, as membership declined, eventually dwindling to an annual banquet with a few old members and friends with a nominal program. A December 2015 Sherlock Holmes event at a local library, inspired by BBC *Sherlock*’s popularity, eventually led

to the Hansoms running a library discussion group beginning in January 2017 that continues to this day, hosted by Brad Keefauver and Kathy Carter.

After moving meetings to Zoom in 2020, the library discussion group went to hybrid masked-and-in-person meetings with Zoom attendees as well for several months before Omicron season sent us back to complete Zoom meetings in late fall.

For more information about this scion, please contact Brad Keefauver at bkeefauver@gmail.com.

The Criterion Bar Association — Frankin Saksena

January 23, 2021	Guest speaker — Marsha Mascha: Women in the Canon.
March 13, 2021	Guest speaker — Donny Zaldin: Investigating investigating women
May 22, 2021	Guest speaker — Ron Levitsky: Sherlock Spade. Was Sherlock Holmes a hard-boiled detective?
October 30, 2021	Guest speakers — Julie McKuras and Dr Richard Sveum: <i>The Unique Hamlet</i> by Vincent Starrett.

The Criterion Bar association met 4 times on zoom in 2021. In the newsletter I wrote 3 essays dealing with canonical references to rejuvenation, bicycles and malingering as well as an essay on Vincent Starrett. In each issue of the Cri Bar Crier was a Sherlockian crossword puzzle and a picture quiz. On Jan 22, 2022 I will be talking on Engineer’s Thumb part 2 and various canonical and historical forgeries

For inquiries about The Criterion Bar Association, please email Dr. Franklin Saksena, MD at franklin.saksena@gmail.com or Ruth Goehmann at rjgoehmann@aol.com.

The Torists International, SS — Jonathan Shimberg

March 27, 2021	Joe Schwartz: Science and Sherlock Holmes
June 27, 2021	Barbara Rusch: Victorian Intimate Apparel, the Canon, ACD and a certain gracious lady
September 27, 2021	Diane Gilbert Madsen: Villainesses of the Canon
December 27, 2021	The Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes — or Were They?

As with all scions it has been an eventful year for Torists, on many levels. As always, we meet four times a year on the 27th of March, June, September and December.

Our first meeting of the year, held remotely, featured a presentation by Dr. Joe Schwartz, professor at McGill University, on “Science and Sherlock

Holmes.” There was also a discussion on Tokay wine. Those fortunate to have a bottle of the wine were encouraged to partake, but many chose to savor it at a different time.

In June we continued with our Canadian focus, met remotely and were favored with a talk all the way from Toronto on “Victorian Intimate Apparel: The Canon, ACD, and a Certain Gracious Lady” by Barbara Rusch. As she noted “What lies beneath has been laid bare, the unmentionables have been mentioned, and what was once concealed has at last been revealed.”

In September, the leadership of Torists International S.S. passed from Robert Sharfman to Jonathan Shimberg, the new Chief Steward. The speaker was Diane Gilbert Madsen who spoke on “Villainesses of the Canon.” Ms. Madsen discussed the 23 women whom she labeled as a villain and challenged our members to submit in writing, after the meeting, their favorite and explain their choice. The speaker and the Chief Steward then chose one submission, to receive a prize copy of Ms. Madsen’s book “Cracking the Code of the Canon: How Sherlock Holmes Made His Decisions.” David McAllister of Temple Terrace, FL was chosen as the winner and recipient.

One of the benefits of zoom meetings is the simple fact that we are being graced with attendees from all over the country, if not the world. As a result, we planned on continuing to broadcast our meetings.

Our final meeting of the year was a hybrid meeting. We had 20 people in person, and many more joining on screen. Dan Andriacco joined us for dinner and spoke on “The Mysteries of Sherlock Holmes — Or Were They?” It was nice to see fellow Torists in person. We hope future meetings will proceed in a like manner, but as I write this, that may not be attainable.

For more information about the Torists, please contact Jonathan Shimberg at toristintss@gmail.com.

The South Downers (South-side Chicago) — Phil Angelo

January 13, 2021	Virtual. Sherlockian Jeopardy. Showing of <i>The Scarlet Claw</i> with Basil Rathbone.
February 24, 2021	Virtual. “The Priory School”; Program on Victorian Education. Showing of <i>The Priory School</i> with Jeremy Brett.
March 24, 2021	Virtual. “Black Peter”; Program on Arthur Conan Doyle’s whaling voyages. Playing of <i>Black Peter</i> radio play with John Stanley.
April 28, 2021	Virtual. “Charles Augustus Milverton”; Program on Blackmail. Showing of <i>The Master Blackmailer</i> with Jeremy Brett.
May 28, 2021	Virtual. “The Six Napoleons”; Program on Italians in the Canon. Showing of <i>The Six Napoleons</i> with Douglas Wilmer.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

June 30, 2021	In person at Scrementi's. "The Three Students"; Program on Great Cheaters.
July 28, 2021	In person at Ed and Joe's. "The Golden Pince-Nez"
August 28, 2021	In person at Labas, Latte and Vino. "The Missing Three-Quarter"; Program on rugby.
September 22, 2021	In person at Scrementi's. All played the escape room-type game "Murder at the Grand Hotel."
October 27, 2021	In person at Scrementi's. "The Abbey Grange"; Members came dressed as characters of the Canon for Halloween. Program on The Ghosts and Ghouls of Sherlock Holmes.
November 2021	No meeting in November
December 8, 2021	In-person at Scrementis. "The Second Stain"; Annual gift exchange. Program on Espionage in the Canon.

Founded in 1985, the current Altamont (president) of the South Downers is Phil Angelo. You can contact Phil at philangelo@comcast.net or via telephone at (815) 933-4935 or (815) 325-4277 (cell). We maintain an excellent website: www.southdowners.com. Kelly Weber is our excellent webmaster. Our site contains minutes of past meetings. Information on our upcoming meeting and the names of our members. Membership is open to all interested in the Canon. In January we induct new members, who choose a canonical name (any person, case or object) from any of the stories). Annual dues are \$20.

Our meetings are generally held on the fourth or last Wednesday of the month. We do, however, adjust to avoid holidays and try to find the date when most or all can attend. For many years, we met at Carlo Lorenzetti's, which is now closed. After trying other locations, we have settled on Scrementi's in Steger.

Our meetings usually include a quiz on the case, with prizes; toast to the case; discussion; a short program; and the Agony Column by Jack Levitt, a list of other Sherlockian doings and notices in the Chicago area.

We were short-circuited by covid, but have a history of special events: going to the theater together; doing escape rooms; playing a game; reading a radio play; or putting on a murder mystery play.

In 2021, two members had Sherlockian books published. Ira Fistell wrote "The Hidden Holmes: A Serious Rereading of the Stories and Novels by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with Analyses and Commentary." Phil Angelo wrote: *Raise Your Glass to Sherlock Holmes: A Toast for Each of the 60 cases Written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.*"

Pondicherry Lodge (West Central Illinois) — Bill Denham

January through November meetings were not held due to COVID-19. Truly the great hiatus. Pondicherry Lodge is the Sherlock Holmes scion for west central Illinois. Initially founded shortly after the conclusion of World War II by a group of Springfield businessmen, it met for a number of years in a downtown Springfield hotel, but interest waned and the group disbanded in the mid-1950s. The scion was revived in the mid-1980s and has been going strong ever since. Our “home” case is *The Sign of Four*, where Pondicherry Lodge is a central location. We regularly select a Sherlockian of the Year in our January meeting. That member then retains possession of a replica crocodile statue which we fondly refer to as the Jonathan Small Travelling Timber-Toe Trophy. Please refer to *The Sign of Four* (NOT, *The Sign of the Four*).

We meet nine times in the course of the year, taking hiatus in June, August and December. Six of those get-togethers occur in a conference room at the Springfield Scheels on Saturday mornings. However, we also have a Sherlock Holmes film night at a member’s home. We also have two dinner meetings (one in Springfield and one in Jacksonville). For every meeting except the film night, we discuss one of the Master’s cases. Unfortunately, COVID-19 intervened, and no meetings were held in 2021. We follow Baring-Gould’s chronology of novellas first and then cases, looping back to begin the cycle again once we reach *His Last Bow*. We have sometimes substituted pastiches, considered Edgar Allan Poe’s mysteries, or other works by Conan Doyle (some of his horror stories, for example). Our discussions frequently range far and wide and last about 90 minutes. Membership is diverse in background and attendance averages a dozen members or more. We advertise widely in the local media.

Hugo’s Companions (Chicago area) — Terry McCammon

Hugo’s Companions did not meet during 2021 due to COVID. It was felt that there were sufficient Sherlockian zoom meetings and that zoom would not capture the convivial companionship of the Companions at table. However, we will be meeting in person in January 2022.

Chester Baskerville Society — Michael McClure

The Chester Baskerville Society celebrated their 34th year in 2021. Founded by Michael W. and Susan McClure, the organizational meeting was held in their home, Baskerville Hall, in Chester, Illinois, on Oct. 19, 1988. *Without A Clue* debuted in theaters that same year, only 2 days later, so Michael (alias Lord Baskerville) was inspired to launch a campaign to reach

out to its stars. Sir Michael Caine (Sherlock) and Sir Ben Kingsley (Watson) were delighted to accept honorary memberships in the group, and a later acquisition of the deerstalker used in the movie's production was a welcome addition to the society's museum. Many other Sherlockian actors would join our ranks in the years that followed, including Jeremy Brett, who would call occasionally during our meetings with his well wishes. Peter Cushing OBE, was an incredibly kind, active member, and illustrated a color logo for our scion's use. Prior to his generous offer, we had been using a Sherlock Popeye design, produced by King Features Syndicate, to represent our group. Our flagship journal, *The Devonshire Chronicle*, carried our research (we've covered the Canon multiple times) to distant members, and in 1989 we began publishing the popular children's magazine, *Holmes for the Holidays*. A subsection was soon formed, Cartwright's Companions, to engage the imaginations of our own scion's scions, and with the help of our latest periodical, youngsters throughout the world. Working with talented artists and authors, *HforH* found its way into the hands of many young children ... and those that were young at heart. The February 1991 issue of *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* carried a flattering review of our humble publication, and subscriptions soared! Through 2020-21 The Beacon Society has been reprinting some of our *HforH* features in their new online publication, *Sherlock's Spotlight*.

Our society gathers for four or five regular meetings each year (during non-pandemic restricted times), and any other excuse to acclaim Conan Doyle's celebrity sleuth. We have placed Sherlockian floats in the major regional parades, given lectures to various community groups, and, in 2019, erected the first full-size granite tribute to Sherlock Holmes anywhere in the world (and the first permanent, public statue of Sherlock in the US). Covid restricted the tourist flow to our community in 2020, but throughout 2021 thousands of devotees visited Sherlock (and his stoic friends). The Illinois House of Representatives passed House Resolution No. 497 to commend the Popeye & Friends Character Trail (mentioning Sherlock) for its tourism impact on the region. In the summer of 2021, Luis Guillermo Solis, a past president of Costa Rica, came to Chester just to see the monuments! He was only following the well-worn path of footsteps left by tourists from all 50 states and 91 different countries.

We are very thankful to the organizations that have held their meetings online, primarily through Zoom Video Communications, Inc. Michael W. McClure (Stimson & Company-1992 BSI) attended the online Baker Street Irregulars "dinner" in January, 2021, and he and other members have "virtually" travelled the globe attending various scion and national gatherings. The Bootmakers of Toronto (Canada), Sherlock Holmes Society of London, and

too many other scions to name, have hosted the agonized, isolated world of Sherlockians at their online convocations. They deserve our unceasing thanks for helping us stay social in our sodality.

Michael was also pleased to participate in Monica Schmidt’s compassionate outreach strategy...she hosted Sherlock Holmes related movies every Saturday afternoon to a wide audience of online fans that sorely needed this form of connection. Michael also suggested that the group adopt the name, “Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound” (from CHAS), as a possible scion title for the group. This name was enthusiastically approved, and Monica quickly secured official scion status for her viewers from the current B.S.I. “Wiggins”, Michael Kean. All thanks to Monica for shepherding the mental health of her Canonical comrades.

The Chester Baskervilles also took advantage of the newest Sherlockian releases during 2021. As many members (as deemed safely possible) gathered in Baskerville Hall’s theater to watch the Netflix releases of *Enola Holmes* and the 2021 series *The Irregulars*. Other movies were also revisited and discussed throughout the year.

The *Irregulars* Netflix series was an accidentally eponymous release contemporary with our society’s greatest claim to fame for 2021. The overwhelming success of the new tabletop game, *The Original Sherlock Holmes and his Baker Street Irregulars*, an engaging card drafting game created by Michael W. McClure, B.S.I. and his son, Michael W. McClure II, had phenomenal success throughout the year, having incredible sales in 41 countries. The Conan Doyle Estate, Ltd., coordinated by the late Jon Lellenberg B.S.I., granted the Michaels a full license to use all Arthur Conan Doyle’s works, characters, plots, settings and other creations in the production and marketing of their products. We appreciate the confidence that the CDEL has shown in our creations and are working on new avenues to further commemorate the genius that was Conan Doyle. Games continue to sell through our society website and can be viewed at www.baskervilleproducts.com/shbsi.

Contact: Michael W. McClure, B.S.I. watson7654321@gmail.com.

INDIANA

The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis — Steven T. Doyle

January 30, 2021	Online Victorian Dinner
March 13, 2021	Zoom meeting: A Study in Scarlet
April 24, 2021	In-person meeting: “The Copper Beeches”

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

June 12, 2021	Summer field trip
July 31, 2021	Sherlockian Film Festival
September 11, 2021	Dinner meeting: “Silver Blaze”
October 23, 2021	Dinner meeting: “The Musgrave Ritual”
December 11, 2021	75th anniversary celebration

In January, The Illustrious Clients gathered on zoom to celebrate the birthday of Mr. Holmes, with Canonical toasts, announcements that two of our members had been inducted into the Baker Street Irregulars (Ann Lewis and Dan Andriacco), and several talks. The first was by Cindy Baker on the etiquette of giving toasts, and the second was by Mike Schaefer on the political climate of the story “His Last Bow.” Louise Haskett gave a presentation in our “Sherlockian History Paper Series,” on one of the cornerstone books of our hobby ... *The Annotated Sherlock Holmes*. The meeting ended with a reading of 221B by Mike Schaefer.

March found us back in the zoom meeting yet again, where we celebrated and explored the very first adventure of Sherlock Holmes, *A Study in Scarlet*. Canonical toasts were offered by Ann Lewis, Pat Ward, Mike Schaefer, Louise Haskett, and Cal Wilson. The Sherlockian History Paper Series continued with Steven Doyle giving a talk about *The Strand Magazine*, and its relationship to the history of Sherlock Holmes. A quiz was administered by Regina Stinson. We also inaugurated our new element to the meeting ... the hybrid zoom window, which allows distant members to attend the meeting live and interactively. We had nine members and guests join us remotely, and had the pleasure of welcoming new member Fabienne Courouge, who attended her first meeting all the way from Paris, France!

The Clients resumed meeting live, in person in April...our venue being Woodland Country Club. We focused on “The Copper Beeches.” There was a very special treat as we were able to start the meeting with every member having a glass of *Pineau des Charentes*, a lovely wine sent by Fabienne Courouge from her hometown of La Rochelle, France. Canonical toasts were offered by Lib Thompson, Ann Lewis, Mike Schaefer, and Steve Doyle. We resumed our Illustrious Clients Interview Series by interviewing Illustrious Client Emeritus Don Curtis about his memories of the club. Wonderful! Nancy Van Arendonk administered the quiz, and Mike Schaefer led a discussion on the tale. The evening closed with a reading of 221B by Toni Morris.

This year, our summer field trip returned, but in a year of pandemic, finding a field trip destination was problematic. Fortunately, Larry and Nancy

Van Arendonk stepped forward and offered their beautiful home and property on Indianapolis's south side for a pitch-in gathering. We officially presented membership certificates to Bob Sharfman and Dan and Ann Andriacco (although they had been members for a while ...), and the Study in Service award was presented to Larry and Nancy for their generous hospitality. The featured activity of the day was the "Col. Sebastian Moran Airgun Competition." Despite the summer heat, the competition was keen, but in the end, it was won by Don Curtis II.

July 31 found us in the blazing heat and stifling humidity of Indiana summer, and that is why it has always been the perfect time for our annual film festival. We were again welcomed to screen our films in the meeting hall of the Zionsville, Indiana American Legion. We had *nearly 50 people* at this event, and at least seven of them came from out of state! Our line-up was stellar ... *Sherlock Jr.* starring Buster Keaton; *Murder on the Bluebell Line*, a 1987 episode of the television series *Q.E.D.* that examined the possible missing link that was the Piltown Man hoax, starring Hugh Fraser; an episode from the 1970s series, *The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes* entitled "A Message from the Deep Sea" followed, featuring the legendary detective Dr. John, portrayed by John Neville. We then saw the Granada adaptation of "The Illustrious Client," and ended the line-up with the Rathbone film, "The Spider Woman." A BBQ buffet rounded out what was a wonderful day.

The Ulen Country Club was the location of our September 11 meeting, and we resumed our dinner meeting schedule with the featured story of "Silver Blaze." The meeting had a lively Sherlockian Show & Tell, followed by canonical toasts by Andy Gage, Mark Walters, Regina Stinson, Mark Gagen and Pat Ward. Steve Doyle and Mike Schaefer presented the oft-debated "who is the biggest jerk in Silver Blaze?" Steve argued in favor of Colonel Ross, owner of Silver Blaze, while Mike presented a case for Silas Brown, manager of the neighboring Mapleton stables. Mr. Brown came away with the questionable honor of Biggest Jerk. Nancy Van Arendonk led a discussion of the tale, and Marc Lehmann closed the meeting with a recitation of Vincent Starrett's 221B.

On October 23, we gathered at the University Club of Indianapolis for a dinner meeting devoted to "The Musgrave Ritual." One highlight of the night was the group recitation, led by the medieval monk Larry Van Arendonk, of The Ritual. The occasion was enriched by seven members joining by Zoom, including guest Bonnie MacBird, and distant member Nicholas Meyer. Membership certificates were presented to Colleen McSwiggin and Peter Eckrich. That was followed by Sherlockian Show-and-Tell and Split-the-Pot.

Toasts were presented by Pat Ward, Mark Gagen, Kathy Davis, Fabienne Courouge, and Toni Morris. For her efforts putting together and maintaining long-distance attendance for members, Ann Lewis was presented with the “Study in Service” award and became the first to hold the new office of “The Carlton Club Telephone.” Following this, Nicholas Meyer discussed his newest Sherlock Holmes adventure, *The Return of the Pharaoh*. A story quiz was administered by Shelly Gage, with Joella Hultgren the winner. Regina Stinson led the story discussion, and the meeting closed with 221B being read by Mark Gagen.

December 11 featured our 75th Anniversary Meeting, held at Broadmoor Country Club. For some reason, this meeting caught the imagination of the larger Sherlockian world, and we ended up having approximately 20 non-Clients members from out of state attend. Our final in-person count was an astounding 71 persons, with another 11 in the zoom window. That makes attendance 82! We had a book bag give-away, which also debuted our new 75th Anniversary pin, designed by Mark Gagen. Shelly and Andy Gage ran an oral history room, and 17 Clients members and guests shared their Sherlockian stories. We had toasts. We had talks, including a wonderful history of Illustrious Clients publishing and a profile of our founder, Jerry Williamson. We honored Mike Whelan, whose funeral was just that morning. It was an epic meeting. For information on joining The Illustrious Clients, contact: Louise Haskett at: southafricangoldking@gmail.com.

The 140 Varieties of Tobacco Ash — Steven T. Doyle

August 7, 2021	Annual Dinner
----------------	---------------

The 140 Varieties of Tobacco Ash again met in happy conclave, August 7, 2021, beginning the evening with cigars in the cigar bar Havana, in Fishers, Indiana. Privately banded cigars and cocktails were enjoyed by 17 members of the society. This was followed by the 140 dinner next door in the 1933 Lounge. Special guest Mary Ann Bradley wore the ceremonial green fez known as “The Agra Treasure,” and Ann Lewis was welcomed into the fold. Following the meal, the annual ritual of distributing 140 memorabilia concluded the evening. To contact the 140 Varieties, contact Steve Doyle at: sdoyle221b@gmail.com.

IOWA

The Sign of the Four Cities

(Quad Cities on the Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois) — Susan Perry

January 4, 2021	Sherlock birthday toasts; The Mystery of Uncle Jeremy's Household by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle; The Truth about Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
February 1, 2021	"The Gloria Scott"; The Adventure of the Ascot Tie by Robert L. Fish
March 1, 2021	"The Musgrave Ritual"; The Adventure of the Missing Cheyne-Stroke by Robert L. Fish; Holmes' College Career by Dorothy L. Sayers
April 5, 2021	A Study in Scarlet, Part 1; The London Times clippings 1950-52 Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at the Festival of Britain
May 3, 2021	A Study in Scarlet, Part 2; The Artist Who Made Holmes Real by Winifred Paget; Conan Doyle was Sherlock Holmes by Lady Conan Doyle; Advertisements using Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson
June 7, 2021	"The Speckled Band"; The Speckled Band play; The Adventure of the Spectacled Band parody
July 5, 2021	"The Resident Patient"; The Case of the Uneasy Chair from a 1945 radio broadcast
August 2, 2021	"The Noble Bachelor"; A Study in Scarlet radio play pastiche
September 6, 2021	"The Second Stain"
October 4, 2021	"The Reigate Squires"; The Singular Experience of Miss Anne Duffield by John Lennon; The Stolen Cigar Case by Bret Harte
November 1, 2021	"A Scandal in Bohemia"; The Adventure of the Second Generation by Anthony Boucher and Denis Green
December 6, 2021	"The Man with the Twisted Lip"; Sherlock Holmes in "The Great Wilderness" and Sherlock Holmes and the Law from The Mysterious World of Sherlock Holmes by Bruce Wexler

On the first Monday night of each month The Sign of the Four Cities continued with our discussions of the Canon. We are reading the stories in Bering-Gould's order of the chronology of Sherlock Holmes's life. We also enjoyed the appropriate toast matching each story from "Raise Your Glass to Sherlock Holmes" by Phil Angelo. From January-March we met at the Bettendorf Fitness Center and from November-December at the Bettendorf Public Library, masked. From April-October we enjoyed our discussions in Susan Perry's back yard, where cookies were always served.

For January's meeting, we had sugar cookies in the shapes of Sherlock's profile, a magnifying glass, his deerstalker hat, and the letters S and H. We toasted Sherlock's January 6 birthday. Each month while discussing the

Canon, one of our members, Michael Dyer, also provided us with handouts to read and discuss. We usually enjoyed the parodies and pastiches and always enjoyed the Victorian history.

The Iowa Valley of Fear (Marshalltown) — PJ Colbert

November 12, 2021	Autumn Annual meeting
-------------------	-----------------------

After a two-year hiatus, the Iowa Valley of Fear met on November 12, 2021 at Elmwood Country Club in Marshalltown, Iowa with 21 members and guest Monica Schmidt (BSI) from the Younger Stamfords. Our speaker was IVF member Sarah Tupper, Assistant Marshall County Attorney, who detailed the facts of a case she prosecuted — a stabbing in State Center. A quiz over “The Shoscombe Old Place” was prepared by Sally Wilson and PJ Colbert, our last of the 56 stories. The spring 2022 meeting will mark our 30th anniversary.

The Younger Stamfords (Iowa City) — David Harnois

The Younger Stamfords was founded by Dr. Richard (Dick) Caplan, BSI, in 1988, and is currently headed by Monica Schmidt, ASH, BSI. Unfortunately, due to safety concerns in 2021, we didn’t hold either of our semi-annual meetings. We are hoping to resume business as usual in 2022. For more information you can visit the groups’ website www.icsherlock.org, or contact Monica at youngerstamfords@gmail.com.

Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound — David Harnois

Various Saturdays	Many Sherlockian movies and television shows
-------------------	--

It was, however, another year of online fun with the Theatre-Goers Homeward Bound: a Zoom-based group that gathers to watch Sherlockian, and sometimes Sherlockian adjacent, movies and television episodes. Founded by Monica Schmidt, BSI, it is a chance for Sherlockians from all over the world to come together on most Saturdays for some much-needed bonding time in the midst of the pandemic. Steve Mason, BSI, and Greg Ruby, BSI, have also hosted the event if Monica is unavailable. With our wide variety of titles, it serves as a refresher for some, and an educational event for others. The most notable (or probably infamous) set of viewings came during ‘Sucky September’, where we watched universally panned Sherlockian films. Some were more esoteric and fun, others would provide what *Mystery Science Theatre 3000*-dubbed, “Deep Hurting”. We always have a live chat running during the viewings; sometimes they are a chance for critical analysis and trivia,

and sometimes it reads more like an episode of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*. More than anything, it's a great chance to spend time with Sherlockians all over the world, even if they are tiny squares on your screen. If you're interested in joining us, you can contact Monica via Facebook, or contact her at youngerstamfords@gmail.com.

KANSAS

The Great Alkali Plainsmen (Greater Kansas City) — Dan Payton

February 7, 2021	A Review of "The Naval Treaty" (Dan Payton); Vincent Wright — "Sherlockian Chronology"
April 11, 2021	A Review of "The Gloria Scott" (Kari Coates); Dan Payton — "Who Is Solar Pons?"
July 11, 2021	A Review of "The Three Students" (Scott Turner); Dan Payton — A Jon Lellenberg (In Memoriam)
October 24, 2021	A Review of "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (Dan Payton); Jim Hawkins — A John Bennett Shaw Remembrance
December 21, 2021	A Review of "The Blue Carbuncle" (Scott Turner); Dan Payton — "A Victorian Christmas"

The Great Alkali Plainsmen was founded in the autumn of 1963 by Ernest Willer, Robert Willer and John Altman. After many years of inactivity, Dan Payton and Scott Turner restarted the group in June 2018. Generally, we meet bimonthly, usually on a Sunday afternoon, in a variety of locales. A typical meeting would consist of a Canonical story discussion, a quiz and a summary of Sherlockian activities around the country. We always close with a reading of "221B" by Vincent Starrett. Because of circumstances, all our meetings in 2021 were virtual and we had regular attendance from all over the country. We normally close our year with our annual "Feast of the Blue Carbuncle" dinner celebrating our year together but hope to resume that in 2022. We have both a website alkaliplainsmen.wixsite.com/greatalkaliplainsmen and Facebook Page www.facebook.com/groups/2097385880520851/.

MARYLAND

Watson's Tin Box (Ellicott City) — Kim Ord

January 25, 2021	The Mycroft
February 22, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
March 29, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

April 26, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
May 24, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
June 28, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
July 26, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
August 7, 2021	Scintillation of Scions XIV #SOSatHome
August 30, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
September 27, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
October 25, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
November 6, 2021	A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes at the Enoch Pratt Free Library
November 29, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting
December 4, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Holiday Luncheon
December 27, 2021	Watson's Tin Box Monthly Meeting

Watson's Tin Box was founded by Steve Clarkson, Paul Churchill, Rod McCaslin, and Kem White in September 1989. Meetings usually occur the last Monday of every month. The meeting agenda usually includes introductions, a Toast to The Woman given by a member, a themed toast led by the Gasogene, announcements, presentation of the Evidence Box, the discussion of the story of the month, a presentation, and a quiz on the story of the month. The Evidence Boxes were created by Watson's Tin Box founder Paul Churchill. Each box contains items related to the stories that were found or created by Paul.

In January, the usual meeting is replaced by the Mycroft, when the next Gasogene is announced. In addition to reports on activities during the BSI Birthday Weekend, the main activity is the Mycroft Quiz. The theme for this year's Mycroft Quiz was Objects in the Canon and contained one question from each story. All monthly meetings this year were held via Zoom.

In August, the annual Scintillation of Scions convention was held via Zoom. The presentations included: "The Early American Image of Sherlock Holmes," by Mattias Bostrom; "Worth a Thousand Words: A Theoretical Payday for Arthur Conan Doyle," by Taylor Blumenberg; "John Bennett Shaw: Collector, Mentor, Humorist, Friend," by Jim Hawkins; "Rediscovering Sherlock Holmes," by Curtis Armstrong; "Witches, Bitches, and Little Boys," by S.E. Dahlinger; "Past Mortem," by Vincent W. Wright; and "You Really are an Automaton': Sherlock Holmes and Robots," by Lee Shackelford.

In November, the 42nd annual A Saturday with Sherlock Holmes at the Pratt was both held in person in Wheeler Auditorium at the Central Branch

of the library in downtown Baltimore and live-streamed via YouTube and Facebook. This was a joint event with the Six Napoleons of Baltimore and the Sherlockians of Baltimore. Impeccably hosted by Brent Morris, this year’s theme was Extraordinary Objects in Canon. The presentations included “At Last We Have a Clue: One Child’s Canonical Cricket-Cap,” by Ross Davies; “The Incriminating Evidence,” by Denny Dobry; “The Simple Brilliance of the Humble Pocket Notebook,” by Amy Marshall; “Fiddling with the Gramophone: A Recorded Ruse in ‘The Mazarin Stone,’” by Alan Rettig; “I Thought My Disguise Was Pretty Good,” by Andy Solberg; “Irene Adler’s Cabinet Photograph, and Other Types of Victorian Selfies,” by Lynne Stephens; “Cycling with Sherlock: Bicycles in the Adventures of ‘The Solitary Cyclist’ and ‘The Priory School,’” by Art Taylor; and “Vampires Revisited and a Saga of Stagnation vs. a Trip in a Grimms’ Fairy Tale (‘The Sussex Vampire’),” by Dan Thomas.

The Watson’s Tin Box Holiday Lunch Get-Together was held in December at the Hawk and Griffin British Pub in Vienna, VA. After lunch, Karen Wilson led us in singing Holmesian holiday songs, to the amusement of passersby and other diners.

For further information, please see our website: www.watsonstinbox.org.

Sherlockians of Baltimore — Greg D. Ruby

January 16, 2021	Zoom meeting: JoAnn Alberstat
February 13, 2021	Zoom meeting: Steven Doyle
March 20, 2021	Zoom meeting: Monica M. Schmidt
April 17, 2021	Zoom meeting: Mark Alberstat
May 15, 2021	Zoom meeting: Scott Monty
June 12, 2021	In-person meeting: “The Boscombe Valley Mystery.”
July 31, 2021	Zoom meeting: Vincent W. Wright
October 9, 2021	In-person meeting: “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire”
November 6, 2021	“Saturday with Sherlock Holmes”

The Sherlockians of Baltimore kicked off 2021 with a jam-packed virtual meeting on January 16, 2021 with 87 attendees. Ira Brad Matetsky and Monica Schmidt, respectively, presented toasts to his SOB investiture of former U.S. Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte and to Sherlock Holmes. Shortly afterwards, we were joined by Sherlock Holmes and Mrs. Helga Hudson who discussed Holmes’ birthday and the recent BSI Weekend. We thank John C. Sherwood and Denny Dobry for their assistance in

arranging the appearances of our special guests. Congratulations were offered to SOBs Debbie Clark, Carla Coupe and Steve Mason on receiving BSI Shillings during the recent BSI weekend.

JoAnn Alberstat, co-editor of *Canadian Holmes* presented on “Arthur Conan Doyle and the Ghost Ship,” regarding the ship *Mary Celeste*. Then Dr. Mark Jones, one half of the *Doings of Doyle* podcast presented “Submarines, Subterfuge and Submission: The British Empire on the Brink in *Danger! And Other Stories*.” Attendees then took a quiz based on the two presentations.

Valentine’s Day weekend had the SOBs meeting on February 13, 2021. Steven Doyle, half of the Wessex Press publishing team, presented on “The Napoleon of Crime,” discussing Professor Moriarty. “The Problem of Thor Bridge” was then debated in a story discussion led by Rob Nunn, followed by a killer quiz prepared by Chris Zordan on the story. Our first meeting to break triple digits in attendance — 100!

Monica Schmidt presented “Tibet You Weren’t Paying Attention” regarding mindfulness at our March 20, 2021, meeting. “The Adventure of the Stockbroker’s Clerk” was the topic of our story discussion led by Joe Eckrich, followed by a quiz on the story prepared by Karen Wilson.

“Arthur Conan Doyle and Baseball” was the topic of Mark Alberstat’s presentation at our April 17, 2021, meeting, in honor of the fact that the major league baseball season had just started. The 86 attendees then participated in a story discussion of *His Last Bow* led by Bob Katz and did the quiz prepared by Karen Wilson.

Scott Monty, half of the *I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere* podcast, was the featured presenter at our 5th anniversary virtual gala on May 15, 2021. Taking advantage of the virtual format, this gala featured an open bar and an all-you-can eat buffet featuring crab cakes, oysters and filet mignon that were enjoyed by the 88 attendees. Scott’s presentation of “That is Very Fortunate: Luck in the Canon” was timely as Ira Brad Matetsky then led a story discussion of “Silver Blaze,” with another quiz prepared by Karen Wilson. Charles Prepolec toasted his investiture of “The Horse You Came in On Saloon” and Karen Wilson offered up a singing toast to Sherlock Holmes.

Later that afternoon was the 146th running of the Preakness Stakes. With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s Preakness also served as the virtual running of the 50th anniversary of the Silver Blaze (Southern Division) which was first run in 1971 and started by Peter E. Blau. Preakness winner Flavien is the first Triple Crown race winner to win any Silver Blaze race as well!

June 12, 2021 was a triumphant return to physical, face to face meetings at Sabatino’s, our regular meeting place. There was a story discussion and quiz regarding “The Boscombe Valley Mystery.” No program was presented to allow attendees to mingle and interact for the first time in over a year.

Things got interesting for our July 31, 2021, meeting. Originally planned to be an in-person event, the meeting was canceled and pivoted to a virtual gathering as an unvaccinated SOB was insisting on attending the physical event. Vincent W. Wright presented “23 Baker Street: A Retrospective,” and Mark Alberstat discussed Arthur Conan Doyle and his role with the Olympics. Bob Katz then led a discussion on the first 3 chapters of *A Study in Scarlet*.

The SOBs met once again in person at Sabatino’s on October 9, 2021. Attendees were asked to bring their favorite items from their collection for a show and tell presentation. With Halloween coming up, “The Adventure of the Sussex Vampire” was an appropriate discussion and quiz topic.

The SOBs were proud to be a presenting sponsor of the annual “Saturday with Sherlock Holmes” program at the Enoch Pratt Free Library on November 6, 2021. Returning to the Wheeler Auditorium of the Central Branch of the Pratt for the first time since 2014 (renovations until 2019, then COVID), attendees heard 8 presentations from Alan Rettig, Dan Thomas, Lynne Stephens, Ross Davies, Denny Dobry, Art Taylor, Amy Marshall and Andy Solberg regarding their favorite Sherlockian Collectibles.

All are welcome at SOB meetings and are presented with a membership card after their second meeting to become “Card Carrying SOBs”. Those who lead story discussions, prepare quizzes or do presentations become Certified SOBs, with a local, Baltimore-inspired investiture. Our 2021 Certified SOBs are:

January 16, 2021	John C. Sherwood	Enoch Pratt Free Library
January 16, 2021	JoAnn Alberstat	Baltimore Clipper (ship)
January 16, 2021	Dr. Mark Jones	Major General Robert Ross
February 13, 2021	Steven Doyle	Random House
February 13, 2021	Robert Nunn	St. Louis Browns
February 13, 2021	Christopher Zordan	Elijah Jefferson Bond
March 20, 2021	Monica M. Schmidt	Maryland State Board of Censors
March 20, 2021	Joe Eckrich	Baker, Watts & Company
April 17, 2021	Mark Alberstat	Baltimore Clippers (hockey team)
May 15, 2021	Scott Monty	W.B. Doner & Company
July 31, 2021	Vincent W. Wright	Greenmount Cemetery

The SOBs eagerly look forward to 2022 and hopefully a return to normalcy. For more information about the Sherlockians of Baltimore, please email: SherlockiansOfBaltimore@gmail.com.

Silver Blaze (Southern Division; Laurel) — Greg D. Ruby

May 15, 2021	Silver Blaze Race
--------------	-------------------

The 146th running of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Track also served the purpose as being the virtual running of the 50th anniversary of the Silver Blaze (Southern Division), which was first run in 1971 and started by Peter E. Blau. Preakness winner Flavien is the first Triple Crown race winner to win any Silver Blaze race as well! With the uncertainty of being able to gather due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maryland Jockey Club's reluctance to schedule groups at Pimlico, and the ability to watch the race on the NBC television network for all Sherlockians to view, combined with the Sherlockians of Baltimore fifth anniversary earlier in the day all led to the decision for this option. We look forward to gathering in person during 2022. For inquires, please contact: SherlockiansOfBaltimore@gmail.com.

Six Napoleons of Baltimore — Greg D. Ruby

March 8, 2021	Zoom meeting
June 14, 2021	Zoom meeting
September 11, 2021	75th Anniversary Dinner
December 13, 2021	In-person meeting

The Six Napoleons of Baltimore celebrated their 75th anniversary on September 11, 2021, with an anniversary dinner with Ray Betzner presenting “Professor Moriarty, and the Mathematics of Crime.” It was the Napoleons’ first in-person meeting in over 18 months and featured a peaceful transition of power as Andy Solberg became the group’s new Gasogene.

While we fondly celebrate our 75-year history and look forward to the future, we pause to remember those Napoleons who passed beyond the Reich- enbach during the year: Beth Austin, Blaine B. Tayler, James Salkin, John Lellenberg, March E. Hanf, Allan DeGray, Carl TenHoopen, John Pfforr, Michael F. Whelan and Lester Moskowitz. They will be missed. For more information about the Six Napoleons Andy Solberg: asolberg@earthlink.net.

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

October 30, 2021	Autumn Meeting
------------------	----------------

On October 30, 2021, The Denizens had its first meeting in 2 years. Art Renkwitz, who has been leading this scion for about two decades as the Rascally Lascar (our version of Gasogene) and John Knud-Hansen (the heir apparent) had many discussions over the last two years regarding Zoom meetings. We felt that our format was based on face-to-face camaraderie which wouldn't carry over on Zoom. By October last year it seemed that the pandemic had slowed to the point where it would be safe for vaccinated guests.

So, 40 people, all vaccinated, showed up at 6:00 at the Cambridge Yacht Club. After a half hour of cocktails and conversation the meeting began by "Standing here upon the terrace" in memory of those Denizens who crossed over the Reichenbach since the last meeting: John Pforr, Susan Oppenheimer, Beth Austin, Peter Howell, and Mike Whelan. The story for the evening was *The Adventure of the Bruce Partington Plans* and a quiz by John Knud-Hansen was available. Alice Zalik had again created one of her signature story specific pillows and this was displayed for all to see. Certificates of membership were handed out to: Val Hoski, Harry Hoski, Tess Elking, Bob Madison, Gene Radd, Ira Matetsky, Andrew Cosner, Dena Hargrove, and John Stackhouse. Art Renkwitz then toasted The Master. Monica Schmidt then gave a toast to the BSI investiture class of 2019. Five out of nine members of that class were present. Monica herself came from Iowa, Mike McSwiggen came from Cincinnati, Ira Matetsky came from NYC, Greg Ruby came from the Baltimore suburb of Winchester, and yours truly is a local from Easton, MD. After dinner Stephen Oppenheimer, MD, gave his signature reading of "The Beggar" and then presented a talk on "The Art of British Murder: The Croyden Mystery." This was based on a true story of a murder that was discovered on January 20, 1931. and remains unsolved. The drawing for Alice Zalik's pillow was won by Linda Laramy but since she had already won one in the past, she graciously gave it to Monica Schmidt. John Knud-Hansen read the answers to the quiz and the first and second place winners were Gordon and Carol Vincent. Prizes were given. They are to select the story for the next quiz and decide whether to do one quiz or revert to the beginner level and expert level format. John Knud-Hansen, as has been traditional, recited "A Long Evening with Holmes" (William Schweickert) and Basil Rathbone recited "221B" (Vincent Starrett) via a recording. The meeting ended; the next meeting will be on May 7, 2022, at the Cambridge Yacht Club. Since that meeting the Vincents selected the "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist" as the story for the Spring Meeting.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

To learn more about the Denizens, please visit: www.homeroomd140.com/denizens.html or contact John Knud-Hansen at thatchcay@gmail.com.

A Scintillation of Scions XIV — Karen Wilson

August 7, 2021	A Scintillation of Scions XIV: SOS @ Home
----------------	---

In a change from its usual June date, *A Scintillation of Scions XIV* took place on August 7, 2021. Due to the ongoing public health situation, the annual symposium was once again presented in an “SOS@Home” format over Zoom. A hundred virtual attendees were treated to talks by seven scintillating Sherlockians, compered by event organizer Karen Wilson and Legion of Zoomer Steve Mason.

Mattias Boström rang in from Sweden to begin the proceedings with a heavily illustrated talk on “The Early American Image of Sherlock Holmes.” 221B-Con co-founder Taylor Blumenberg followed by imagining “A Theoretical Payday for Arthur Conan Doyle” (*was* he paid by the word?). Then Nashville Scholar Jim Hawkins honored “Collector, Mentor, Humorist, and Friend” John Bennett Shaw, sparking reminiscences from more than a few of those assembled.

After a break, actor and author Curtis Armstrong restarted the program by offering a personal perspective on our shared hobby (not to mention a killer Nigel Bruce impression!) in a talk called “Rediscovering Sherlock Holmes.” In “Witches, Bitches, and Little Boys,” S.E. Dahlinger brought her considerable vocal expertise to bear on the story of everyone’s favorite contralto. Historical Sherlock’s Vincent W. Wright then considered the fate of Victorian-era corpses in his whimsically macabre “Past Mortem.” Finally, playwright Lee Shackleford combined two of his signature interests in “You Really Are an Automaton’: Sherlock Holmes and Robots.”

We hope that the range of scholarship and fun on offer took some of the sting out of our not being able to gather in person. Both the Scintillation of Scions organizers and parent scion Watson’s Tin Box of Ellicott City, MD look forward to seeing, whether in person or virtually, many friends at Scintillation XV in the summer of 2022.

For more information, please visit: www.scintillation.org/.

MASSACHUSETTS

The Speckled Band of Boston — George Schwartz

The Speckled Band of Boston did not meet in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our most sincere hope to resume in-person meetings in 2022.

The Friends of Irene Adler (Boston) — George Schwartz

The Friends of Irene Adler also did not meet in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our hope to resume in-person meetings in 2022.

MICHIGAN

The Ribston-Pippins — Regina Stinson

March 20, 2021	Zoom meeting — “The Second Stain”
May 29, 2021	(Back live!) Dinner Meeting — “The Reigate Squires”
July 24, 2021	Dinner Meeting — “A Scandal in Bohemia”
September 25, 2021	“Art in the Blood” Mystery Hunt Field Trip
November 20, 2021	33rd Anniversary Meeting — “The Man with Twisted Lip”

The Ribston-Pippins, founded by Regina Stinson in 1988, normally meets every other month, holding 6 meetings a year. We did not have a January meeting in 2021. Our first meeting was in March, which was our final Zoom meeting. Starting in May, the scion had its first live meeting since January 2020 and we have been meeting live every other month since then.

March’s Zoom meeting was led by member, Rich Krisciunas with a fascinating discussion of *The Second Stain*. May’s meeting we were back live! We had a semi-private area in a local Mexican restaurant. We were delighted by guest speaker, Steve Doyle, as he gave a hilarious presentation on his relationship to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. We also had Sherlockian show and tell, toasts, a quiz and story discussion of *The Reigate Squires*.

July’s meeting was held at the same restaurant as May’s. Regina Stinson presented a Power Point on the original illustrations in the Canon. We did show and tell, discussed *A Scandal in Bohemia* and had a quiz. Our toasts were sparkling apple cider, (in honor of our scion’s name), served in test tubes, which has been a tradition for our scion.

September’s meeting was our first ever field trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts for a mystery art hunt. Members formed teams and followed clues to various works of art related to Sherlock Holmes. We had a lot of fun and plan to have an annual field trip going forward.

We completed 2021 with our 33rd anniversary celebration banquet held at Simple Palate. Our speakers were Roy Pilot and Steve Doyle. We had several wonderful toasts, show and tell, story discussion by Chris Music and quiz by Leslie Brudne on *The Man with the Twisted Lip* and an anniversary cake.

The Ribston-Pippins scion is on Facebook and we also have a website: ribston-pippins.com. Email Regina Stinson: pippinviolet@gmail.com.

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit — Robert Musial

August 15, 2021	75th anniversary meeting
-----------------	--------------------------

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit was founded in 1946 and has been having regular and irregular meetings ever since. Typically meeting for dinner, the club serves up the traditional toasts along with some non-traditional ones. In lieu of the standard quiz, members discuss the assigned story and answer questions about it. Then a scholarly presentation is made, followed by a drawing for Sherlockian door prizes. Finally, the group sings “God Save The Queen” and a member reads the poem “221B” to close the meeting.

Thirty-five members and friends of The Amateur Mendicant Society of Detroit gathered in the clubby confines of the Iroquois Club in Bloomfield Township on August 15, 2021 for their first meeting since November 2019.

Though long-delayed by COVID, the crowd in attendance on that Sunday afternoon seemed in good spirits and happy to once again see each other in person to celebrate the society’s 75th anniversary.

At 1:13 p.m., longtime Gasogene John Kramb called the meeting to order and introduced the society’s board members and the new attendees.

Next, playwright and Mendicant David MacGregor told the group that his third play involving the Master and Doctor Watson, “Sherlock Holmes and the Ghost Machine” would premiere in April 2022 at the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, MI. More news on that is forthcoming but playgoers can expect his usual blend of suspense and wit.

Mendicant and the founder of the Ribston-Pippins scion of Royal Oak, Regina Stinson, also announced a Pippins and friends’ field trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts on September 25th that would follow clues around the museum to see Holmes’ favorite artworks.

A buffet luncheon of Caesar salad, chicken piccata, parmesan cod and baked mostaccioli was then served, topped off by dessert, a specially-prepared AMS 75th anniversary cake featuring our own Mendicant logo.

During lunch, the traditional AMS toasts were offered, as organized by the Commissionaire Chris Music. Patience Nauti noted the legacy and popularity of “The Woman,” David MacGregor offered his brief investigation into the heritage of “Mrs. Hudson,” Al Calderone waxed poetical on “Mycroft Holmes” and Rich Krisciunas offered a poem indicating that Mary Morstan was indeed “Watson’s Second Wife.”

Two extra memorial toasts were also made. The first, by Rob Musial, saluted Una Stubbs, the motherly Mrs. Hudson in the BBC’s recent series “Sherlock” who had died earlier that week. The second, by Chris Jerian,

honored the many memorable toasts to the “Red-Headed League” made over the years by the late Jerry Alvin, while speculating that the League’s founder, the late Hezekiah Hopkins of Pennsylvania, actually shared a lineage with Scotland Yard’s Inspector Stanley Hopkins, one of the few policemen of whom Holmes approved.

Since the Mendicants were coming off the long COVID-induced hiatus, this meeting’s story was “The Adventure of the Empty House,” in which Holmes comes off his own three-year hiatus to surprise Watson and, with the help of the good doctor and the venerable Mrs. Hudson, solve a murder and capture the last member of Professor Moriarty’s gang.

The “Empty House” presentation by Rob Musial discussed the high points of the story, with several easy quiz questions. He also speculated the Holmes had closely followed the exploits of the first automotive adventuress Bertha Benz and that his research into coal tar derivatives during the Hiatus very likely included formulating gasoline. Holmes also likely researched ballistics (which was unknown at that time) to conclusively link the air rifle bullet that killed the Honorable Ronald Adair to the exact same kind as the one Col. Sebastian Moran attempted to kill Holmes with.

Then, Chris Music and Michael Ellis (aided by PowerPoint) showcased the long, magical but often interrupted history of Detroit’s Mendicants. Music noted that the society began in 1946 at the venerable Cliff Bell’s in Detroit and briefly illustrated some of the group’s other notable early venues, including the Leland Hotel and the Stockholm restaurant, which a brief renaissance as Detroit’s Playboy Club in the 1970s.

Next, Ellis delineated the December 1975 resurrection dinner of the Mendicants, brought to life (surprisingly) by members of the Wayne State University accounting department, aided by a favorable mention by local TV movie host Bill Kennedy while introducing a Basil Rathbone/Holmes movie. Among those 1970s era Mendicants still participating are Ellis and Glenn Walters. The presentation also noted a 1976 Detroit Free Press Sunday magazine story that told of the society’s tongue-in-cheek picketing of “Sherlock Holmes’ Smarter Brother” movie for taking way too many liberties with our favorite characters.

Members also shared their favorite memories of meetings past, including at the Scarab Club and the historic Piquette Model T Plant in Detroit; the January 2004 meeting at Meadow Brook Hall in a blizzard and the famous snow-blower incident at Birmingham’s former Big Rock Chophouse.

With the presentation concluded, Kramb told the gathering that the next meeting would be early next year, depending on the decision of the AMS board members.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

Finally, Christine DelGreco held the door-prize drawing for a carefully curated assortment of Sherlockian books, which were won by David Kern, Lynda Locke, David MacGregor, Beverly Sobolewski (resplendent as always in period Victorian dress) and Glenn Walters. Kramb then led the gathering in the traditional singing of “God Save the Queen” and Chris Jeryan read the closing poem, “221B.” And with that, the meeting ended at 4:15 p.m.

For additional information about the Amateur Mendicants, please contact Rob Musial at robmusial@aol.com.

MINNESOTA

The Norwegian Explorers — Tom Gottwalt

January 16, 2021	Study Group: “The Red Circle”
January 31, 2021	Baker Street West Event
February 20, 2021	Study Group: “The Blanched Soldier”
March 20, 2021	Study Group: “The Three Gables”
April 17, 2021	Study Group: “The Mazarin Stone,” including a table reading dramatization of the one-act play “The Crown Diamond,” on which the Mazarin Stone was based.
May 15, 2021	Study Group: “The Creeping Man”
May 13, 2021	The Red Throated League recorded a Zoom performance of “Death Holds the Prompt Book” and held a Zoom “release” event.
June 19, 2021	Study Group: This is our noncanonical detour month so we took a deep dive into Poe and his “Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “The Mystery of Marie Roget,” and “The Purloined Letter.”
July & July 2021	The Study Group goes on a Great Hiatus in June and July but many Norwegian Explorers could be found in person at the July Twins Cities Antiquarian and Rare Book Fair.
September 18, 2021	Study Group: “The Lion’s Mane”
September 11, 2021	The Red Throated League performed “The Cadaver in the Roman Toga” radio play live and in person at the Northlands Antique Radio Club annual event.
October 16, 2021	Study Group: “His Last Bow”
November 20, 2021	Study Group: “The Abbey Grange”
November 16, 2021	Many Norwegian Explorers attended the Zoom Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Sherlock Holmes Collections at the University of Minnesota.
December 2, 2021	Annual Dinner at the Minneapolis Golf Club
December 18, 2021	Study Group: “The Beryl Coronet”

Despite the continued difficulties with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Norwegian Explorers were quite busy in 2021. All were by Zoom unless otherwise noted.

We held our Annual Dinner and Business Meeting in person with over 40 attendees. Our Keynote Speaker was Geoffrey Curley, one of the creative forces behind The International Exhibition of Sherlock Holmes, which will be coming to Minnesota in October of 2022.

Our group has a strong history and legacy of publishing a great deal of Sherlockian materials and items of interest. Our Christmas Annual consistently has great contributions from a variety of individuals and in a variety of formats. This year was no exception and copies were distributed to attendees at our December Annual Dinner and to guests at certain of the New York City events in January.

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

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 theater performances, movies, etc. but did not do any of those in 2021. We're looking forward to getting those back on track in 2022.

Visit our website at www.norwegianexplorers.org to learn more about our organization and to join. Annual dues are only \$20 per family.

President: Tom Gottwalt

Secretary & Treasurer: Phil Bergem

MISSOURI

The Parallel Case of St. Louis — Rob Nunn

January 16, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Six Napoleons"
March 13, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Three Students"
May 8, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Golden Pince-Nez"
July 10, 2021	Victorian Picnic
September 11, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Missing Three-Quarter"
November 13, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Abbey Grange"

The Parallel Case of St. Louis was founded by Joe Eckrich, BSI, in 1988. We meet on the second Saturday of every other month to discuss a particular story, share news, discuss Sherlockiana, and host giveaways. The format is similar to a book club that encourages everyone to share their thoughts on that month's story.

2021 saw us continuing to host these meetings via Zoom, which was a blessing and a curse. We really missed seeing one another in-person and all of the pre- and post-discussion fraternization that came along with it, but hosting our meetings on Zoom allowed us to meet with Sherlockians from across America and from many other countries.

We continued to have some great pieces written for the Parallel Case blog (parallelogramstl.blogspot.com/) in 2021 as well. The topics ranged from canonical musings to adaptations to historical essays and local history. There's room for everyone's interests here!

In January, we had "Some Further Thoughts on Private Revenge" by John Keath and "The Fourth Napoleon" by William R. Cochran. February brought "Tea! What Could Be More English?" by Stacey Bregenzer. Submissions for March included "Why I Don't Like the Three Students" by Rich Krisciunas and "It's All About the Numbers" by Sherry McCowan. "A Review of *The Irregulars*" by Heather Hinson was posted in April. In June Peter Echrich wrote, "A Sherlockian History of St. Louis." In July, "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist: What Did She Wear?" by Sonia Yazmadjian was posted. In August, we featured, "The Breaking Water: Moriarty, Math, Music, and The Questions That Lie Between Them" by Joshua Harvey. "Love in the Canon" by Elaine Litzenich was the October entry. In November, we featured, "There is Nothing So Important as Trifles" by Anna Behrens. And in December, the blog included "A Second Look at 'The Second Stain'" by Rich Krisciunas.

You can stay in touch with The Parallel Case of St. Louis through our website (parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home), Facebook page (www.facebook.com/parallelcasestl), and Twitter (@ParallelCaseSTL), or join our mailing list by sending an email to parallelcasestl@gmail.com.

The Noble Bachelors of St. Louis — Randy Getz

July 10, 2021	Victorian Picnic in the Park Tower Grove Park
---------------	---

The Noble Bachelors of St. Louis is the oldest Sherlockian society in the St. Louis area, founded in 1969. It has evolved from a few boys sitting around the fire discussing the stories and quizzing each other on their content to a much larger social group that convenes at least once for our Annual

Dinner and Meeting and hosts other Sherlockian-related events as they present themselves. Unfortunately, the “Voice of Terror” in health news lately has prevented us from our usual custom. However, we did hold another Victorian Picnic in the Park in St. Louis’ Tower Grove Park, founded by Henry Shaw (1880-1889) in July of 2021. This was the first in-person meeting of any Sherlockian society in the St. Louis area since the beginning of the pandemic. While “business” was not a high priority at this meeting, a bottle (plastic, per park rules) and a copy of the Canon were present, making it official. Regular events will be scheduled as our situation resolves.

Correspondence: Randy Getz rgetz@swbell.net

NEBRASKA

Omaha Sherlockian Society — Stanley Wileman Jr.

January 11, 2021	Sherlock’s birthday meeting, via Zoom. Discussion of “The Adventure of the Three Garridebs”
February 13, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax”
March 13, 2021	Zoom meeting: “Mycroft and Sherlock: The Empty Birdcage, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse”
April 10, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Adventure of the Illustrious Client”
May 8, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Adventure of the Red Circle”
June 12, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier”
July 10, 2021	Owing to a widespread power failure in the area, there were only four members in the Zoom meeting.
August 14, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Adventure of the Three Gables”
September 11, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Adventure of the Mazarin Stone”
October 9, 2021	Zoom meeting: We discussed “The Adventure of the Creeping Man.” The meeting was hosted from Madrid, Spain.
October 30, 2021	The annual dinner was cancelled.
November 13, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane.” This meeting was again hosted from Madrid, Spain.
December 11, 2021	Zoom meeting: “His Last Bow.”

The Omaha Sherlockian Society was originally organized by Carl Wirth in October 2010. The group became a scion society of the BSI on October 24, 2016. It meets on the second Saturday of each month. The earliest meetings were held at a local bookstore, “The BookWorm”. Later the group moved to a meeting room in an Omaha public library. Of course, for the

past year we have only held meetings using Zoom, since the library stopped allowing groups to meet there (because of COVID, naturally).

Meetings usually begin with notes of recent events of interest to Sherlockians, and then proceed to a discussion of either a story from the Canon, or a pastiche. One of the questions always addressed in the recent meetings is “When will the library allow meetings again?” The stories from the Canon are currently covered in the order in which it is expected they were written. Pastichees that we read are selected by the group.

The society additionally has an annual dinner meeting, usually in October, to celebrate its founding. One or more members make presentations at the dinner. For more information about this scion, please contact Stan Wileman at stanw@wa5aoi.net.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Cox & Co. Of New England — David Houle

Cox & Co. of New England was on hiatus in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is our most sincere hope to resume in-person meetings in 2022.

The Sherlock Holmes Club of the Upper Valley (Hanover) — Tom Brydges

January 14, 2021	Bill Mason — ‘Victorian Underworld’
February 22, 2021	Russell Merritt — ‘Sherlock Holmes in Washington’
March 22, 2021	Vincent Wright — ‘Chronology — It ain’t Pretty’
April 22, 2021	Sonia Fetherston — ‘BOSC -The Naked Truth’
May 19, 2021	Ross Davies — ‘A real-world Moran’
June 24, 2021	Mike McSwiggin — ‘Pharmacology in the Canon’
July 19, 2021	Luncheon — in person!
September 14, 2021	Glen Miranker — ‘SH in the Trenches’
November 9, 2021	Fred Lerner — ‘Sherlock in Simla’
December 13, 2021	Shannon Carlisle — ‘Teaching Sherlock Holmes in the Elementary School Classroom’

We can’t direct the wind, but we can adjust our sails. And like so many clubs, we did just that with the power of Zoom.

What we especially remember and applaud is the great generosity of Sherlockians to share their time, knowledge, enthusiasm and fascinating presentations with us. It made this, our sixteenth year — and last year too.

Our year started of course with a Birthday commemoration — toasts as always, followed by Bill Mason’s look into the Victorian Underworld that Sherlock would have faced. In February, Russell Merritt brought his expertise to the wartime Rathbone films, exemplified by SH in Washington — and the role those films played in the 1950s TV vs. Cinema battles. Vincent Wright introduced us to the Chronology specialty in March — and made it anything but the boring subject he knows is often its reputation.

How could anyone not want to hear The Naked Truth? Sonia Fetherston’s presentation in April demonstrated that a leading character in BOSC was wearing no pants! May brought a discussion of possible real-life models for Col. Sebastian Moran; Ross Davies put his chips on Lt. Col. Arthur Campbell-Walker, esp. because not only was he a riflery expert, he also excelled at Whist. Then in June Mike McSwiggin educated us about Pharmacology in the Canon — think poisons and narcotics especially. Can’t recall if he included brandy in his list of medicines.

In July, we had a restaurant luncheon — no presentations, just long-missed conversations among club friends — and no Covid casualties. For September, Glen Miranker presented ‘Sherlock Holmes in the Trenches’ — how the WWI Tommies made SH the most-parodied character in trench press articles. November brought club member Fred Lerner with his view that hidden within the text of Kipling’s *Kim* is an oblique account of Holmes’s actual activities during the Great Hiatus! And rounding out the year, Shannon Carlisle described how she teaches students (elementary, of course) to appreciate the importance of observation, deduction and the scientific method.

Our club’s aims are Fun and Learning from activities related to SH — these programs certainly provided both. For more information about our club, please contact Tom Brydges at tombrydges3@gmail.com.

The Monadnock Sherlockians (Keene) — Anna Behrens

January 23, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Missing Three Quarter”
February 20, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Abbey Grange”
March 20, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Second Stain”
April 17, 2021	Zoom discussion of Arthur Conan Doyle’s J. Habakuk Jephson’s Statement
May 7, 2021	In-person tour of The Kipling House in VT where ACD stayed as a guest
June 20, 2021	Attended Jeffrey Hatcher’s Holmes and Watson play in Concord, NH
June 27, 2021	Outdoor gathering with special guests Derrick and Brian Belanger of Belanger Books

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

July 17, 2021	Attended Ken Ludwig's Baskerville play in MA
August 6, 2021	Zoom discussion of William Gillette as Sherlock Holmes
August 16, 2021	In-person visit to Gillette Castle, CT
September 25, 2021	Zoom discussion of comparison between The Abbey Grange and Trifles play by Susan Glaspell
October 10, 2021	In-person meeting with the Nivers (aka The Gillettes) at Gillette Castle
October 23, 2021	Zoom discussion of "Wisteria Lodge"
November 20, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Red Circle"
December 19, 2021	Zoom dramatic reading of Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol play by John Longenbaugh

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. Discussion leadership is on a voluntary basis, and the leader supplies a presentation with background on the story. Pre-pandemic, we met at the NH home of leader Anna Behrens, where a PowerPoint about the story was shared via digital projector, followed by a dramatic reading of the story or a viewing of a film adaptation (usually Granada Television's Sherlock Holmes with Jeremy Brett). We are a literary and theatrical group, so we often performed dramatic readings of the stories. Food and plenty of beverages were shared to toast to our favorite characters from the story, and to toast our late co-founder, Richard Behrens.

Since the pandemic, we have shifted to monthly zoom meetings, and this year we have covered the canonical stories of MISS, ABBE, SECO, WIST and REDC as well as ACD's J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement. We continue the tradition of sharing toasts to canonical characters. The vaccine and warmer weather led us to have several outings this year. In May, we toured Naulakha, Kipling's home in Vermont, where ACD came to visit in 1894. In June our group saw a great production of Holmes and Watson in Concord, NH. The highlight of the year was an in-person visit in June from fellow NH Sherlockians Derrick and Brian Belanger who graciously spoke to our group at an outdoor gathering and brought many of their Belanger Books to share and sell. In July, we traveled to MA to see an outdoor production of Ken Ludwig's Baskerville. In August we toured Gillette Castle in CT and returned once more in October when our member Tracy Messer, who portrays Calvin Coolidge professionally, met his old friends William Gillette and his wife, portrayed by Tyke and Teddie Niver. For our December meeting, our group performed a dramatic reading of the play Sherlock

Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Carol, which was great fun, even on zoom!

The Monadnock Sherlockians have a dedicated Facebook page, but not a website. Meetings are organized via email and 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 at abbehrens@gmail.com.

NEW JERSEY

The Red-Headed League of Jersey — Linda and Steve Morris

The Red-Headed League of Jersey did not meet in 2021 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to resume in-person meetings in 2022. Normally we meet twice a year, spring and fall, at a restaurant in Central New Jersey (2022 location TBA). Attendance is pay-as-you go; we do not collect dues. The evening meetings consist of dinner, a presentation and usually a quiz on a pre-announced story from the Canon. For more information or to be added to our email list, please contact us at RHLeagueNJ@aol.com. Our scion is also on Facebook and Twitter.

NEW YORK

221B NYC — Jennifer Kneeland

11/6/21	Discussion: The Hound of the Baskervilles
---------	---

221B NYC was founded in 2015. While there were already many groups in the greater New York City area, the organization and invitations were largely through word of mouth and mailing lists, making it difficult for new Sherlockians to find them and engage. From 2015 through early 2020 221B NYC had over one hundred events. Some highlights included visiting the Houdini Museum and reading the public notice that Houdini published against Doyle, being guest at several Sherlockian plays, a member-created scavenger hunt to go along with a discussion of the Musgrave Ritual.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were largely on hiatus. We had one in-person meeting (11/6/2021) for a discussion of HOUN. Our goal has always been to make all fans of Sherlock Holmes feel welcome. Some of us have read the stories many times, while quite a few of our members came to us through having watched a Sherlockian movie, or even a general interest in mysteries and puzzles. We hope to do many more events in 2022, and to continue introducing people to the canon.

Meetings are organized through Meetup, at www.meetup.com/221BNYC/. Email: 221bnyc@gmail.com.

The Hudson Valley Scientists — Lou Lewis

May 23, 2021	Zoom meeting: A look inside The Cardboard Box led by Ira Matetsky
December 5, 2021	In-person meeting at Alumni House: The Blue Carbuncle Reexamined

The Hudson Valley Scientists was founded in 1972 by inter alia Al and Julie Rosenblatt, BSI, Fritz Sonnenschmidt, BSI and Joe McGowan. Lou Lewis (BSI) and Candace Lewis (BSI, ASH) assumed the administration of the bi-annual dinner gatherings in 1986. We currently have a mailing list of about 100 members and usually have 50 to 60 members present for the gourmet catered dinners which — since 2000 — have been held semi-annually at Vassar Colleges Alumni House. Major planning is underway for a 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2022.

Our meeting on Sunday, May 23 was via Zoom and featured a look inside The Cardboard Box led by Ira Matetsky. On Sunday, December 5, we met in-person at Alumni House during which we reexamined The Blue Carbuncle. The program featured a new play by Lou and Candace Lewis introducing Mrs. Henrietta Baker. Former Assistant District Attorney Marjorie Smith explored the differences between Sherlock’s cross-examination techniques and those permitted in America today. And Roger Donway delivered a paper positing a clear date for the Blue Carbuncle.

For information about the Hudson Valley Scientists, please contact Lou Lewis at llewis@lewisgreer.com.

The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse — Carol Cavalluzzi

January 2021	No meeting
February 2021	No meeting
March 2021, April, 2021	No meeting
May 2021	No meeting
June 26, 2021	50th Anniversary Party
July 2021	No meeting
August 2021	No meeting
September 2021	No meeting
October 10, 2021	Start of the 2021-2022 Meetings. Discussion of what to do, planning.
November 14, 2021	Joe Coppola presented Stamps and Music of Sherlock Holmes.
December 12, 2021	Holiday Party. Discussion of the Blue Carbuncle.

The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse (NY) celebrated their 50th Anniversary in June, a bit late but none the less a joyful occasion. It was held at the home of Carol Cavalluzzi. Besides the general membership, there were three special guests; Sherlock Holmes — piped into the gathering by John Brown, Esquire the Queen’s Highland Companion. Last, but certainly not least, Queen Victoria. She is a Certain Gracious Lady. Queen Victoria read a beautiful statement congratulating the Mycroftians on their auspicious occasion. She allowed members to take individual pictures with her before she and Mr. John Brown departed.

As a remembrance of this noteworthy occasion, members received gift bags with commemorative items including a special anniversary lapel pin, a 1971 fifty-cent-piece medallion, a first day stamp cover, a key fob, a 3-D printed Sherlock, and an anniversary poem.

The Mycroft Holmes Society meets most months September through June in the Community Library of Dewitt and Jamesville, New York. Meetings usually comprise various presentations, discussions, show and tell, and movies. In the summer, the group has a picnic, often in conjunction with the viewing of a mystery play at Cortland Repertory Theatre. We welcome members of all ages and levels of interest. For more information about this society, please contact Carol Cavalluzzi at cacavall@outlook.com.

The Priory Scholars (NYC) — Nick Martorelli

February 20, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Noble Bachelor”
April 25, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Naval Treaty”
July 17, 2021	Zoom meeting: “Shoscombe Old Place”
October 16, 2021	Zoom meeting: “The Five Orange Pips”

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. We pivoted successfully to virtual meetings in 2020, and continued that practice in 2021, adding a fourth meeting to the schedule. While Zoom fatigue was a real thing, especially towards the end of the year, our scholars rose to the task, and the group discussion of the story at hand (always a highlight of the scion) has continued to be as insightful and spirited as any we held in person. I am proud of our members for keeping the energy and the spirit of the Priory meetings high in these challenging times, and I’ve been delighted that people have joined us from all over the country this year, including some who were attending their first Sherlockian meeting.

Our virtual meetings are free to attend, and we have been taking donations and passing that money along to The Churchill Tavern, our usual meeting place in Manhattan. We are looking forward to the new year, when we will hopefully once again gather in person at the Churchill. More information about the group, as well as our 2022 meeting schedule, can be found at priorscholarsnyc.wordpress.com/, on Twitter (@PrioryNYC), or via an email sent to PrioryNYC@gmail.com.

The Three Garridebs of Westchester County — Troy Reynolds

April 3, 2021	Zoom meeting dedicated to “Black Peter”
June 19, 2021	Zoom meeting celebrating “Silver Blaze”
September 18, 2021	Zoom meeting studying “The Yellow Face”
November 13, 2021	Zoom meeting discussing “Charles Augustus Milverton”

As Yogi Berra might have said, 2021 was *déjà vu* all over again. With COVID still limiting our ability to hold in-person meetings, the Three Garridebs of Westchester (New York) once again held a slate of Zoom gatherings. We hosted only four story meetings this year instead of the usual five, kicking things off on April 3 by discussing “Black Peter.”

As has too often been the case in recent years, we once again started a meeting by mourning the passing of a longtime member as we stood on the terrace for Warren Randall. Warren had been a member of the Three Garridebs since 1987 and was invested in the scion in 1990 as the “*Agony Column*.” He served as editor of *Prescott’s Press* (the new series), the scion’s scholarly journal, and established the Prescott Prize for contributions to the publication, which he would present at our annual awards luncheon. In tribute, Ben Vizoskie shared a photo montage of some favorite photos of Warren. Following the toasts and story quiz that are part of every regular meeting, Ben gave a presentation demonstrating how Sherlock comes in all sizes, big and small. He shared a number of books of various dimensions, from the gargantuan Hakon Holm Publishing edition of *A Study in Scarlet* to a pair of tiny copies of “The Veiled Lodger” and “The Five Orange Pips” from The Borrower’s Press. Next came another standard part of our meetings, Show-and-Tell, which gives attendees an opportunity to share favorite items from their collections. Garridebs always enjoy showcasing their personal treasures, and the items generally generate many questions and comments. As a game for the meeting, teams tried to “harpoon” targets by correctly answering trivia questions related to “Black Peter” and whaling. The meeting then wrapped up with the traditional closing poem, “A Long Evening with Holmes.” Since

we've been holding Zoom meetings, we've been playing a recording of the author himself, former Garrideb (and longtime scion officer) William P. Schweickert, reciting his work.

We reconvened on June 19 to devote our attention to "Silver Blaze." Things got off to a thrilling start with a recording of the announcer's call of the Wessex Cup race from *Voices from Baker Street* (available from Wessex Press). Donny Zaldin discussed the inspiration and sources behind the disappearance, substitution, and reappearance of Silver Blaze. Barbara Rusch examined the titular horse's bloodlines, while Ben Vizoskie explained the "simple" speed calculations that Sherlock made on the train. Since the next day was Father's Day, Troy Reynolds led an interactive examination of several fathers in the Canon, which included having the attendees rank the fathers from the worst to the best. (Spoiler alert: James Windibank and Grimesby Roylott did not finish anywhere near the top of the list.)

The meeting for "The Yellow Face" took place on September 18. We began by standing on the terrace to honor Peter Crupe, who was invested into the scion in 1989 as "The Neanderthal Skull." Following the toasts and quiz, Terry Hunt discussed Watson and Henry Ward Beecher, as well as Watson's older brother's involvement in the Civil War. Robert Cohen delved into the name of Hebron, and Bob Ludemann considered pride in "The Yellow Face." In a presentation that may have seemed particularly depressing given the current circumstances, Will Walsh examined the history, facts, and symptoms of yellow fever. To lighten things up again, Sandy Kozinn then entertained us with a limerick inspired by the story. During Show-and-Tell, Ben Vizoskie noted the passing of Jon Lellenberg and showcased several of Jon's books in recognition of his many contributions to the preservation of Sherlockian history. As an activity, we debated and voted on the answers to several questions related to the writings, such as "Who is the most despicable villain in the Canon?" and "Who is the most capable police officer in the Canon?" The questions spurred several insightful perspectives and persuasive arguments.

Our final gathering of the year took place on November 13, when we took on "Charles Augustus Milverton." With great regret, we began the meeting by noting the death of Michael F. Whelan and paying tribute to his substantial contributions to both the B.S.I. and the extended Sherlockian world. Donny Zaldin gave a presentation on the story's publication history, the inspiration for Milverton, and Victorian blackmail. Russell Merritt pointed out the lack of deduction and Sherlock's poor showing in the story before reviewing the screen adaptations of the adventure, particularly focusing on the Russian version "The King of Blackmail." Robert Cohen expounded on

the “paradox of blackmail” and what exact crime is being committed. The game for the meeting was a version of the classic Concentration, featuring some challenging rebus puzzles related to the story. We also held Watson Time, a recurring segment in which we offer attendees a chance to share some of their favorite passages from the good doctor’s writing.

Though virtual meetings can prove challenging, these events have gone well, thanks in no small part to the attendees’ patience, cooperation, and participation. We would like to give a special thank you to Becca Reynolds for hosting each meeting and so effectively handling Zoom; Paul Astle for writing the quiz for each meeting; and Troy Reynolds for creating the activities. We also thank the following individuals for providing toasts during the year: Tony Czarnecki, Judith Freeman, Sandy Kozinn, Lou Lewis, Bob Ludemann, Michael Pollak, Fran Schulz, Dante Torrese, Lynn Walker, Will Walsh, and Jenna Weart.

Unfortunately, we were unable to hold our annual summer awards luncheon and Blue Carbuncle luncheon this year, but we are eagerly looking forward to reviving those events and in-person meetings soon. To learn about the Three Garridebs’ upcoming events, contact Garridebs@aol.com.

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State — Terry and Linda Hunt

January 7, 2021	Virtual Tour of Christopher Morley’s Hoboken
May 2, 2021	Christopher Morley 131st Birthday Zoom

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. It normally meets over a three-hour lunch once a year on a weekend close to Morley’s birthday, May 5. The group alternates gathering in Hoboken, New Jersey with going to other places of significance to Morley such as Roslyn, Long Island, Haverford, Pennsylvania, and Manhattan. It issues a newsletter, “The Bowling Green,” and an occasional journal, *Hoboken Nights*.

For the second year, COVID concerns affected our schedule. With the in-person BSI Weekend cancelled, we stepped up in January to present a virtual Christopher Morley walk, offering a tour of Morley-related sites in Hoboken. The author was fascinated with the city in the late ‘Twenties, and between 1928 and 1930 ran two live theatres and a private club there. The virtual Morley Walk offered participants an opportunity to visit sites they would not have time to see on an actual Thursday morning Morley Walk.

We celebrated Christopher Morley’s 131st Birthday via Zoom on Sunday, May 2, drawing viewers from as far away as Scotland, Greece, Caicos Island and California. Following a toast to Morley by Frank Ferry, Steve Rothman — assisted by his delightful and tech-savvy wife Janice Fisher — treated us to a look at some of the remarkable items in his incomparable Morley collection, among them pieces of the material used to make the original tricolor BSI necktie! At the program’s conclusion we made Steve a Knight of the Blue Suspenders, our highest award.

The Grillparzer Club was saddened at the passing of our esteemed member Jon Lellenberg in April. In recognition of his longstanding interest in Christopher Morley and his support for the Club, Jon was posthumously named a Knight of the Blue Suspenders.

We ended the year by emailing members an edited version of Christopher Morley’s 1919 essay “Old Thoughts for Christmas.” For further information, contact the Club at Hobokenfreestate@gmail.com.

OHIO

The Tankerville Club (Cincinnati) — Dan Andriacco

March 12, 2021	Winter Meeting: “The Noble Bachelor” — via Zoom
June 18, 2021	Spring Meeting: “The Beryl Coronet”
Aug. 14, 2021	The Tankerville Club Presents: David Leal
Sept. 3, 2021	Summer Meeting: “The Copper Beeches”
Dec. 10, 2021	Autumn Meeting: “Silver Blaze”

The Tankerville Club of Cincinnati was founded in 1976 by Paul D. Herbert, BSI, as Official Secretary. Paul passed beyond the Reichenbach in 2018 and was succeeded (but not replaced) by Dan Andriacco, who holds the new title of Most Scandalous Member. The Tankerville is the only club mentioned in the Canon twice: Sherlock Holmes saved Major Prendergast “in the Tankerville Club scandal” (FIVE) and Col. Sebastian Moran was a member (EMPT).

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

Most of that continued via Zoom for the four meetings of 2020 and the first one of 2021. We were delighted to successfully resume meeting in person in June.

Our last Tankerville Club meeting on Zoom (we hope) was a memorable one, with actor David Harnois zooming to us from Iowa on March 12 to explain his “I Am Lost Without My Boswell” project to create free radio dramatizations of the entire Canon. He played audio clips that made it clear this is a very well-done project indeed.

Plans to have the June 18 meeting be a hybrid Zoom/in-person meeting came a cropper, but the dinner meeting at our usual pizza-restaurant venue was especially lively. Sherlockian Show and Tell included a 1914 shilling, a 1988 Tankerville Club membership list, a collection of pre-decimal British coins, Sherlockian drawings by noted comic book artist Frank Cho, BSI, and the Official Secretary’s Hansom Cab Clock. Long-time member Bill Harris gave an interesting talk on the career of Mary Gordon, who played Mrs. Hudson in 10 of the 14 Basil Rathbone / Nigel Bruce films.

On Aug. 14, the Tankerville Club returned to Zoom — but not for an official meeting. “The Tankerville Club Presents” was devoted almost entirely to a talk by David Leal that we originally had scheduled for the hybrid meeting that didn’t materialize. Professor Leal discussed “Arthur Conan Doyle: Gullible Dupe or Scientific Investigator,” a thoughtful talk later presented in other online venues. Afterwards, participants took a suitably eerie quiz on the supernatural in the Canon.

Member Marcy Mahle talked about Victorian women’s fashions at the Sept. 3 meeting, using dolls from her extensive collection — including those of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler! — to illustrate her points. The discussion of “The Copper Beeches” surfaced the theme of “too good to be true” stories in the Canon.

December 10 brought the 45th anniversary meeting of the Tankerville Club, attended by a crew of several distinguished Sherlockians from far away parts (including France) who also attended the epic 75th anniversary meeting of the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis the next day. The auction of books and a beautiful goblet fashioned by Fabienne Courouge was especially spirited and competitive. Another highlight of the meeting was the enthusiastic singing of Sherlockian carols, led by trained singer Ann Margaret Lewis, BSI (“The Polyphonic Motets of Lassus”).

The year 2021 has brought new members to the Tankerville Club from Dayton, Texas (by way of Columbus), and the St. Louis area. They have greatly enriched our camaraderie by their presence.

The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay (Toledo) — Mark McGovern

January 2021	Our annual Master's Dinner had to be scrubbed.
February 2021	The monthly meeting was not held.
March 13, 2021	Meeting in the home of "Jack Stapleton" and "Kitty Winter". On the program was the playing of two episodes from the Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce radio show, <i>The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> .
April 2021	The monthly meeting was not held.
May 22, 2021	The monthly meeting was not held. However, several of the Petrels appeared in Victorian dress for the annual tea hosted by the local Sir James M. Barrie chapter of the Daughters of the British Empire.
June 2021	The monthly meeting was not held.
July 17, 2021	Meeting in "Vernon Lodge", the home of Baron and the late Baroness Adelbert Gruner. <i>The Sign of Four</i> was the subject of discussion.
August 21, 2021	Our annual Dr. Watson's Picnic was hosted by The Countess of Morcar.
September 2021	The monthly meeting was not held.
October 15, 2021	We met again in the home of "Jack Stapleton" and "Kitty Winter". On the program was the playing of two more episodes from the Rathbone/Bruce radio show, <i>The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> .
November 2021	The monthly meeting was not held.
December 12, 2021	Our annual 'Christmas Gathering of the Nest' in "Vernon Lodge", the home of Baron and the late Baroness Adelbert Gruner.

The COVID pandemic restricted our activities to a large extent. We kept in touch primarily through our monthly newsletter, *From the Petrels' Nest*. Few of us were interested in a cyber meeting platform such as Zoom. Thus, the monthly meetings for February, April, May, June, September, and November were not held, primarily due to fear of the scourge.

The first disappointment came in January, when Her Majesty, Queen Victoria (the Canonical Identity of Miss Tracy Lusic) was forced to announce that our annual Master's Dinner had been cancelled. The Jing Chuan restaurant had changed its reopening schedule and there was no time to book someplace else. Tracy is planning to host the Dinner in 2022.

However, we did manage to have a few 'Gatherings of the Nest' in person. Jack Stapleton and Kitty Winter (Ralph and Pat Spitulski) hosted meetings in March and October. The first was in their old home in Toledo's Old West End. The second introduced to their new digs in the Old Orchard area. At each, Ralph — who is an old movie and radio buff — delighted us with recordings of episodes of *The New Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* radio

series. These episodes starred the favorite actors of many in our scion, Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes and Nigel Bruce as Dr. Watson. In October, Ralph and Pat lavished the group with their hospitality along with two more radio shows.

While there was no regular meeting in May, The Stormy Petrels were still active. Our Prime Minister, Mark McGovern, was invited to speak, in the guise of Dr. Watson, at a high tea hosted by the local Sir James M. Barrie chapter of The Daughters of the British Empire. Several other Petrels were invited, and all attended in Victorian attire.

On a warm August afternoon, The Countess of Morcar (Deb Wallace) played hostess for our annual Dr. Watson’s Picnic at Friendship Park in Millbury, Ohio. The weather was cooperated for a lovely afternoon in an open pavilion. The open-air setting encouraged a large turnout of the Petrels, including our newest members, Erica Novakoski and her young daughter, Claire. The picnic was literally a breath of fresh air after having been cloistered for so many months.

In July, the Baron and late Baroness Gruner (Mark and Kathy McGovern) hosted a meeting. Since there was plenty of time between this and the March meeting, the hosts selected *The Sign of Four* for discussion. We had not read the novel since 2006, and we have garnered a few new members since then, so the discussion was a lively one. Then, on the 12th last (December), the McGoverns hosted the “Christmas Gathering of the Nest”. No business old or new was discussed, as this is our Holiday meeting.

And so, The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay will soldier on into the New Year. We can be contacted via our Facebook page, The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay — A Sherlock Holmes Society (www.facebook.com/groups/671711902978785/).

The Agra Treasures (Dayton) — Lorraine Reibert

May 16, 2021	Spring meeting — no quiz
July 18, 2021	Summer meeting: quiz on “The Second Stain”
October 10, 2021	Autumn meeting: quiz on “Shoscombe Old Place”

Our group did not meet at the beginning of the year. We did not have Zoom meetings as some members did not have the technology available and we did not meet in person until most were vaccinated. We meet irregularly — deciding the next meeting at each current meeting. Anyone wanting to attend a future meeting can contact me (details below).

In May, we met at a member’s home for pizza. We did not do a quiz — rather used the time to catch up with each other and discuss the feasibility of running Holmes, Doyle & Friends in 2022.

In July, we met at a park shelter. Fried chicken was purchased from our funds and members brought sides and desserts. A quiz on The Adventure of the Second Stain was given. Running Holmes, Doyle and Friends will happen in March.

October’s meeting was held at T.J. Chumps restaurant. The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place was the topic for our quiz.

For more information about the Agra Treasures, please contact Lorraine Reibert at: lady-l-weaving@sbcglobal.net or (937) 339-8713.

OKLAHOMA

Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma, Inc. — Rosalie Mollica

January 28, 2021	“The Sussex Vampire”
February 25, 2021	“The Resident Patient”
March 25, 2021	“The Cardboard Box”
April 22, 2021	“The Speckled Band”
May 27, 2021	“The Final Problem”
June 24, 2021	“The Three Students”
July 22, 2021	“Shoscombe Old Place”
August 26, 2021	“The Dying Detective”
September 23, 2021	“The Disappearance of Lady Carfax”
October 28, 2021	“A Scandal in Bohemia”
November 18, 2021	“The Copper Beeches”
December 16, 2021	Dr. Watson’s Christmas (A Play by Dean Clark, BSI)

Except for July, when we met in-person for dinner at a local restaurant, Oklahoma’s scion society, The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma, Inc., met monthly throughout 2021 via Zoom. We continued randomly working our way through the short stories of the Canon. We also continued the tradition of choosing stories for the next year at the November meeting. In December, in lieu of the traditional holiday potluck, a staged reading/ “radio production” of Dr. Watson’s Christmas by Dean Clark, BSI was presented via Zoom, followed by a Happy Hour of socialization.

While we don’t know what the future holds, we enter 2022 knowing, like Sherlock, that it holds the promise of new adventures!

PENNSYLVANIA

The White Rose Irregulars (York) — Dennis Dobry

The White Rose Irregulars did not meet in person or via Zoom in 2021, however the WRI's did meet with other scions, in person, at an Open House in Reading, PA.

On August 21, 2021, forty fully-vaccinated Sherlockians from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington DC, Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut, Missouri and Texas descended upon the home of Joann and Denny Dobry in Reading, Pennsylvania. The occasion was the first multi-scion function to be held since the start of the pandemic. The attraction was an opportunity to tour the 221b Baker Street Sitting Room re-creation assembled by Denny Dobry, and a Book Fair featuring Sherlockiana donated to the Baker Street Irregular Trust and discounted titles published by the Baker Street Irregular Press. The attendees from across the country were anxious to mix with other Holmes' devotees after the long absence of face-to-face Sherlockian gatherings.

The items available for sale from the BSI Trust donations' inventory included many editions of the Canon, Sherlockian Scholarship, non-Sherlockian titles by Doyle, pastiches, parodies, and Sherlockian statutes & posters. Also available were non-Sherlockian mysteries, Christopher Morley titles, P.G. Wodehouse titles and Vincent Starrett titles.

Denny's wife, Joann, and his daughter, Nikki, served lunch to the gathered throng. The event was a financial success for the BSI Trust & Press and the Sherlockian social event of the year.

The Sons of the Copper Beeches (Philadelphia) — Mary Alcaro

April 23, 2021	An Evening with the Sons of the Copper Beeches (Spring)
October 30, 2021	An Evening with the Sons of the Copper Beeches (Fall)

The Sons of the Copper Beeches was founded on December 8, 1947 at what was then Shoyer's Restaurant in Philadelphia, PA. An official BSI scion society, the group was restricted to male membership until 2017 when its ranks were opened to women. The Copper Beeches typically holds semi-annual meetings, traditionally the fourth Fridays of April and October. Due to enthusiastic attendance in recent years (and limited seating at the Racquet Club of Philadelphia), attendance is by invitation only. After attending three meetings, individuals must successfully perform a recitation of The Musgrave Ritual in order to attain the rank of Journeyman; upon delivering a ten-minute Trifling Monograph on the Sherlockian topic of their choosing,

Journeyman are then bestowed the title Master Copper-Beech-Smith. The scion is currently led by Headmastiff Ross Davies, BSI, Toller Jenn Eaker, BSI, Comptroller of the Kennel Mary Alcaro, BSI, and Recorder of Pedigrees Terry Hunt, BSI.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to interfere with the scheduling of in-person meetings in 2021; as such, The Copper Beeches instead hosted two virtual events, one in April and one in October. As with the October 2020 event, these virtual “evenings with the Copper Beeches” featured a condensed program in lieu of the traditional formal meetings, and were followed by virtual cocktail afterparties. The group is indebted to Greg Ruby, BSI, and Monica Schmidt, BSI for managing the technical aspects of these evenings, as well as to Charles Blanksteen, BSI and Joan Blanksteen for their work on both evenings’ virtual programs, as well as to Recorder of Pedigrees Terry Hunt, BSI for his meticulous minutes. On April 23rd, members gathered on Zoom for “An Evening with the Sons of the Copper Beeches,” presided over by Headmastiff Ross Davies. Under the direction of Toastmaster Peter Blau, BSI, the following traditional toasts were offered by: Carla Coupe, BSI (to Mr. Sherlock Holmes); Dan Andriacco, BSI (to Dr. John H. Watson); Nancy Holder, BSI (to Mrs. Hudson); Regina Stinson, BSI (to The Woman); and Debbie Clark, BSI (to Mycroft Holmes). Karen Wilson, BSI and Burt Wolder, BSI, provided a musical toast to Violet Hunter, after which Marina Stajic, BSI, and Monica Schmidt offered trifling monographs, respectively titled “Quick, Watson, the Needle” and “My Intimate Friend and DISSOCIATE, Mr. Sherlock Holmes.” Headmastiff Ross Davies then read reports from other scion societies with upcoming events, and shared the good news that this was an occasion on which there was no need to stand upon the Terrace. Chris Zordan, BSI led a dastardly quiz on “The Stockbroker’s Clerk,” and the evening ended with a virtual afterparty managed by Monica Schmidt.

After being compelled to pivot to an online format for the October 29th event, the Copper Beeches played up the meeting’s coincidence with the Halloween season. Early registrants received postcard “masks” in the mail from Headmastiff Ross Davies, BSI featuring Jeremy Brett as Holmes in the famed Granada production of “The Sussex Vampire;” Comptroller of the Kennel Mary Alcaro, BSI developed two unique Copper Beeches-themed cocktail recipes — “The Copper Peach” and the virgin “Smack! Smack Smack!” — which participants could mix at home to help keep the Sons alive and drinking (if not physically together in Philadelphia).

The meeting itself featured a blend of old traditions and the inception of a few new ones. For the first time in the group’s history, the meeting was

presided over by the Comptroller of the Kennel rather than the Headmastiff, as Mary Alcaro became the first woman to lead a meeting of The Sons of the Copper Beeches. Under the fearless leadership of Toastmaster Peter Blau, BSI traditional toasts were delivered in nontraditional pairs: Ron Fish, BSI and Carol Fish toasted Sherlock Holmes and The Woman; Dick Sveum, BSI toasted Dr. John H. Watson; and Ben and Sue Vizoskie, BSI together toasted Mycroft Holmes and Mrs. Hudson. Karen Wilson, BSI and Burt Wolder, BSI offered a joint musical toast to Violet Hunter. A new tradition was established for the Terraces portion of the meeting, with Marina Stajic, BSI, Evelyn Herzog, BSI, and Paul Singleton, BSI offering heartfelt tributes to their late friend and Master Copper-Beech-Smith Peter Crupe, BSI while Julie McKuras remembered Master Copper-Beech-Smith Jon Lellenberg. S.E. Dalinger, BSI gave a (multimedia) Trifling Monograph “An Ocean in Space as Well as Time,” which detailed the confluences in the timeless lives of Sherlock and another Doctor whose name begins with a “W” (no doubt many know Who that is). Chris Zordan, BSI closed out the program with a dastardly quiz on “The Gloria Scott “ before members shuffled off to the virtual afterparty presided over by Toller Jenn Eaker, BSI.

The Copper Beeches hope to return to the Racquet Club of Philadelphia for their Spring meeting in 2022, at which time Steve Shalet will resume his role leading new Journeymen in their recitation of The Musgrave Ritual.

For more information, please contact: copperbeechesofphilly@gmail.com.

RHODE ISLAND

The Cornish Horrors (Providence) — Burt Wolder

November 13, 2021	50th Anniversary dinner at the Hope Club
-------------------	--

The Cornish Horrors marked its 50th anniversary with 40 members and friends at a celebratory dinner held at The Hope Club in Providence, Rhode Island, on November 13, 2021. The adventure of the evening was “The Lion’s Mane.” An hour of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres brought the first in-person opportunity to see old and new friends since 2019. A slide show ran during the evening featuring photos and documents from the Horrors’ half century. First time attendees Alex Katz, Bob Katz, Robert Madison, Ira Matetsky, Andy Tranquili, and Joseph Vigneau were welcomed.

The program began with our scion’s customary toasts. Bob Katz saluted Sherlock Holmes by probing the character’s extraordinary, enduring success on screen. Jennifer Casasanto remarked on the joy of friendly gatherings before poetically toasting Dr. John H. Watson, whose absence, she observed,

was sorely felt in the evening's adventure. Michael Barton raised a glass to *The Woman*, observing that Holmes's conclusions from the few facts Watson reported about Irene Adler were insufficient to explain her achievements and intelligence — perhaps another example of it being “a capital mistake to theorize before one has data.” Philip Shreffler's toast to Dr. Leon Sterndale linked “the whole sinister semicircle of Mounts Bay, that old death trap of sailing vessels,” to Cornwall's Lost Land of Lyonesse, the birthplace of Tristan, and related the tragic romance of Tristan and Iseult to that of Sterndale and Brenda Tregennis. Ira Matetsky poetically toasted Maud Bellamy, one of the most flattering portrayals of any character in the canon. The traditional closing toast to “Cornwall's Secluded Coast,” a poem written by Horror Les Daniels, was read by Burt Wolder.

The Horrors stood on the Terrace for Michael F. Whelan and Jon Lellenberg, and remembered departed Horrors Henry Folsom, Charlie Adams, Bob Fish, Don Grant, Jack Miller, Rex Pinson, Chris Steinbrunner, Wayne Velicer, Bill Young, and Ellen Watt — absent friends, all.

The invocation was read by Burt Wolder, following the text composed by the Reverend Mr. W. Scott Axford for the 2017 meeting.

The evening's inquiry into “The Lion's Mane” explored the case's unusual features, which led to a wide-ranging discussion of Holmes's evolution, relationships, and growth. Chaldean Archivist Albert Silverstein delivered a paper on the founding of the Cornish Horrors, recalling that “On a languid and balmy spring evening in April of 1971, avid Sherlockians gathered in a private dining room of New Haven's legendary restaurant, Mory's, to inaugurate the celebration of a new Holmes scion society. The organizing force of the new group was the Reverend Henry Folsom, then newly installed as vicar of Old Saybrook, and the host of the occasion was Dr. David Musto of the Yale Medical School.” Albert reviewed highlights of our scion's fifty years of programs.

Congratulatory telegrams were read from “Wiggins” Michael H. Kean, from Catherine Cooke and Nicholas Utechin of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, from Horror Richard Olken and The Speckled Band of Boston, from Baker Street Journal Editor and Horror Steven Rothman, from Horror Scott Monty, and, surprisingly, from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who suggested that those attending read “Micah Clarke.”

Danna Mancini, who also provided laser-engraved 50th anniversary mementos to attendees, delivered the Annual Leon Sterndale Invited Address, entitled “Who Else Knew? Were Holmes's Talents Used Against Him,” exploring the possibility that criminals used Watson's accounts to battle Holmes.

Danna Mancini was awarded the scion's investiture "The Literature of Toxicology," formerly held by Charlie Adams. Jennifer Casasanto was awarded the scion's investiture "A Working Hypothesis," formerly held by Bill Young.

Greg Darak's challenging quiz on "The Lion's Mane" was won by Kathy Piffatt. Horrors joined in singing the traditional "Aunt Clara" before departing the Hope Club's historic College Hill clubhouse into a cool November evening.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Hansom Wheels (Columbia) — Phil Dematteis

February 18, 2021	Zoom: Presentation: "The Scandalous Canon," by Liese Sherwood-Fabre; assigned story: "The Missing Three-Quarter"
April 15, 2021	Zoom: Presentation: "To Boldly Go: Mr. Spock, Leonard Nimoy, and Sherlock Holmes," by Barbara Rusch; assigned story: "The Cardboard Box"
August 19, 2021	Zoom: Presentation: "Bicycles in the Canon," by Dr. Franklin Saksena; assigned story: "The Priory School"
October 21, 2021	Zoom: Presentation: "Investigating Investigating Women: Female Predecessors and Successors to Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes," by Donny Zaldin; assigned story: "A Scandal in Bohemia"
December 9, 2021	In-person meeting at The Palmetto Club. Christmas Party; play: <i>A Case of Identity</i> , by Bob Robinson, performed by some of the members

The Hansom Wheels was founded by the late Rev. E. Wayne Wall BSI, aka "Holy Peters," in the early 1970s. Initially there were no regular members other than the good Reverend himself, but in early 1977 he joined with Dr. G. B. Lane of the University of South Carolina music department to form a more structured organization. Using the pseudonym Dr. John H. Watson, Reverend Wall took on the scion's office of The Hub. G. B. became Col. Sebastian Moran, with the office of Commissionaire. The first actual meeting was held in the Music Building of the University of South Carolina on the afternoon of Sunday, April 14, 1977, with an attendance of twenty or so. Through 1983 the group met every month; from 1984 through 1987, six times a year; since 1988 we have met five times a year, on the third Thursdays of February, April, August, and October, with a Christmas party during the first or second week of December. Over the years we have met at various restaurants, but we seem to be a jinx, since most of them went out of business, which is generally when we would move to a new one. Since 2003 we have met at the private Palmetto Club, of which at least one of our members is also a member. In August 2020 we began meeting via Zoom because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but we did have an in-person Christmas party at

The Palmetto Club in December 2021. We usually have fifteen to twenty attendees at the regular meetings, around thirty at the Christmas parties.

The regular meetings begin, after dinner, with the call to order: “The game is afoot,” followed by a toast to *the* woman, Irene Adler; a responsive recitation of The Musgrave Ritual; and four Happy Hour Posers, in which the attendees try to decode the titles of Canonical adventures hidden in clues that take the form of egregious puns (example: “Gregory [played by Hugh Laurie]: ‘I haven’t had a thing to eat all day!’ = ‘The Empty House’”). A story from the Canon is assigned before each meeting. We used to have a quiz on the story, but that got to be demoralizing when it became obvious that nobody had read it. Nowadays the leader of the group, The Tantalus, includes some thoughts about the story in the printed program for the meeting. The main event of each meeting is a presentation by a member or a guest speaker on some aspect of Sherlockiana or related matters, such as forensic science, true crime cases, real-life detective work, etc. The meeting concludes with a recitation of Vincent Starrett’s sonnet, “221B.” For the Christmas party there are no Posers, assigned story, or presentation; instead, there is a drawing for Sherlockian door prizes and a performance by some of the members of a play adapted from one of the stories by our late program chairman, Bob Robinson BSI.

The Hansom Wheels website is www.hansomwheels.com. The newsletter, which comes out in advance of each meeting, is *The Pink Un*. The email address is hansomwheels@aol.com. All of the foregoing is the responsibility of Phil Dematteis, aka The Tantalus, who is also the program director and emcees the meetings. There is also a Hansom Wheels Facebook page, administered by Tom Elmore.

The Survivors of the Gloria Scott (Greenville) — Tracy Revels

February 13, 2021	Survivors Meeting on Zoom, discussion of “The Man with the Twisted Lip”
April 10, 2021	Survivors Meeting on Zoom, discussion of “The Engineer’s Thumb”
June 26, 2021	Survivors Meeting on Zoom, discussion of “The Noble Bachelor”
August 28, 2021	Survivors Meeting on Zoom, discussion of “The Beryl Coronet”
October 9, 2021	Survivors Meeting on Zoom, discussion of “The Copper Beeches”
October 31	Survivors attended <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> at the Greenville Theatre
December 4	Survivors Meeting on Zoom, discussion of “Silver Blaze”

The scion for the upstate of South Carolina, The Survivors of the Gloria Scott, meets bi-monthly, on a Saturday chosen to best fit with the members’

work and travel schedules. Traditionally we gather at The Happy China Restaurant in Greenville, South Carolina, but in 2021, due to the continuing impact of COVID-19, meetings were conducted on Zoom. A positive effect of remaining on Zoom was that it allowed us to continue to stay connected with Survivors who have moved out of the Upstate. Reuniting with our scattered Survivors has been a highlight of our year. Another highlight of the year was adding a new member, bringing the crew up to ten. Finally, in October, a small number of Survivors attended the Greenville Theatre's production of *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, followed by a dinner at an Indian restaurant. Our newsletter, *The Lifeboat*, will be switching to a quarterly publication in the upcoming year. *The Lifeboat* includes meeting reports, reviews of movies and pastiches, and 'Sherlock sightings' in popular culture. We are always looking for new members to come and join the fun! If you'd like to receive our newsletter, please drop a line to Tracy Revels, BSI, at Revelstj@wofford.edu

TENNESSEE

The Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem — Jim Hawkins

January 16, 2021	"The Engineer's Thumb"
February 21, 2021	"The Greek Interpreter"
March 20, 2021	"Lady Frances Carfax"
April 17, 2021	"The Solitary Cyclist"
May 15, 2021	"The Veiled Lodger"
June 19, 2021	"Black Peter"
July 17, 2021	Annual Picnic — Special Presentations
August 21, 2021	"The Musgrave Ritual"
September 18, 2021	<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>
October 16, 2021	<i>Horror of the Heights</i> — Conan Doyle "Horror" Story
November 20, 2021	"The Three Garridebs"
December 18, 2021	Special Event — Movie Night at Derek Martin's

On February 19, 1979, Mr. John William Shanks III convened a gathering of twenty-six interested Nashvillians seeking membership in a Sherlockian scion society that he named the Nashville Scholars of the Three-Pipe Problem. The name came from the Arthur Conan Doyle short story *The Red-Headed League* in which Holmes remarks, "It is quite a three-pipe problem." A new website has been created: www.nashvillescholars.com.

TEXAS

The Crew of the Barque Lone Star (Dallas) — Steve Mason

January 3, 2021	51 attendees; Guest speaker — Barbara Rusch, BSI: “Sherlockian Collectors and Collecting Sherlockiana”; ACD Topic # 6 — Edith Pouden: “Doyle in Plymouth (Working with Dr. Budd)”
February 7, 2021	55 attendees; Guest speaker — Rob Nunn: “The Immense Significance of the Current Rued Mutton”; ACD Topic # 7 — Steve Mason: “Rise and Fall of the Rest of His Medical Career”
March 7, 2021	64 attendees; Guest speaker — Bonnie MacBird: “The Three Locks”; ACD Topic # 8 — Donny Zaldin: “ACD’s First Story”
April 4, 2021	38 attendees; Guest speaker — Charles Peters: “Portraying Sherlock Holmes on the Stage”; ACD Topic # 9 — Edith Pouden: “Marriages and Children Through the Years”
May 2, 2021	54 attendees; Guest speaker — Mark Jones: “The Stockbroker’s Clerk”; ACD Topic # 10 — Mark Alberstat: “ACD — the Sportsman / Athlete”
June 6, 2021	50 attendees; Guest speaker — Greg Ruby: “The Coins of the Victorian Period”; ACD Topic # 11 — Nancy Holder: “Non-Canonical Writings (The Supernatural Stories)”
August 1, 2021	59 attendees; Guest speaker — Nick Utechin: “Playing the Game”; ACD Topic # 12 — Brenda Rossini: “Covering the Boer War, WWI, and Knighthood”
September 5, 2021	57 attendees; Guest speaker — Ann Caddell: “221b — The Sitting Room”; ACD Topic # 13 — Carol Cavalluzzi: “Travels of ACD”
October 3, 2021	48 attendees; Guest speaker — Hal Glatzer: “Doyle’s Dozen”
November 7, 2021	52 attendees; Guest speaker — Cindy Brown: “Crimes in Victorian London”; ACD Topic # 14 — Rich Krisciunas: “Real-Life Detective (Edalji / Slater Cases)”
December 5, 2021	70 attendees; Guest speaker — Roger Johnson, BSI: “Rugger, Romance and Sherlock Holmes, or You Should Go to Blackheath First”; ACD Topic # 15 — David Leal: “ACD and Spiritualism”

2021 marked the 51st Anniversary of The Crew of the Barque Lone Star, which was founded by a trio of wonderful Sherlockians — William Beeson, BSI; Margaret Francine Morris, ASH and BSI; and Bullitt Lowry. The first official meeting of the Crew was on November 6, 1970.

The Crew conducted 11 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;
- Guest presentation;
- Lightning quiz;
- Arthur Conan Doyle biographical topic; and
- Closing toast.

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

In October, 2021, the Crew published its fifth annual book, *Holmes and Me*, a compilation of 45 wonderful remembrances of our Society members and what Sherlock Holmes means to them. A free copy (.pdf, Kindle, Nook) can be found on our website.

At the end of 2021, the Society has 242 members. You can learn more about our society at www.dfw-sherlock.org.

The John Openshaw Society (Houston) — Brian Clark

January 24, 2021	Zoom: JOS Meeting
March 7, 2021	Zoom: JOS Meeting
April 18, 2021	Zoom: JOS Meeting
May 23, 2021	Zoom: JOS Meeting
July 11, 2021	(announced, then canceled / postponed)
September 19, 2021	Zoom: JOS Meeting
November 14, 2021	Zoom: JOS Meeting

The Houston-based BSI scion known as the John Openshaw Society (hereafter the “JOS”) was founded in late 1980 and hosted regular meetings for many years, many of them frequented by up to fifty active local members. Fast forwarding a few decades, the JOS enjoyed a period of rejuvenation (and technological renovation, deploying both a website (johnopenshaw.org/) and a Facebook (www.facebook.com/TheJohnOpenshawSociety) page) in 2011 by Ken Rozek with organizational support from Peter Blau, plus contributions from the original founders, Dr. Thomas Harman and Dr. Warren Chaney. Brian Clark assumed supervisory responsibility as the so-called ‘First Pip’ in 2016.

It’ll be no surprise to learn that 2021 was again atypical for the JOS. Rather than our usual pre-pandemic tradition of dinner with drinks and some tasty Holmesian gossip in a lovely English pub (or other bricks-and-mortar

venue) punctuated by a Sherlock-oriented presentation and a quiz, every meeting during 2021 was held online via ZOOM, just like most of 2020. We averaged precisely 20.83 members per meeting, and we stand by the partial person metric since surely at least a couple of us weren't giving our full attention to each and every ZOOM meeting. Ahem.

We found the virtual format to be both a blessing and a curse, as surely have many other BSI scions across the world. On the downside, our membership has obviously missed the camaraderie and general good cheer brought by gathering with friends who have a common interest. On the upside, the virtual format has enabled us to tap into the broader global Sherlockian community and enjoy some excellent presentations from guest speakers far beyond the Houston area.

For posterity, here's a quick rundown of the speakers at our 2021 meetings:

January: Steve Mason (from the Crew of the Barque Lone Star in Dallas, Texas, and also the Beacon Society) discussed firefighting in Victorian London. Quiz: *The Adventure of the Resident Patient*.

March: Monica Schmidt (from The Younger Stamfords in Iowa City, Iowa) facilitated a group therapy session (not exactly as planned, but appreciated regardless) where she addressed the mild (mostly) manias suffered by hardcore collectors of Sherlockiana. Quiz: *The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter*.

April: Richard Krisciunas (of the Amateur Mendicant Society in Detroit, Michigan, among others) gave a lawyerly lesson on the lawful needs of Sherlock's antics entitled "No Obstruction But Much Collusion." Quiz: *The Adventure of the Naval Treaty*.

May: David Leal (based in Austin, Texas, and a regular contributor to the JOS and other scions) discussed "ACD & Spiritualism" and provided an overview of the many ACD resources available at the Ransom Center, part of the Austin branch of the LBJ Library System. Quiz: *The Adventure of the Final Problem*.

September: our own Jane Almquist gave us a virtual walkthrough of the 221B recreation built by Denis Dobry of Reading, Pennsylvania, which she recently visited. Quiz: *The Adventure of the Empty House*.

November: Edith Pouden (of The Bimetallic Question in Montreal, Québec) discussed "The Life and Times of Arthur Conan Doyle: Working with Dr. Budd" based on *The Stark Munro Letters*. Quiz: *The Adventure of the Norwood Builder*.

We plan to continue ruthlessly exploiting the human treasure troves of knowledge and insight across the BSI community at least through the early months of 2022.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

The Diogenes Club of Dallas — Jim Webb

The Diogenes Club of Dallas did not meet in 2021 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We hope to resume in-person meetings in 2022.

The Retired Colourman (Dallas) — Jim Webb

January 6, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
February 10, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
March 10, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
April 7, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
May 5, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
June 9, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
July 7, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
August 4, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
September 8, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
October 6, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
November 10, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub
December 8, 2021	Lunch the Londoner Pub

The Retired Colourman meet during lunch at the Londoner Pub in Addison, Texas, to discuss matters pertaining to Sherlock Holmes and whatever else that may come up that is of a literary nature. I can be reached at jimwebb@ix.netcom.com.

VERMONT

The Baker Street Breakfast Club (Bennington) — Jeff Bradway

January 16, 2021	Zoom Birthday Celebration: Canonical Favorites Questionnaire
February 13, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Priory School"
March 13, 2021	Zoom discussion of "Black Peter"
April 10, 2021	Zoom discussion of "Charles Augustus Milverton"
May 8, 2021	Zoom discussion of "The Six Napoleons"
June 12, 2021	In person discussion of "The Three Students"
July 10, 2021	In person discussion of "The Golden Pince-Nez"
August 7, 2021	In person discussion of "The Missing Three-Quarter"

September 11, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Abbey Grange”
October 17, 2021	No meeting — Community Celebration of Sally Sugarman’s Life
November 20, 2021	Zoom discussion of “The Second Stain”
December 16, 2021	Monthly meeting: Annual Christmas Play

Founded in 1990, the Baker Street Breakfast Club became a scion of the Baker Street Irregulars that same year. Jeff Bradway has been its Gasogene since December 2020. All that is 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 are held monthly and in non-COVID times rotate through members’ homes. Dinners are potluck, and desserts are especially appreciated. Meetings generally comprise various traditional Canonical toasts, questions generated by members on the story of the month, and a reading either from the Canon or some Sherlockian or mystery related work. In January there is a Birthday Brunch with presentations, and in December we read a Sherlock Holmes Christmas play.

The Club publishes a quarterly newsletter, “Groans, Cries and Bleatings,” which goes out to 160 Sherlockians. It also maintains a Facebook page with almost 800 followers and a website devoted to the Club’s activities and other topics.

The Club’s “Year of Mystery” celebration was postponed yet again because of COVID, but the Club is pressing onwards in coordination with local libraries to present assorted community activities in 2022: including Sherlock Holmes film nights, talks by pastiche writers, a Sherlock Holmes movie poster exhibit, children’s activities at the libraries, and finally the publication of the Club’s long-awaited quizbook-cum-recipe book, *Just Desserts*. We also hope to complete our round-robin novella, *The Singular Affair at Quechee Gorge*.

Most of the year’s meetings were held via Zoom, but we did get to meet outdoors in the late spring and summer months. In October, in place of our monthly meeting, the Club joined other Bennington community members in commemorating the life of Sally Sugarman, our original Gasogene. Our annual play reading this year was Bob Sugarman’s “Sherlock Holmes and the Retired Cavalry Officer,” which features in its plot circuses and innovations in lighting.

You can learn more about our Club at www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.com.

SHERLOCK IN THE U.S.A. 2021

WASHINGTON

The Dogs in the Nighttime: Sherlock Holmes Society (Anacortes) — Kathleen Kaska

January 2021	Hybrid meeting: Celebrate Holmes Birthday and discussed The House of Silk
February 2021	Hybrid meeting: The Valley of Fear
March 2021	Hybrid meeting: “His Last Bow”
April 2021	Hybrid meeting: “The Final Problem”
May 2021	Hybrid meeting: The White Company
June 2021	Hybrid meeting: “The Empty House”
July 2021	Hybrid meeting: “The Bruce Partington Case”
August 2021	Presentation by Dan Polvere: “The Quest for Macy”
September 2021	Presentation by Margie Deck: “Decrypting the Adventure of the Copper Beeches by Way of Sherlock Holmes of BAKING Street”
October 2021	Hybrid meeting: “The Three Students”
November 2021	Hybrid meeting: “The Golden Pince-Nez”
December 2021	Hybrid meeting: “The Disappearance of Lady Francis Carfax”

The Dogs of the Nighttime: The Anacortes Sherlock Holmes Society was founded in 2011 by Kathleen Kaska. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at the Village Pizza conference room in Anacortes, Washington. The meetings are hybrid (Zoom and in-person), and are open to the public. We discuss anything Sherlock-related: the Canon, pastiches, movies, TV, etc. Here is our website: dogsinthenighttime.weebly.com/

You can contact us via email: TheDogsintheNighttime@groups.outlook.com. Our Facebook group is The Dogs in the Nighttime: Sherlock Holmes Society of Anacortes. It is a closed group, but you can request membership by sending an email to the above address.

WASHINGTON, DC

The Red Circle (Washington, DC) — Carla Kaessinger Coupe

March 13, 2021	Spring meeting. Speaker: Catherine Cooke
June 19, 2021	Summer meeting. Speaker: Peggy Perdue
July 10, 2021	Joint meeting with the Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland
September 25, 2021	Autumn meeting. Picnic at Glen Echo Park
December 4, 2021	Winter meeting. Speaker: Nicholas Meyer

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. Caution still ruled in 2021, however, and three of The Red Circle’s meetings were virtual. Thanks to Alan Rettig’s production expertise and Peter E. Blau’s excellent emceeing, the meetings went smoothly. Video of all our speakers is available at www.redcircledc.org.

Despite the rising incidence of Zoom fatigue, 145 attendees joined The Red Circle’s spring 2021 virtual meeting to listen to Catherine Cooke’s presentation entitled “Nervous and Terse: Mr. Bradshaw and His Railway Guide.” Dana Richards conjured up his usual fiendish quiz, this time focusing on railways in Canon. Peggy Perdue spoke on “Sherlock Holmes in Advertising” for our virtual summer meeting, covering a vast array of merchandise and services that used Sherlock Holmes (and occasionally Dr. Watson) in their ads. Her presentation was both interesting and hilarious.

In July The Red Circle and the Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland joined together on Zoom to celebrate the publication of *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle and Switzerland*. Eva Iggland, Guy Marriott, and Bryan Stone each mapped their favored “Routes from the Reichenbach” and traced Sherlock Holmes’s path from the Falls to Florence. Fascinating!

Good food and good weather greeted members at Glen Echo Park in September, where everyone enjoyed in-person socializing as well as riding the one-hundred-year-old Dentzel Carousel.

We returned to Zoom for our winter meeting with speaker Nicholas Meyer. In his talk “The Great Escape,” Nick discussed how detective stories help us weather life’s trials and tribulations. Then we stood upon the terrace as Peter E. Blau paid tribute to Michael Whelan, the long-time Wiggins of the Baker Street Irregulars.

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

WISCONSIN

The Notorious Canary Trainers (Madison) — Max Magee

January 17, 2021	Discussion of “Shoscombe Old Place” & Holmes Birthday Celebration
February 15, 2021	Discussion of “The Three Garridebs”

March 21, 2021	Discussion of “The Illustrious Client”
April 18, 2021	Discussion of “The Three Gables”
May 16, 2021	Discussion of “The Blanched Soldier”
June 20, 2021	Discussion of “The Mazarin Stone”
July 18, 2021	Discussion of “The Creeping Man”
August 15, 2021	Discussion of “The Lion’s Mane”
September 19, 2021	Discussion of “His Last Bow”
October 17, 2021	Discussion of A Study of Scarlet Part 1
November 21, 2021	Discussion of A Study of Scarlet Part 2
December 19, 2021	Discussion of The Sign of the Four Chapters 1-6

The Sherlock Holmes society known as the Notorious Canary-Trainers was founded in April 1969 by Sherlock Holmes enthusiasts in the Madison area. We meet on the third Sunday of each month to discuss a story and any announcements of note. All meetings in 2021 were held virtually using video-conferencing software. In spite of the need to meet online, we kept up a steady pace of one meeting a month, and we were able to welcome back several alumni who had moved out of the area. This year we “celebrated” our 50th anniversary by noting that we’d forgotten to mark the occasion in 2019 or 2020. We also wrote several notices for the local newspapers.

Our social offshoot, the Comrades of the Order, began reading the Raffles short stories by E.W. Hornung alongside our usual Sherlockian meetings. Beginning in January 2021, we read *The Amateur Cracksman* and *The Black Mask*, and we are several stories into the third short story collection, *A Thief in the Night*. Some of us also watched and discussed *To Catch a Thief*, the 1955 romance/thriller by Alfred Hitchcock (very) loosely based on the 1901 Raffles story of the same name. Generally, we’ve read and discussed two Raffles stories each month.

Several of us have also attended occasional movie screenings on-and-off with the online scion “Theatre-Goers, Homeward Bound.” Particular favorites this year were the 1990’s Sherlockian *Wishbone* episodes (which I watched with my six-year-old).

Throughout October a group made up mostly of Sherlockians from the Madison scion and a couple of Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota read and discussed a chapter a day of *A Night in the Lonesome October* by Roger Zelazny (which is written with one chapter occurring each day of a dramatic October in London in the late 1880s — *The Great Detective* and his *Rotund Sidekick* feature prominently). We plan to reprise this event again in 2023.

One of our members, Johanna Draper Carlson, traveled to London in December and sent back correspondence of her site-seeing tours, many with Sherlockian emphasis, that we all enjoyed vicariously.

Our group corresponds via the online Google Group at NCT1969@googlegroups.com. Contact: Glen Link. E-mail: linkfam@outlook.com. Snail mail: 200 La Crosse St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916.

OTHER

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes — Evelyn Herzog

January 10, 2021	Birthday Weekend Sunday Brunch (online)
June 2, 2021	ASH Wednesday
June 27, 2021	Spring Luncheon (online)
July 7, 2021	ASH Wednesday
August 4, 2021	ASH Wednesday
September 1, 2021	ASH Wednesday
October 6, 2021	ASH Wednesday
November 3, 2021	ASH Wednesday
November 20, 2021	Autumn Luncheon (online)
December 1, 2021	ASH Wednesday

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, now in its sixth decade of Sherlockian scholarship and song, made it through a second Covid-cursed year with a reduced but heartening set of events.

The 2021 remote Birthday Weekend included the traditional ASH Sunday brunch hosted by Tamar Zeffrin and Tiffany Knight on Sunday, January 10th, and editors Heather Holloway and Crystal Noll provided the year's Birthday Edition of *The Serpentine Muse* for the electronic Friday dinner packets. Crystal and Heather went on to publish three issues of the *Muse* during 2021, Vol. 37, Nos. 1-3, each filled with scholarship, humor, news, verse, reminiscence and more, contributed by ASH members and friends.

We met on Sunday, June 27th, for ASH's 2021 Spring Meeting (held via Zoom overseen by our webmeister Greg Ruby). We first took a moment to honor the life of our late member Warren Randall. Then to the program, which began with our customary toasts, offered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Janice Fisher (Irene Adler), Tom Hotz (Sherlock Holmes), Mike McSwiggin (John Watson), Cindy Brown (Arthur Conan Doyle), and Nick Martorelli (Friendship), with an additional toast by Burt Wolder to a special

Victorian woman writer. We then enjoyed talks by Karen Murdock (on the use of *preteritio* in the Canon's text) and Rich Krisciunas on The Brixton Workhouse Infirmary. There followed a suite of themed toasts on certain Victorian "essential workers": Becky Robare to bankers, Jen Kneeland to commissionaires, Sandy Kozin to cab drivers, and Karen Wilson to members of the press. Last on the program, we were unable to dissuade the Principal Unprincipled Adventuress from singing the Ashenpoof Song *a capella*. Our participants then proceeded to chat rooms hosted by Monica Schmidt, and a gradual return to everyday reality.

"ASH Wednesday" — an informal gathering for drinks and dinner (but no pesky program) held on the first Wednesday of every month at a Manhattan bar and grill — had been in abeyance for some time because of Covid. Our beloved Susan Rice had arranged with Ira Matetsky to assume the job of running it, and Ira now determined that the gathering could (cautiously) be resumed starting in June. Gatherings were duly held in the remaining months of the year.

ASH's Autumn Meeting was held, again on Zoom, on Sunday, November 20th (thanks again to Greg Ruby). We honored the memory of late ASH member Peter Crupe, as well as Michael Whelan, former head of the BSI and spouse of ASH Mary Ann Bradley. We then celebrated the addition of seven new members to the group: Mary Alcaro / "A Woman's Wit"; Gretchen Altabef / "Boswell"; Shana C. Carter / "Sarah Cushing"; Daniel Friedman / "Mercer"; David L. Leal / "Tutor and Lecturer at the College of St. Luke's"; Russell Merritt / "On the Banks of Allan Water"; and Rob Nunn / "Your Old School-Fellow". The program started with our customary toasts, delivered by Mickey Fromkin (Queen Victoria), Will Walsh (Irene Adler), Ann Lewis (Sherlock Holmes), Rudy Altergott (John Watson), Edith Pounden (Arthur Conan Doyle), Terry and Linda Hunt (Friendship), with a special toast by Ross Davies to Louise "Touie" Conan Doyle. Our first speaker, Dan Friedman, discussed "The Man who Really Saved Holmes." Next came four toasts on the theme of "open-air Canonical spaces": Marilynne McKay to the Canonical moors; Elaine and Joe Coppola to Hampstead Heath; Kathryn Piffat to the mountains of Switzerland; and Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves to the Sussex Downs. To cap the program, Marino Alvarez presented a slide show of Canonical London sights. We were then invited to continue the gathering in chat rooms, presided over by Monica Schmidt, until we each found it time to return to our own time and place.

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

Clients of Adrian Mulliner — Elaine Coppola

January 9, 2021	Junior Bloodstain at the BSI Weekend
-----------------	--------------------------------------

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

There is no membership application or fee and we meet only on the following occasions: during the annual Baker Street Irregulars festivities in New York City each January (Junior Bloodstain), and during the biennial Wodehouse Society convention (Senior Bloodstain).

On Saturday, January 9, 2021, a Junior Bloodstain was held at 11 AM via Zoom during the virtual Baker Street Irregulars (BSI) weekend.

Aficionados of Sherlock Holmes and the stories of P.G. Wodehouse, through the wonders of technology and the expertise of William Brown, were able to view “A Voice From the Past” from the 1975 Wodehouse Playhouse. There was an ensuing discussion and Neil Midkiff shared screen shots of the story as published in *The Strand*.

The Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association — Marsha Pollak

June 26, 2021	Annual meeting
---------------	----------------

Founded by John Bennett Shaw and Howard Haycraft, the Sub-Librarians Scion of the Baker Street Irregulars in the American Library Association was established in 1967. It is the oldest profession-oriented scion related to Sherlock Holmes. Traditionally, the Sub-Librarians meet at the Annual American Library Association (ALA) conference, which changes its venue every year. Local Sherlockian scions are invited to mix and mingle, sharing their common interest with those in the library field.

The Society’s name was inspired by a passage from “The Adventure of the Illustrious Client” in which Dr. Watson said: “Finally I drove to the London Library in St. James’s Square, put the matter to my friend Lomax, the sub-librarian, and departed to my rooms with a goodly volume under my arm.”

The Sub-Librarians met virtually on June 26 at 11:30 AM PST for its 43rd (irregular) annual meeting. Mystery writer Bonnie MacBird, BSI and Emmy award winner whose four books have provided new challenges for

Sherlock Holmes, was interviewed by Peggy Perdue, BSI and Senior Services Specialist from the Special Collections Department, Toronto Public Library. Bonnie also read from her newest adventure, *The Three Locks*.

Our traditional toasts were given to:

- Lomax, the Sub-Librarian of the London Library by Maxine Reneker, The Scowlers and Molly Maguires and Professor Emerita, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey

- Sherlock Holmes, Bookman & Special Librarian by Paula J. Perry, ASH and Chief Catalogue Librarian, Cassidy Cataloguing Services, Inc.

- Hill Barton (AKA John H. Watson, M.D.), Library Patron by Rod Henshaw, The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and Dean Emeritus, Cowles Library, Drake University

- Baron Gruner, Collector by Marsha Pollak, BSI, ASH and Supervising Librarian, Technical Services (retired) Sunnyvale (Calif.) Public Library

- Kitty Winter, a wronged woman by Christy Allen, Associate Director for Digital & Resource Management, Furman University Libraries, in absentia.

We closed with a recording of Vincent Starrett reading his iconic poem, 221B, which was provided by co-chair George H. Scheetz, The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic) and Director, Batavia (Ill.) Public Library.

This virtual meeting allowed co-chairs Marsha Pollak and George Scheetz, to be in California and Illinois respectively. Speaker Bonnie MacBird attended from London, England and interviewer Peggy Perdue from Toronto, Canada. We thank CORE, a division of ALA, for sponsoring the program. Our audience of about 100 library personnel and Sherlockians represented various states and countries. Next year we still hope to meet in person in Washington, D.C. with the Red Circle.

For more information, please visit our website, managed by Christy Allen, at scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians/.

Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial, Inc. — Burt Wolder

Aims and Purpose:

To commemorate the artist and illustrator Frederic Dorr Steele (1873-1944) by promoting public awareness of his achievements and supporting Steele-related exhibits and collections. While pandemic restrictions delayed formally dedicating Steele's grave marker, FDSMI Directors Bob Katz, Linda Hunt, Terry Hunt, Andrew Malec and Burt Wolder met remotely in March, April, August and December 2021, to plan for the future. In December our organization received its 501(c)(3) status, retroactive to the date of our incorporation. Contributions to Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial, Inc. are now tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Celebrating Steele (photo by Terry Hunt):

At the end of 2021 we began to plan an in-person dedication of the grave marker, to be held in the early summer of 2022. As we develop the program we will identify potential speakers, including Steele's descendants.

In December 2021 we also began a new project to purchase and place a suitable stone bench for visitors on or near the Steele family plot, which will require additional fundraising. We are working with the Albany Rural Cemetery horticultural committee on a tree planting (a Copper Beech?), landscaping, and clearing a downed tree.

In the event of further pandemic-related delays on public gatherings, we will develop an online event featuring works by Steele, with the participation of several institutions.

We are creating a PowerPoint program about Steele for all audiences, which will include a biography and overview of his work. We also continue to work on our website, along with acknowledgements and mementoes for our donors.

The Fourth Garrideb — Greg D. Ruby

August 12, 2021	Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes Dinner
-----------------	--

The year 2021 was not an active year for our group, but we were able to hold our Numismatic Friends of Sherlock Holmes dinner on August 12, 2021,

during the World's Fair of Money in Chicago by the American Numismatic Association.

We look forward to being more active in 2022, as well as holding two dinners in Colorado Springs and again in Chicago.

For more information, please visit: fourthgarrideb.com/ or email Greg@FourthGarrideb.com.

The Sherlockian Chronology Guild — Brad Keefauver

The Sherlockian Chronology Guild formed in January 2021 after two Sherlockian chronologists, Vincent W. Wright and Brad Keefauver decided a venue was needed to share notes and discoveries between Sherlockians who were practicing the art and science of putting historical dates on Watson's accounts. The result was a monthly PDF newsletter called *Timeline*, where members could report and discuss the work of past chronologists, two specific cases each month, and new discoveries in both history and the Sherlockian world.

Over the course of 2021, the group went from six to eighteen members, demonstrating that there was much more interest in the subject than the founders originally thought. An attempt was made to form a "Chronology Supreme Court" to work out some consensus on dating the sixty cases of Sherlock Holmes, but the court failed to reach a proper quorum, even as membership grew, and that project was delayed, hopefully to start again in the new year.

In the last month of 2021, we were proud to report the discovery by Vincent Wright of an 1898 Sherlockian chronologist writing as "H.E.W.", a student at Cornell University who was later revealed as Helen Elizabeth Wilson. Having found our past, the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild continues to take the field of Sherlockian chronology into the future, as bumpy a road as Watson may have put in front of us with his dates.

The Beacon Society — Carla Coupe

January 9, 2021	Public Meeting
-----------------	----------------

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Beacon Society has been able to continue its mission of bringing the Canon to young people through a variety of new and established programs. More information on all of the programs and activities described is available at the Beacon Society website: www.beaconsociety.com.

The Susan Z. Diamond Beacon Award is given to an individual or organization that successfully introduces young people to Sherlock Holmes. In addition to a certificate and a cash award of \$221, the recipient receives subscriptions to the *Baker Street Journal* and *The Serpentine Muse*. The 2021 award was presented to Steve Mason, who as Communications Chair is the life-blood of the Beacon Society, but who also co-writes the comic “Baker Street Elementary,” and is a Sherlockian evangelist.

We are always interested in receiving nominations for future Beacon Awards. If you know of an individual or society that has worked to bring Sherlock Holmes to young people, please send in your nomination by November 15th.

Last year, the Beacon Society awarded eight Jan Stauber Grants to organizations and individuals. These grants of up to \$750 help educators fund their Sherlock-Holmes-related programs. Beginning in 2022, the maximum grant request will increase to \$800.

We also focus on students through the R. Joel Senter, Sr. Essay Contest, which accepts Sherlockian essays in three age categories. Not only do the winners receive plaques and cash prizes, their essays are collected into a pdf and are available to download.

Our new gazette *Sherlock's Spotlight* is directed at younger readers, and includes story synopses, short articles about characters in the Canon and life in Victorian England, as well as puzzles, mazes, and other fun activities. Issues of *Sherlock's Spotlight* are available to download.

We encourage young Sherlockians to join the Junior Sherlockian Society. They can earn their deerstalker and magnifying glass by completing 221B activities to explore (2), experience (2), extend (1), and then “B” recognized. Specifics are available at www.juniorsherlockian.com.

Adult Sherlockians can test their mettle by taking the Fortescue Scholarship Honours Program examinations and receiving appropriate degrees: Baccalaureatus Scientia in Sherlockiana, Artium Magister in Sherlockiana, and Doctorate in Sherlockiana. If you've already completed these examinations, you can continue your education by taking the recertification exam.

For Sherlockians looking to create or join a society, our interactive map and hints on forming a society will be useful. We also have write-ups on several societies, as well as some newsletters and other periodicals. You can find Sherlockians all over the globe!

Our newest program is the Library Display Program, aimed at helping Sherlockian societies set up display cases at their local libraries. These boxes will contain a variety of Sherlockian items that can form the foundation of a display, which the society can then customize with items on loan from their

members. This program has been on hold during the pandemic, but we are now preparing to launch it publicly. Stay tuned for more information.

None of these programs and activities would be possible without our donors, for whom we are immensely grateful. Their generosity and support enable the Beacon Society to flourish and spread the joy of reading about Sherlock Holmes, as well as watching television and movie adaptations, listening to radio versions, and following in the intellectual and detectival footsteps of the Master.

For more information, please visit: www.beaconsociety.com/.

SHERLOCK ON THE WEB 2021

FIVE MILES FROM ANYWHERE

*Derrick Belanger**

Five Miles from Anywhere is an international Scion Society that formed in May of 2020. The group was created specifically as a monthly virtual discussion group to help Sherlockians around the world feel more connected during the covid-19 pandemic. The group was started by Derrick Belanger and includes board members from around the world including Jay Ganguly, BSI (India), Steve Emecz (United Kingdom), Stephen Herczeg (Australia), and Brian Belanger (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 discusses a Sherlock Holmes adventure. Sometimes the discussion is around a story from the canon and other times it is around a pastiche or a Sherlockian topic. One of the requirements is that if a pastiche is discussed, all members receive a free electronic copy of the story. We had ten meetings in 2021. We took a break in July, and had a speaker cancellation in September. The talks in 2021 were as follows:

January, 2021 — Larry Feldman gave a talk on *The Apocrypha* and led a lively discussion of the story “The Lost Special.”

February 2021 — Steve Mason, BSI gave a talk on the Sherlock Holmes story, “The Six Napoleons.” Rich Krisciunas gave a brief talk on the legal issues involved in “The Six Napoleons.”

March, 2021 — Author Thomas Burns led a discussion on his story, “The Camberwell Poisoner” which was published in *The Strand*.

April, 2021 — Anna Behrens discussed “J. Habakuk Jephson’s Statement,” the story that led to the legend surrounding the Mary Celeste.

May, 2021 — Brian Belanger gave a talk on the history of Sherlock Holmes comic books and highlighted some specific examples which stand out.

June, 2021 — Derrick Belanger gave a brief talk entitled, “A Study in Combat” which looked at how Holmes developed his fighting skills to be able to defeat Professor Moriarty.

August, 2021 — Nancy Holder, BSI gave a talk on Sherlockian parody. The talk highlighted examples from the book, *Sherlock Holmes of Baking Street*.

* Derrick Belanger is the founder of Belanger Books (<https://belangerbooks.com/>) and of Five Miles from Anywhere: An International Sherlock Holmes Society.

October, 2021 — Jerry Margolin, BSI shared highlights from his collection of Sherlockian art work, the largest collection of Sherlock Holmes artwork in the world.

November, 2021 — Author Tom Turley discussed his pastiche “A Scandal in Serbia” and led a discussion on Irene Adler and different theories about her relationship with Sherlock Holmes.

December, 2021 — A panel made up of Dan Andriacco, BSI, Brian Belanger, David Marcum, and Derrick Belanger discussed August Derleth’s Christmas Solar Pons adventure, “The Adventure of the Unique Dickensians.”

All of the 2021 Five Miles from Anywhere meetings were recorded and are now available on our Youtube channel.¹

HOUNDS OF THE INTERNET

*Alexander E. Braun**

The Hounds of the Internet has been in existence since 1992. We are a recognized scion society of the Baker Street Irregulars, made up of an international, diverse group, all enthusiastic admirers of Sherlock Holmes, the world’s first consulting detective, as well as of his friend and biographer, Doctor John H. Watson, who participated in and recorded most of the great detective’s cases. These stories originally were published by Dr. Watson’s literary agent, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

We enjoy regularly visiting with our two friends, who reside in an almost mythical long-lost London, where the ever-thick yellow fog slowly swirling in the night’s cold causes already dim gaslights to fail at twenty paces while the distant, haunting clattering sound of a hansom cab speeding through the darkness echoes hollowly over slick, wet cobblestones. We not only take pleasure in discussing the various stories penned by Dr. Watson, but also have a special love for Holmes and Watson’s world and time: Victorian England.

Our members (now 250+) are of all ages, nationalities, and backgrounds. Once a week we email a newsletter focusing upon one of the 60 Canonical stories, which analyzes various aspects of the weekly adventure to stimulate discussion; a timeline of what was happening in the world at the time of the story is always included. Very often, the newsletter offers a sidebar concentrating on some Canonical matter. Our most recent one dealt with airguns.

¹ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0msAhK3Awcs5cpXOj4zI4A>.

* Alexander E. Braun is “Murray, the Courageous Orderly” in the Hounds of the Internet. Copyright 2022 Alexander E. Braun.

Some time back, the current list owner, Alexander E. Braun, made arrangements to have our society hosted by the University of Edinburgh, a very suitable location in view of the fact that it is Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's alma mater.

Members of The Hounds of the Internet pay no membership fees. If you wish to join us in the Great Game email our Master of Hounds, Alexander E. Braun at courageousmurray@aol.com, telling him a little about yourself and how you first met the Great Detective and his friend and colleague.

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES

A DIRECTORY

*Mike McSwiggin**

What follows is a list of Sherlockian groups and societies, in categories based on their geography, their professional connections, or some other characteristic. Geographic groups are arranged by state for groups in the United States and by country for those outside of the United States. Professional groups are listed alphabetically (each listing describes the profession represented). Finally, the category “Other” contains groups that are internet-based, American national groups (not confined to a particular state), or simply unclassifiable. Eternal thanks to Peter Blau, BSI, who is the keeper of lists and general fount of knowledge for all things Sherlockian. We have used mailing address contact information supplied to him by the groups listed here, augmented wherever possible with updated email addresses, websites, and Facebook groups.

As with all topics in this almanac, we look to you, the reader, to supplement our understanding and knowledge. If your group’s contact information should be updated or is missing entirely, please let us know. Ideally, we would like postal, email, website, and Facebook group information, along with the group’s name and any other pertinent information. We are now also adding Instagram and Twitter accounts, when available.

While the world still struggles with the pandemic as we enter 2022, live Sherlockian activities are certainly on the rise. Far beyond the Baker Street Irregulars, many local groups that were Zoom-only during the first two years of the pandemic have begun to meet in person. Some groups have pioneered live-plus-Zoom (most notably the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis), so that both in-person and at-home members can enjoy Sherlockian fellowship. And, of course, some groups have maintained Zoom-only status for the time being. Unfortunately, some groups have gone dormant. Whether they return to active status in the future is yet to be determined. One newly listed group is the ultimate by-product of the Zoom era — The Legion of Zoom (a group that requires its members to have attended Zoom meetings by at least 17 different Sherlockian societies).

There are some groups that I have listed here whose status is unclear to me. I have several emails that have gone unanswered. To solve the issue, I am taking a very un-21st-century solution: I am sending letters to some groups that I want to double check. Be on the lookout for one of my letters

* Mike McSwiggin is “A Seven-Per-Cent Solution” in the Baker Street Irregulars.

if you are a contact of one the listed groups. I hope this novel approach helps to solve a few mysteries and strengthens this list for 2023.

As always, I appreciate the help I have received from so many across the globe. This chapter is a culmination of your hard work, not mine. Please email me (at mikemcswiggin@gmail.com) with any updates, additions, or deletions. Thanks to everyone for helping us out!

SHERLOCKIAN SOCIETIES BY COUNTRY

Austria

Baker Street Vienna
Silvia Groniewicz
Anton-Baumgartnerstrasse 44/C5/1/1
1230 Vienna
AUSTRIA
<https://www.facebook.com/BakerStreetVienna/>

Australia

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Melbourne
Michael Duke
PO Box 248
Hampton
Victoria 3188
AUSTRALIA
mmgduke@bigpond.net.au

The Sherlock Holmes Society of South Australia
Mark Chellew
P.O. Box 85
Daw Park, SA 5041
AUSTRALIA
<https://adelaiderascals.com/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Western Australia
Fred Rutter
49 Cedar Way
Forrestfield, WA 6058
AUSTRALIA
camden.house@telstra.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/105055146203626>

The Sydney Passengers
Bill Barnes
19 Malvern Avenue
Manly, N.S.W. 2095
AUSTRALIA
<http://www.sherlock.on.net/>

Belgium

Le peloton des cyclistes solitaires
Cedric C. Goffinet
Rue de Levallois-Perret 46
B-1080 Bruxelles
BELGIUM
cedric.goffinet@skynet.be

Brazil

The Isadora Klein Amateur Mendicant Society
Carlos Orsi Martinho
r. Zacarias de Goes, 404, ap. 92
Jundiai-SP 13201-800
BRAZIL
carlos.orsi71@gmail.com

Canada

The Bimetallic Question
Wilfrid de Freitas
Box 883, Stock Exchange Tower
Montreal, QC H4Z 1K2
CANADA
<http://www.bimetallicquestion.org/>

The Bootmakers of Toronto
Thelma Beam
360 Bloor Street East #910
Toronto, ON M4W 3M3
CANADA
ccr@pathcom.com
<https://www.torontobootmakers.com/>

The Spence Munros
Mark J. Alberstat
CANADA
HalifaxSherlock@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Spence-Munros-212957769636/>

The London Cesspudlians
Mark Hanson
70 Augusta Crescent
London, ON N6E 2E1
CANADA

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Main Street Irregulars
Trevor S. Raymond
4 Lyons Court
Georgetown, ON L7G 5P4
CANADA
bootprint@cogeco.ca

The Stormy Petrels of British Columbia
Fran Martin
#904 – 901 Colborne Street
New Westminster, BC V3L 5E9
CANADA
franziskah@shaw.ca
<https://thestormypetrels.com/>

The Stratford on Avon Sherlock Holmes Society
Jack Winn
32 Ontario Street #3
Stratford, ON N5A 3GB
CANADA
<https://www.facebook.com/Stratford-On-Avon-Sherlock-Holmes-Society-890766164306152/>

The Wisteria Lodgers of Edmonton
Constantine Kaoukakis
9705 163rd Street NW
Edmonton, AB T5P 3N1
CANADA
<https://sherlockholmesedmonton.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SHSEWL>

Czech Republic

Ceska spolecnost Sherlocka Holmese (The Czech Society of Sherlock Holmes)
Aleš Kolodrubec
CZECH REPUBLIC
kontakt@sherlockholmes.cz
<http://www.sherlockholmes.cz/>

Institute for the Study and the Life and Work of Sherlock Holmes
CZECH REPUBLIC
<http://www.sherlockian.cz/>

Denmark

Sherlock Holmes Klubben i Danmark (The Danish Baker Street Irregulars)

Mia Stampe Lagergaard

Nivaagade 3, 2

DK-2200 Copenhagen N

DENMARK

info@sherlockholmesklubben.dk

<http://sherlockholmesklubben.dk>

<https://www.facebook.com/SHKlubben/>

<https://twitter.com/SherlockDK>

The Cimbrian Friends of Baker Street

The South Denmark Philharmonic

Att. Jens Byskov Jensen

Alsion 2

DK-6400 Sønderborg

DENMARK

jens@byskovjensen.com

France

Cabinet du patient résidant / Pau — Sherlock Holmes

François Pardeilhian

3, Chemin du Bedat

64160 Saint Castin

FRANCE

lepatientresidant@orange.fr

Club des hydropathes holmésiens

“Montrachet”

Rue des Boulangers

75005 Paris

FRANCE

saint-joanis@sshf.com

Evadés de Dartmoor

François Hoff

19, rue du Maréchal-Joffre

67000 Strasbourg

FRANCE

<http://lesevadesdedartmoor1.free.fr>

Grand dépôt de Paris de la Franco-Midland

(SSHF Paris branch)

Jean-Pierre Cagnat

13, rue de l’Ancienne-Comédie

75006 Paris

FRANCE

sshf@sshf.com

Hôtel Dulong
(SSHF Lyon branch)
Jean-Pierre Crauser
36 bis, rue Saint-Antoine
69003 Lyon
FRANCE
jpcrauser@gmail.com

Le Cercle Holmésien de Paris
Jean-Christophe Remont
Paris
FRANCE
<https://cercleholmesparis.fr/qui-sommes-nous/>
<https://www.facebook.com/CercleHolmesienDeParis>
<https://twitter.com/LeCercleHolmes>

Société Sherlock Holmes de France
Thierry Saint-Joanis
Paris
FRANCE
saint-joanis@sshf.com
<https://www.sherlockians.com/sshf>
<https://www.facebook.com/SocieteSherlockHolmesdeFrance/>
https://twitter.com/s_s_h_f

Germany

Deutsche Sherlock-Holmes-Gesellschaft
Olaf H. Maurer
Wanderstrasse 31
D-67071 Ludwigshafen am Rhein
GERMANY
<https://dshc.de/>

Hungary

The Hungarian Sherlock Holmes Club
HUNGARY
sherlockclub@gmail.com
<https://sherlock.blog.hu>
<http://sherlockian-sherlock.com/>

India

The Sherlock Holmes Society of India
Cmdt (JG) Sumal Surendranath
Principal Directorate of Law (Rm 27)
Coast Guard HQ, Natl Stadium Complex
Purana Quila Road, New Delhi 110001,
<http://www.sherlockholmessociety.in/>

Iraq

The Baker Street Arabs
Robert F. Cryne
U.S. Embassy-Iraq
RCLO, Room S-115
APO AE 08316
robert.cryne@usdoj.gov

Israel

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Jerusalem
Moshe Nalick
Kiryat Telshe-Stone 114/3
D.N. Harei Yehuda
ISRAEL
moshenalick@hotmail.com

Italy

Uno Studio in Holmes
Via San Gallo 77
50139 Firenze, ITALY
monterivecchi@gmail.com
<http://www.unostudioinholmes.org/>

Japan

The Circle of the Trained Cormorant
Nob Yamamoto
2-17-101 Iwaei-cho
Gifu-shi, Gifu 500-8134
JAPAN
jshc-u@bbweb-arena.com

The Japan Sherlock Holmes Club
Akane Higashiyama
Ohizumi-machi 2-55-8
Nerima-ku, Tokyo 178-0062
JAPAN
<http://www.holmesjapan.jp/english/index.htm>

The Men with the Twisted Konjo
Yuichi Hirayama
2-10-12 Kamirenjaku, Mitaka-shi
Tokyo 181-0012
JAPAN
shosoinbulletin@me.com

Kyrgyzstan

The Seventeen Steppes
Loudmila Konkova
Kurmanjan-Datka Str 271
Osh Oblast Library, Soros Res. Ctr.
KYRGYZSTAN 714000

The Netherlands

The Baarn Baskervilles
Jan-Just Middel
Nieuw Baarnstraat #4-C
3743 BR Baarn
THE NETHERLANDS
jjmiddel@yahoo.com

New Zealand

The Antipodean Holmesian Society
Ted Nye
51 Irvine Road, The Cove
Dunedin
NEW ZEALAND
ted.nye@stonebow.otago.ac.nz

Portugal

Os Naufragos de Nora Creina [The Norah Creina Castaways]
Joel Lima
Largo do Mastro 29-3, Porta D
1100 Lisboa
PORTUGAL

Spain

The Amateur Mendicant Society of Madrid
Miguel Gonzalez Pedel
Mozart 15 (6-F)
28008 Madrid
SPAIN
stsimon100@hotmail.com

Círculo Holmes
Miguel Ojeda
Passeig Maragall, 23, Esc. A, 7º 1ª
08026 Barcelona
SPAIN
circuloholmes@gmail.com
<http://www.circuloholmes.org.es/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/262504147646/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

Sweden

The Baskerville Hall Club of Sweden
SWEDEN
wiggstrom@telia.com
<http://www.sherlockholmes.se/>

The Fierce Badgers in Ystad
Lars Jannedal
Hagermansgatan 16
SE-26132 Ystad
SWEDEN

The Swedish Pathological Society
Joakim Eklund
Norsesundsvagen 71
SE-44163 Alingsås
SWEDEN
joakim.eklund@interaktivaideer.com

Switzerland

The Reichenbach Irregulars
Michael A. Meer
Conan Doyle Place
Postfach 688
CH-3860 Meiringen
SWITZERLAND
michael.meer@gmx.net
<http://www.221b.ch/>

Societe d'etudes holmesiennes de la Suisse romande
Vincent Delay
Parc-de-la-Rouvraie 8
1018 Lausanne
SWITZERLAND

United Kingdom

The Crew of the S.S. May Day
Oscar Ross
19 Ardcarney Way
Belfast BT5 7RP, Northern Ireland
UNITED KINGDOM
rocross221b@yahoo.co.uk
<http://thessmayday.org.uk/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Deerstalkers of Welshpool
Roy Upton-Holder
146 Little Henfaes Drive
Welshpool SY21 7BA
GREAT BRITAIN
<https://holmeswelshpool.com/>

The Poor Folk Upon the Moors
Geraldine Beare
ENGLAND
info@poorfolk.co.uk
<https://www.poorfolk.co.uk/>

The Sherlock Appreciation Society
Sharon Jones
UK EN Bolton Bolton Sixth Form College
Dean Road, Bolton BL3 5BU
ENGLAND
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/325607570921551/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Cheltenham
Reginald Lee
19 Wellington Place, London Road
Cheltenham GL52 6EW
ENGLAND
reginaldlee@hotmail.co.uk

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London
David Jones
ENGLAND
carstoncastleshsl@gmail.com
<http://www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk/>

The Sherlock Holmes Society of Scotland
Barry Young
19 Windsor Court, Dirleton Drive
Glasgow G41 3BG
GREAT BRITAIN
holmesscottish@gmail.com
<http://sherlockscotland.blogspot.com/>

United States

— *Alabama*

The Disreputable Little Scarecrows of the Shoals
Terry Pace
808 Alabama Avenue
Sheffield, AL 35660-2824
pillaroffire@bellsouth.net

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Eastern Shore Irregulars
Philip Ellis
Box 2661
Daphne, AL 36526-2661
golftodaynews@yahoo.com

The Greek Interpreters of Athens...Alabama
Alan Barksdale
262 West Lake Circle
Madison, AL 35758
afbarksd@hiwaay.net
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1454146627974269>

— *Alaska*

The Singular Society of the Lion's Mane
Erin Bentley
7500 Trenton Lane
Anchorage, AK 99502-3142
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Singular-Society-of-The-Lions-Mane-434045767374268/>

— *Arizona*

The Desert Beekeepers
Doris and Richard Dale
Box 18635
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269-8635
dorisdale@interwrx.com

The Transfixed Correspondence of Phoenix
Lauren Cercone
2512 West Gary Way
Phoenix, AZ 85401-7639
Transfixedcorrespondence@gmail.com
<https://www.meetup.com/Phoenix-Sherlockians/>
<https://www.facebook.com/transfixedcorrespondence/>

— *Arkansas*

The Arkansas Valley Investors, Ltd.
George Wildgen
42 Cimarron Valley Circle
Little Rock, AR 72212-3502
mzwildgen@ualr.edu

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *California*

The Blind German Mechanics
Wally Conger
2650 Brentwood Circle
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420-5543
wconger@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/43218057055/>

The Blustering Gales from the South-West
Carol Sperling
4864 West 120th Street
Hawthorne, CA 90250-2725
carol.ann.sperling@gmail.com
<http://www.coliserv.net/bgsww/>

The Christopher Morley Whiskey & Sodality Club
Steven E. Whiting
3245 University Avenue #1-150
San Diego, CA 92104-2009
drwhiting@aol.com

The Curious Collectors of Baker Street
Jerry and Chrys Kegley
18014 Sherman Way #275
Reseda, CA 91335-4639
jkegley@socal.rr.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Curious-Collectors-of-Baker-Street-CCOBS-163335686396/>

The Diogenes Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea
John Postovit
jpostovit@comcast.net

The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn [California]
John P. Sohl
20446 Orey Place
Winnetka, CA 91306-4246
jpsohl@earthlink.net

The Grimpen Admirers of Sherlock Holmes
Steven E. Whiting
3245 University Avenue #1-150
San Diego, CA 92104-2009
<https://www.facebook.com/Grimpen-Admirers-of-Sherlock-Holmes-757195544388633/>

Holmes' Hounds at Baker Street West

Linda Hein

Hein & Co. Books & Vintage Goods

204 Main Street

Jackson, CA 95642-2332

info@bakerstreetwest.com

<https://bakerstreetwest.com/holmes-hounds/>

<https://www.facebook.com/holmeshound/>

The Loungers and Idlers of the Empire

Edna Jukofsky

5316 Huddart Avenue

Arcadia, CA 91006-5953

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLoungersAndIdlersOfTheEmpire/>

The Noble West Enders

Jim Ferreira

573 Oriole Avenue

Livermore, CA 94550-2684

bakerstreet@comcast.net

The Persian Slipper Club of San Francisco

Raymond A. de Groat

19147 Crest Avenue

Castro Valley, CA 94546-2816

harrawaybsi@att.net

The Scowrers and Molly Maguires of San Francisco

Marc Kaufman

17 Mountain Meadow Road

Woodside, CA 94062-4413

mcmurdo@scowrers.org

The Trained Cormorants of Long Beach, California

Jim Coffin

6570 East Paseo Alcazaa

Anaheim, CA 92807-4910

jcmusbus@aol.com

— *Colorado*

Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients

Darlene Cypser

DrWatson@dwnp.com

<http://dwnp.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DrWatsonsNP/>

<https://twitter.com/DrWatsonNP>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *Connecticut*

The Men on the Tor
Greg Darak
20 Spinning Wheel Rd.
Trumbull, CT 06611
darak@att.net

The Cheshire Sherlock Holmes Society
Andrew Tranquilli
390 Contour Drive
Cheshire, CT 06410-2105
tranquilli@hotmail.com

The Yale Sherlock Holmes Society
Linda C. Mayes
230 South Frontage Road
New Haven, CT 06519-1124
linda.mayes@yale.edu

— *District of Columbia*

The Red Circle of Washington, D.C.
Peter E. Blau
7103 Endicott Court
Bethesda, MD 20817-4401
blau7103@comcast.net
<http://www.redcircledc.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Red-Circle-of-Washington-DC-159029477489137/>

— *Florida*

The Fresh Rashers of Estero Island
Fort Myers Beach — FL
David J. Milner
6 Crowndale Drive
Taylors, SC 29687-4031
billemason@aol.com

The Friends of Sherlock Holmes
Les Moskowitz
7067 Trentino Way
Boynton Beach, FL 33472-7301
Les221b@comcast.net

The Pleasant Places of Florida
Carl L. Heifetz
12825 Astonwood Drive #212
Tampa, FL 33626-3131
microdoc@tampabay.rr.com
<http://ppofl.net/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Sherlock Holmes Mystery Club
Howard S. Schoen
7833 Whispering Palms Drive #202
Boynton Beach, FL 33437-3842
howmil@adelphia.net

The Tropical Deerstalkers
Robert S. Ennis
3455 Stallion Lane
Weston, FL 33331-3035
lsterndale@aol.com
<http://tropicaldeerstalkers.blogspot.com/>

— *Georgia*

Wisteria Lodge
Diana Williams
atlantawisterialodge@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/AtlantaSherlockHolmesSociety/>

— *Hawaii*

The Shaka Sherlockians of Hawaii
Dr Joseph T. Page Jr
shakasherlockian@gmail.com
<https://www.shakasherlockian.com/>

— *Illinois*

Altamont's Agents of Chicago
John N. Wilson
11837 West 118th Street
Palos Park, IL 60464-1401

The Baker Street Pages
Tim O'Connor
6015 West Route 115
Herscher, IL 60941-6139
bakerstreetpages@yahoo.com

The BeeSpeckled Band
Brenda Rossini
PO Box 517
Winnetka, IL 60093
agrirtig@aol.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Chester Baskerville Society
Michael W. McClure
1415 Swanwick Street
Chester, IL 62233-1317
watson7654321@gmail.com
<https://www.baskervilleproductions.com/sherlock>

Colonel Sebastian Moran's Secret Gun Club
William (Beau) Meskan
6456 N. Keating Ave.
Lincolnwood, IL 60712-3411
CHDRagon1@aol.com

The Criterion Bar Association
Franklin Saksena
83 Salem Lane
Evanston, IL 60203
franklin.saksena@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Criterion-Bar-Association-188549744619973/>

The Hansoms of John Clayton
Brad Keefauver
4009 Chelsea Place
Peoria, IL 61614-7201
bradkeefauver@comcast.net

The Hounds of the Baskerville (sic)
Al Shaw
1423 S. Birch Drive
Mount Prospect, IL 60065
alan.shaw@mindspring.com
<http://www.houndsofthebaskerville.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/142036956140299/>

Hugo's Companions
Al Shaw
1423 S. Birch Drive
Mount Prospect, IL 60065
alan.shaw@mindspring.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/673134672807200/>

Pondicherry Lodge
Mary Denham
40 Westwood Terrace
Springfield, IL 62702-4611

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Scotland Yarders
Janice Weiner
6540 N. Richmond Street
Chicago, IL 60645-4209
jlweiner@sbcglobal.net
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/775061845982024/>

The Sons of Baker Street
Wayne B. Siatt
1132 West Curtiss Street #3-C
Downers Grove, IL 60515-4625
wsiatt@att.net

The South Downers
Phil Angelo
740 South Greenwood Avenue
Kankakee, IL 60901-5252
philangelo@comcast.net
<https://southdowners.com/>

The Tenacious Bulldogs
George H. Scheetz
406 Wolcott Lane
Batavia, IL 60510-2838
gscheetz@bataviapubliclibrary.org

The Torists International, S.S.
Bob Sharfman
1325 N. State Parkway, Apt 11A
Chicago, IL 60610-6120
robertsharfman@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/thetorists/>

The Wizards of Iz, SBC (Sherlockian Brunch Society)
Brenda Rossini
PO Box 517
Winnetka, IL 60093
agrrtig@aol.com

— *Indiana*

The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis
Steve Doyle
9 Calumet Court
Zionsville, IN 46077
sdoyle221b@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Illustrious-Clients-of-Indianapolis-184841455301/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Solitary Cyclists of South Bend

Michael J. Crowe

4318 Foxfire Drive

South Bend, IN 46628-4069

Crowe.1@nd.edu

<https://sites.google.com/site/solitarycyclists/home/officers>

— *Iowa*

The Iowa Valley of Fear

P.J. Colbert

Marshalltown Community College

3700 South Center Street

Marshalltown, IA 50158-4760

P.J.Colbert@iavalley.edu

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2337802746533706/>

The Sign of Four Cities (Quad Cities)

Susan Perry

sgoody162@aol.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2337802746533706/>

The Younger Stamfords

Monica Schmidt

1640 Deborah Drive NE

Solon, IA 52333-9324

YoungerStamfords@gmail.com

<http://icSherlock.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2337802746533706/>

— *Kansas*

The Great Alkali Plainsmen

Dan Payton

15835 W 137th Street

Olathe, KS 66062

dpgadawg@gmail.com

<https://alkaliplainsmen.wixsite.com/greatalkaliplainsmen>

— *Kentucky*

The Silver Blazers

Ralph Hall

2906 Wallingford Court

Louisville, KY 40218-2363

hall221b@aol.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *Louisiana*

Le Cercle de Sherlock Holmes
R. W. Culver
4324 Loveland Street
Metairie, LA 70006-4122
r.w.culver@worldnet.att.net

— *Maryland*

The Denizens of the Bar of Gold
Art Renkowitz
1908 Pig Neck Road
Cambridge, MD 21613-3644
RenkowitzA@gmail.com
<http://www.homeroomd140.com/denizens.html>

The Sherlockians of Baltimore
Greg Ruby
SherlockiansofBaltimore@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/SherlockiansBaltimore/>

The Six Napoleons of Baltimore
Andy Solberg
SixNapoleonsOfBaltimore@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2132592560358582/>

Watson's Tin Box
Jacquelynn Morris
watsonstinbox.info@gmail.com
<http://www.watsonstinbox.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/57660702562/>

— *Massachusetts*

The Friends of Irene Adler
Joel Schwartz
joels.schwartz@earthlink.net

Sherlock Holmes Pipe Club of Boston
Nelson Pidgeon
shpcboston@yahoo.com
<http://www.shpcboston.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/969181429838704/>

The Speckled Band of Boston
George Schwartz
32 Forest Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907
ghscash@gmail.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *Michigan*

The Amateur Mendicant Society
Christopher Music
6717 Snow Apple Drive
Clarkston, MI, 48346-2163
christopherdmusic@gmail.com
<http://www.amateurmendicantsociety.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/AmateurMendicantSocietyOfDetroit/>

The Greek Interpreters of East Lansing
Shari Conroy
4440 Beeman Road
Williamston, MI 48895-9607
jconroy45@gmail.com
<http://thegreekinterpreters.org/>

The Ribston-Pippins
Regina Stinson
715 Amelia Avenue
Royal Oak, MI 48073-2756
pippinviolet@gmail.com
<http://www.ribston-pippins.com/index.html>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/485187822161746>

— *Minnesota*

The Norwegian Explorers of Minnesota
Tom Gottwalt
NorwegianExplorers@gmail.com
<http://www.norwegianexplorers.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/572794092812100/>

— *Missouri*

The Harpooners of the Sea Unicorn
J. Andrew basford
pcairnes26@outlook.com
<https://harpooners.wordpress.com/>
<https://whalingnews.wordpress.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/Harpooners.MO/>
https://twitter.com/Harpooners_MO

The Jefferson Hopes of St. Louis
Michael Waxenberg
7353 Princeton Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63130-2923
waxenberglaw@gmail.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Noble Bachelors of St. Louis
Randall Getz
6330 Waterman Ave.
University City, MO 63130
rgetz@swbell.net

The Parallel Case of St. Louis
Rob Nunn
robertanunn@gmail.com
<https://parallelcasestl.wixsite.com/home>
<https://www.facebook.com/parallelcasestl/>

— *Nebraska*

The Maiwand Jezails
Lee Polikov
Office of the County Attorney
1210 Golden Gate Drive
Papillon, NE
leepolikov@cox.net

The Omaha Sherlockian Society
Carl Wirth
2720 North 45th Avenue
Omaha, NE 68104-4527
stanw31@cox.net
<http://www.omahasherlockiansociety.org/>

— *New Hampshire*

Cox & Co. of New England
David W. Houle
193 Currier Drive
Manchester, NH 03104-4735
jhw221b@hotmail.com

Sherlock Holmes Club of the Upper Valley
Tom Brydges
14 Berrill Farms Lane
Hanover, NH 03755-3206
tombrydges3@gmail.com

— *New Jersey*

The Red-Headed League of New Jersey
Steve and Linda Morris
723 Drake Avenue
Middlesex, NJ 08846-2143
RHLeagueNJ@aol.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/RHLeagueNJ/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *New Mexico*

The Dog(s) in the Night
Graham Sudbury
Box 506
Taos, NM 87571-0506

— *New York*

Altamont's Agents
Thomas A. Dandrew II
375 Langley Road
Amsterdam, NY 12010-7915
altamont@telenet.net

The Avenging Winters of Albany
C.M. Powers
<https://theavengingwintersofalbany.wordpress.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/avengingwintersofalbany/>

The Baker Street Underground
Andrew Jay Peck
185 West End Avenue #11-F
New York, NY 10023-5544
apsherlock@hotmail.com

The Consulting Detectives
Herbert M. Levy
Box 197
East Meadow, NY 11554-0197

The Delaware Deerstalkers
Leonard E. Sienko, Jr.
12 East Main Street
Hancock, NY 13783-1128

The Hudson Valley Scientists
Lou Lewis
2 Loockerman Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-4906
llewis@lewisgreer.com
<http://hudsonvalleyscientists.homestead.com/>

The Mycroft Holmes Society of Syracuse
Carol Cavalluzzi
6409 Terese Terrace, Jamesville, NY, 13078,
cacavall@outlook.com
and

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

Joseph Coppola
103 Kenny St, Fayetteville, NY 13066
coppolja@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1013100595455929/>

The Priory Scholars of NYC
Nick Martorelli
nickmartorelli@gmail.com
<https://prioryscholarsnyc.wordpress.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/PrioryNYC>

Rochester Row
William H. Brown
140 Colony Lane
Rochester, NY 14623
wbrown8273@gmail.com
<https://bit.ly/Roc2Row>

The Students of Deduction
Stephen Imburgia
1055 Klem Road
Webster, NY 14580-8628

The Three Garridebs
Sue and Ben Vizoskie
garridebs@aol.com
www.3garridebs.homestead.com

The Three Hours for Lunch Club
Burt Wolder (New York-based group)
8 Essex Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-2547
bwolder@gmail.com

The Young Sherlockians of New York
Mohamad Bazzi
8008 35th Avenue #5-F
Jackson Heights, NY 11372-4934

— *North Carolina*

Diogenes Club Excommunicants
Sally Humphreys
1474 Oberry Road
Mount Olive, NC 28365-7038
777.free@live.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

Sherlock Holmes Society of the Cape Fear
Tom Campbell
P. O. Box 347
Carolina Beach, NC 28428
tom@beachpc.com
<http://www.sherlockholmessociety.com/>

— *Ohio*

The Agra Treasurers
Lorraine Reibert
Dayton, OH
lady-l-weaving@sbcglobal.net
<http://www.agratreasurers.net/>

The Clients of Sherlock Holmes
Sherry Rose-Bond
5471 Riverport Drive
Columbus, OH 43221-5625
violethunter@columbus.rr.com

The Inverness Capers
Michael Senuta
881 North Columbine Drive
Barberton, OH 44203-4320

Mrs. Hudson's Lodgers
Jeffrey Cunningham
1780 Kingsley Avenue
Akron, OH 44313-6142
jmc376@gmail.com
<https://www.mrshudsonsloegers.com/>

The Stormy Petrels of Maumee Bay
Mark McGovern
3033 Sherbrooke Road
Toledo, OH 43606
mcgovernmodels@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StormyPetrelsMaumeeBay>

The Tankerville Club
Cincinnati, OH
Dan Andriacco
tankervilleclub@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Tankerville-Club-1926753590689616/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *Oklahoma*

The Afghanistan Perceivers of Oklahoma, Inc.
Rosalie Mollica
5717 S. Harvard Ct.
Unit B
Tulsa, OK 74135
ramollica@yahoo.com

The Elder Brothers of John W. Watson
Richard Kearns
1615 South Columbia Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74104-5903
brianwilsontulsa@gmail.com

— *Oregon*

The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle
Terri Zensen
15103 N.E. 27th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98686-1524
<https://sherlockholmesportland.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/NMSOBC/>

The Vamberry Wine Merchants
Drucilla Weiland
7550 Ridgewood Drive
Gladstone, OR 97027-1462

— *Pennsylvania*

Boss McGinty's Bird Watchers
Frederick C. Sauls
Department of Chemistry
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0802
fcsauls@kings.edu

The Diogenes Club of Scranton
Alan Sweeney
105 Washington Road
Scranton, PA 18509

The Fifth Northumberland Fusiliers
Anne-Marie Nelson
ammizel@verizon.net
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2930068153876119>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

Lodge 341, Vermissa
Julianne Burke
2998 Fairgrounds Rd.
Ashland, PA 17921
julianne221b@gmail.com

The Miners of Vermissa Valley
Terrence I. McKee
15 Lindsay Drive
Beaver Falls, PA 15010-3029
stmckee@comcast.net

The Regency Irregulars
James L. Young Jr.
Valley Forge, PA
james.l.young@verizon.net

The Sons of the Copper Beeches
Ross Davies
Philadelphia, PA
copperbeechesofphilly@gmail.com

The White Rose Irregulars of York
Denny Dobry
5003 Stony Run Drive
Reading, PA 19606-3816
dendobry@ptd.net

— *Rhode Island*

The Cornish Horrors
Burt Wolder
US RI Kingston 8 Essex Road
Scotch Plains, NJ 07076-2547
bwolder@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Cornish-Horrors-126862217346878/>

— *South Carolina*

The Hansom Wheels
Myrtle Robinson
6117 Lakeshore Drive
Columbia, SC 29206-4331
hansomwheels@aol.com
<http://www.hansomwheels.com/>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Survivors of the Gloria Scott

David J. Milner

6 Crowndale Drive

Taylors, SC 29687-4031

dmycroft@bellsouth.net

<https://www.facebook.com/SurvivorsoftheGloriaScott/>

— *South Dakota*

The Sign of the Four Faces

Cary J. Wencil

5009 South Caraway Drive

Sioux Falls, SD 57108-2822

cwencil@life-source.org

— *Tennessee*

The Fresh Rashers of Nashville

Bill Mason

2367 Lights Chapel Road

Greenbrier, TN 37073-4926

billemason@aol.com

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

635 West Drive

Memphis, TN 38112-1728

giantrats@hotmail.com

<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com/giantrat.htm>

The Nashville Scholars of the Three Pipe Problem

Jim Hawkins

644 Vivian Drive

Nashville, TN 37211

seniorhawk@gmail.com

<http://www.nashvillescholars.net/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/147713822227968/>

— *Texas*

The Abernety Family of Abilene, Texas

Larry Prince

633 Green Valley Drive

Abilene, TX 79601-4514

l-nconnect@suddenlink.net

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Crew of the Barque “Lone Star”

Steve Mason
9916 Angel Bend
Denton, TX 76208-2035
Mason.steve8080@gmail.com
<https://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

The Diogenes Club of Dallas

Jim Webb
3811 Wooded Creek Drive
Dallas, TX 75244-4751
DrJimWebb54@gmail.com

The John Openshaw Society

Brian Clark
8807 Burleson Court
Houston, TX 77064-7433
noreply@johnopenshaw.org
<http://www.johnopenshaw.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/TheJohnOpenshawSociety/>

— *Utah*

The Avenging Angels

Heidi-Marie Mason
5556 Marshwood Lane #4-E
Murray, UT 84107-6461
lowsee@gmail.com

The Country of the Saints

Kevin John
637 North 200 West
Brigham City, UT 84302-1415
brighamguy@hotmail.com

— *Vermont*

The Baker Street Breakfast Club

Jeff Bradway
93 Ridge Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201-1442
jeffry.bradway@gmail.com
<http://www.bakerstreetbreakfastclub.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/73987337494/>

The Goose Club of the Alpha Inn [Vermont]

William E. Wicker
140 Birchwood Drive
Colchester, VT 05446-6255
billwicker@comcast.net

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

— *Virginia*

The Cremona Fiddlers of Williamsburg
David F. Morrill
dfmnh61@yahoo.com

— *Washington*

The Dogs in the Nighttime
Kathleen Kaska
4309 Blue Heron Circle #201
Anacortes, WA 98221-3626
kathleenkaska@hotmail.com

The Sound of the Baskervilles
David and Terri Haugen
6710 51st Street Court West
University Place, WA 98467-2287
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
Bowles Rice LLP
7000 Hampton Center
Morgantown, WV 25595-1720
andyfusco@aol.com

— *Wisconsin*

The Merripit House Guests
Ed Christenson
2230 Meadowbrook Court #A
Oshkosh, WI 54904-7839
christenson.eddie@gmail.com

The Notorious Canary-Trainers
Glenn Link
200 La Crosse Street
Beaver Dam, WI 53916
linkfam@outlook.com
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/nct1969/info>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Original Tree Worshippers of Rock County

Gayle Lange Puhl

501 South Madison Street #12

Evansville, WI 53536-1350

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

Pda. 12 de la Brava, Ed. "Seaside"

Punta del Este, Maldonado

URUGUAY

cfernandez@anglo.edu.uy

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/368486129842276/>

SHERLOCKIAN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

The Alienists of Baker Street

practicing psychologists

Jason Hicks

941 Brookside Drive

Marshfield, MO 65706-8917

The Baker Street Bar Association

lawyers

David R. McCallister

8142 Quail Hollow Boulevard

Wesley Chapel, FL 33544-2021

drmmystery1881@gmail.com

The Board-School Beacons

educational research and psychometry

Michael H. Kean

3040 Sloat Road

Pebble Beach, CA 93953-2837

sherlockkean@gmail.com

Clerks of the Assizes

court clerks felony trial court

James Motylenski

537 Christie Street

South Hempstead, NY 11550-8004

The Diogenes Club of Washington, D.C.
past/present public servants or military
Michael J. Quigley
Briarbrae
2651 Fort Scott Drive
Arlington, VA 22202-2256
michael.j.quigley1970@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/DiogenesClubOfWashingtonDc/>

The Fairly Good Dispensers
pharmacists (and related fields)
Mike McSwiggin
6746 Jennifer Lynn Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45248-2142
mikemcswiggin@gmail.com

The Forensic Faces of Sherlock Holmes
forensic science
Marina Stajic
425 East 51st Street #4-A
New York, NY 10022-6465
MStajic@aol.com

The Master's Masons
members of the Masons
Ron Fish
Box 4
Circleville, NY 10919-0004
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

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

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Practical, But Limited, Geologists
geology
Peter E. Blau
7103 Endicott Court
Bethesda, MD 20817-4401
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
183 Stokes Road
Medford Lakes, NJ 08055-1522
onthefly@peoplepc.com

Stimson & Co.
funeral directors
Michael W. McClure
1415 Swanwick Street
Chester, IL 62233-1317

The Studios Scarlets Society
women writing Sherlockiana
Tamara Reynolds Bower
11603 Gladesmore Lane
Tomball, TX 77377-2118
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
Marsha L. Pollak
1318 Mildred Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125-3855
mlpollak@icloud.com
<https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/sublibrarians/>

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

9 Calumet Court

Zionsville, IN 46077-1934

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

9337 Sophia Avenue

North Hills, CA 91343-2820

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

<http://acdsociety.com/>

The Admirable Beach Society

reading at the beach

Beverly A. Ellis

48132 Colony Farm Circle

Plymouth, MI 48170-3305

info@admirablebeach.com

<http://admirablebeach.com/>

The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes

Evelyn A. Herzog

301 Warren Avenue #203

Baltimore, MD 21230-3951

herzogbaesch@aol.com

<https://ash-nyc.com/>

alt.fan.holmes (Usenet/Internet)

Chuck Lavazzi

computerized newsgroup

thedoge@pobox.com

<http://www.waxwingwebs.com/thedoge/holmes.html>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Apocryphal Calabash
pipe-smoking Sherlockians
Wayne B. Anderson
43744 San Francisco Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93535-5842
cavaleaf@verizon.net

The Baker Street Irregulars
American national Sherlockian society
Michael H. Kean
3040 Sloat Road
Pebble Beach, CA 93953-2837
<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
5003 Stony Run Drive
Reading, PA 19606-3816
dendobry@ptd.net
<http://www.beaconsociety.com/>

The Birdy Edwards Society
19th-century detective literature
J. Randolph Cox
Box 226
Dundas, MN 55019-0226
cox@stolaf.edu

Canonical Sleuths, Inc.
College of Staten Island adult ed class
Francine Kitts
100 Van Cortlandt Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10301-4022
FKitts@aol.com

A Case of Identifiers
preserving photographs of Sherlockians
Bill Vande Water
697 Greenbelt Parkway West
Holbrook, NY 11741-4216

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Clients of Adrian Mulliner
Wodehouseans of BSI — Sherlockians of TWS
Elaine Coppola
130 Kenny Street
Fayetteville, NY 13066-1230
emcoppol@syr.edu

The Conan Doyle (Crowborough) Establishment
information on ACD and tours of his home
Brian Pugh
20 Clare Road
Lewes, Sussex BN7 1PN
ENGLAND
brianpugh140@btinternet.com
<http://www.the-conan-doyle-crowborough-establishment.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
Albert M. Rosenblatt
300 Freedom Road
Poughkeepsie, NY 12569-5431
amrosenblatt3@gmail.com

The Fourth Garrideb
Canonical and Conanical numismatics
Greg Ruby
2400 Boston Street #102-A19
Baltimore, MD 21224-4780
Greg@fourthgarrideb.com
<https://fourthgarrideb.com/>

Frederic Dorr Steele Memorial, Inc.
commemorating the illustrator Frederic Dorr Steele
Burt Wolder
8 Essex Road
Scotch Pines, NJ 07076-2547
bwolder@gmail.com

The Grillparzer Club of the Hoboken Free State
celebrating Christopher Morley
Harrison and Linda Hunt
113 North Street
Catskill, NY 12414-1351
hobokenfreestate@gmail.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Hansom Cab Clock Club
owners of hansom cab clock sold by Sears
Don Hobbs
2100 Elm Creek Lane
Flower Mound, TX 75028-4680
221b@verizon.net

His Last Bow
congenial men and women who wear bow ties to Sherlockian events
Dan Andriacco
tankervilleclub@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/His-Last_Bow-Sherlockians-in-Bow-Ties-105030497780239

The Holmesian Society
interest in Holmes and the 19th century
Albert Mendez
142-35 38th Avenue
Flushing, NY 11354-5520
thing@opermail.com

The Hounds of the Internet
computerized (electronic mailing list)
Alexander E. Braun
2982 Westgate Avenue
San Jose, CA 95125-4126
courageousmurray@aol.com

Irregular Special Railway Company
Holmesians interested in railways
Antony Richards
170 Woodland Road
Sawston, Cambridge CB2 4DX
ENGLAND
antony.richards3@ntlworld.com

The John H. Watson Society
publishing on Dr. John H. Watson, M.D.
Beth Gallego
selena@johnhwatsonsociety.com
<https://www.johnhwatsonsociety.com/>

The Kilted Canonicals
Sherlockians who enjoy wearing kilts
Harrison "Terry" Hunt
113 North Street
Catskill, NY 12414-1351
sherlockstuff113@gmail.com

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Legion of Zoom

a scion of extreme Sherlockian Zoom attendees

Steve Mason

mason.steve8080@gmail.com

<http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/the-legion-of-zoom-scion-society.html>

Licensed Sherlockians

Devotees of the Canon who have, or once had, Sherlockian license plates

Harrison "Terry" Hunt

113 North Street

Catskill, NY 12414-1351

sherlockstuff113@gmail.com

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

<https://twitter.com/AgentsLiterary>

The Midwest Scion of the Four

a traveling barber-shop quartet

Joseph J. Eckrich

914 Oakmoor Drive

Fenton, MO 63026-7008

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

Täljstensvägen 5

SE-74641 Bålsta

SWEDEN

mattias221b@gmail.com

Mrs. Turner's Thames Club Breakfasters

annual breakfast during birthday weekend

Peter Blau

7103 Endicott Court

Bethesda, MD 20817-4401

blau7103@comcast.net

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

Napoléon of Crime
interested in Holmes' adversaries
René Mercat
napoleon-of-crime@hotmail.fr

The O'Lunneys of Helston Asylum
O'Lunneytics celebrate the BSI weekend
Jerry Kegley
18014 Sherman Way #275
Reseda, CA 91335-4639
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/174558085915247/>

The Occupants of the Full House
correspondence society (visits welcomed)
Jean Upton
41 Sandford Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE
ENGLAND
district.messenger@yahoo.com

The Persian Slipper Club of New Jersey
smokers who meet at Sherlockian meetings
Sandy Kozinn
15 Adele Avenue
Demarest, NJ 07627
skozinn@optonline.net

The Praed Street Irregulars
American national Pontine society
George A. Vanderburgh
Box 50. R.R. #4
Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0
CANADA
gav@markdalecable.com
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Praed-Street-Irregulars-107156039322358/>

The Red-Headed League
red-headed Sherlockians
Ann Byerly Marlowe
10324 Castlehedge Terrace
Silver Spring, MD 20902-5807
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>

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

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
Box 50, R.R. #4
Eugenia, ON N0C 1E0
CANADA
gav@markdalecable.com

The Shamlock Holmeses
those who wear their scholarship lightly
Alex Mitchell
10 Byron Street, Miramar
Wellington 6003
NEW ZEALAND
sherlock@paradise.net.nz

The Sherlockian Chronologist Guild
for those who study the chronology of the Canon
Brad Keefauver
bkeefauver@gmail.com
<https://bkeefauver5.wixsite.com/sherlockchronoguild>

Sherlocktron
Internet web-site
Willis G. Frick
513 Via Presa
San Clemente, CA 92672-9474
<http://www.sherlocktron.com/>

The Solar Pons Society of London
British scion of Praed Street Irregulars
Roger Johnson
41 Sandford Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 6DE
ENGLAND
roger_johnson@hotmail.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

SHERLOCKIAN GROUPS AND SOCIETIES: A DIRECTORY

The Strangers' Room
unofficial consulting scion
Andrew Joffe
Box 233
Craryville, NY 12521-0233
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 Three Garish Debs
a playful society
Barbara Roscoe
7101 Mardel Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109-1124

The Vatican Cameos
Catholic Sherlockians (Catholockians)
Ann Lewis
8448 Bravestone Way
Indianapolis, IN 46239-7921
annlewis@joesystems.com
<http://annmargaretlewis.com/>

The William Gillette Memorial Luncheon
annual luncheon during birthday weekend
Jenn Eaker
gilletteluncheon@gmail.com

The Wimsical Sherlockians
Holmes/Wimsey aficionados' e-mail list
Sandy Kozinn
skozinn@optonline.net



SCUTTLEBUTT
from the
SPERMACETI PRESS

by Peter E. Blau



Peter E. Blau is “Simpson” (aka Secretary) of the Baker Street Irregulars. If you want to know more, try Leslie S. Klinger, ed., *Peter E. Blau: A Festschrift* (BSI Press 2018). *Scuttlebutt* old and new (updated and in color) is at redcircledc.org/index.php?id=39. Copyright 2022 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 *B&A*.

Another editors' note: You will find nine empty spaces in the *Scuttlebutts* republished here. Those are places where the original has a cartoon or other work of art that we are not sure we have a right to reprint.

Sherlockians (and Holmesians) did not gather in New York to celebrate the Great Detective's 167th birthday this year, but the somewhat shorter long weekend offered plenty of events, thanks to Zoom and other modern technology. Detailed reports will be available soon at the web-site of The Baker Street Irregulars <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com>, but here are few brief paragraphs to tide you over:

The BSI's Distinguished Speaker on Thursday was Andrew Lycett, the author of two fine books about Conan Doyle; his topic was "Conan Doyle's Questing World" (and close to 400 people were able to attend the virtual lecture); the event also included the announcement by Steve Rothman, editor of the Baker Street Journal, of the winner of the Morley-Montgomery Award for the best article the BSJ last year: Jessica Schilling (for her "Just His Type: An Analysis of the *Découpe* Warning in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*").

Irregulars and guests gathered on Friday for the BSI's annual dinner, with Andrew Joffe offering the traditional first toast to Nina Singleton as The Woman, and the program continued with the usual toasts, rituals, and papers; this year the toast to Mrs. Hudson was delivered by the lady herself, splendidly impersonated by Denny Dobry from his recreation of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street. Mike Kean (the "Wiggins" of the BSI) presented the Birthday Honours (Irregular Shillings and Investitures) to Dan Andriacco (St. Saviour's Near King's Cross), Deborah Clark (Mrs. Cecil Forrester), Carla Coupe (London Bridge), Ann Margaret Lewis (The Polyphonic Motets of Lassus), Steve Mason (The Fortescue Scholarship), Ashley Polasek (Singlestick), Svend Ranild (A "Copenhagen" Label), Ray Riethmeier (Morrison, Morrison, and Dodd), Alan Rettig (The Red Lamp), and Tracy Revels (A Black Sequin-Covered Dinner-Dress). After which the BSI's prestigious Two-Shilling Award was presented to Ralph Hall and Jim Saunders.

Three new titles are available from the Baker Street Irregulars Press: *The Staunton Tragedy* is the latest in the Manuscript Series (193 pp., \$39.95); edited by Michael F. Whelan; it has a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Missing Three-Quarter", with an annotated transcription and scholarly commentary (as always, the series offers readers an opportunity to be close to the moment when one of the stories was written). *Corporals, Colonels, and Commissioners*, edited by Michael J. Quigley and Marsha Pollak (241 pp., \$39.95), is the next book in the Professions Series, offering a fine assortment scholarship on the many military aspects of the Canon. And "A Quiet Air of Mastery", edited by Leslie S. Klinger (130 pp., \$25.95), is a collection of warm tributes to Michael F. Whelan, written by many of his friends in appreciation of his 23 years as the "Wiggins" of the BSI. All three can be ordered at <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com/the-bsi-press>.

The BSI's conference on "Sherlock Holmes and the British Empire" has again been postponed, in view of the prediction that less than half of the population will have received an initial coronavirus vaccination by June. The new date for the conference at the Bear Mountain Inn, N.Y. is July 29-31, 2022. Next year's birthday festivities will cluster around the BSI's next annual dinner on Jan. 14, 2022.

Jan 21 #2 "Doyle's Rotary Coffin" (a society whose motto is "All Holmes Is Good Holmes") has published its third book: Robert Perret and Paul Thomas Miller's *"Sherlock Holmes" Is an Anagram of "Snarky Clock" and 327 Other Holmesian Facts*, and it is a delightful contribution to the literature, from the dedication right through to the end; all three of the society's books are available in print, and as free downloads from the society's web-site at <www.sites.google.com/site/doylesrotarycoffin>.

The Reichenbach Irregulars of Switzerland have announced a Zoom meeting on Feb. 25 with a reading by Johanna Rieke, author of six pastiches, from the first of the pastiches to be available in English: *Sherlock Holmes and the Cornwall Affair*; the event will end with a conversation and a Q&A session. If you would like to Zoom in to the meeting, more information is available from the society at <reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com>.

Alexander Orlov has reported a very early appearance of Sherlock Holmes on a phonograph record, issued by Pathé Records in Russia; it's the "Sherlock Holmes Polonaise" (as recorded by Oscar Filippovich Knaub with the Pathé Orchestra, circa 1911-1917). You can listen to the recording at a Russian web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9ne6pgr>, if you want to, and see an image of the record label at <www.tinyurl.com/y8sjex4f>. For those who have not danced a polonaise, it has been described as "a stately Polish procession-al dance, performed by couples who walk around the dance hall."

What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants when Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists?

The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: Olga Popover's Sherlockian cover artwork; Terence Faherty's parody of "The Gloria Scott"; Steve Steinbock's reviews of Sherlockian books and television; Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column; Josh Pachter's Ellery Queen pastiche "The Five Orange Pipes"; editor Janet Hutchings' "Happy Birthday, Sherlock Holmes!"; Mike Anderson's pastiche "The Shadow of the New"; Ruth Berman's poetic "Watson's Plane"; and Steve Hockensmith's Amlingmeyer Brothers story "Curious Incidents". There is additional non-Sherlockian content in the issue, of course, including a newly-discovered story by Cornell Woolrich.

William Link died on Dec. 27. Best known for his work creating and writing for television series such as "The Fugitive", "Mannix", "Colombo", and "Murder, She Wrote", he was named a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America in 2018; his many credits included "The Murder of Sherlock Holmes" (1984), the pilot episode of "Murder, She Wrote".

Craig Stephen Copland's *The Adventure of the Notable Bachelorette* (Washington: Conservative Growth, 2015; 101 pp., \$9.95) is an amusing parody/pastiche inspired by "The Noble Bachelor"; it's part of a long series, and the author has information about all of them (and offers free samples) at his web-site at <www.sherlockholmesmystery.com>. More recent titles are available only as Kindle e-books, among them *The Adventure of the Engineer's Mom* (2018; 124 pp., \$3.99).

Jan 21 #3 "Sherlock's Daughter" is another television series that might actually be produced. According a story at the Deadline web-site (Jan. 12) <www.tinyurl.com/y66bzss3>, Starlings Television has green-lighted the series, in which a young American woman, after the mysterious murder of her mother, travels to London to track down her biological father, the legendary Sherlock Holmes, who isn't the mythological figure she has come to expect.

What city, mentioned in the Canon, had more than a million inhabitants when Conan Doyle visited it, but no longer exists? That challenge was issued in 1998, but the answer's still: Brooklyn (mentioned in "The Red Circle"), a city when he was there during his lecture tour in 1894, was annexed into the city of New York in 1896 and now is merely a borough.

Tania Henzell is celebrating Sherlock Holmes' birthday (and her Sherlock Holmes Tartan) by offering a 10% discount on the deerstalker (also on the hip flask). The discount code-word is IRREGULAR10, and her web-site at <www.sherlockholmestartan.com> has many other items in the Sherlock Holmes Tartan.

"Woolens became such a status symbol that Arthur Conan Doyle clad his fictional sleuth Sherlock Holmes in a tweed deerstalker hat in 1893," according to an article in the National Geographic Traveler Magazine (Jan. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/y2ebfjfo>. Dedicated Sherlockians will be quick to tell you that it was Sidney Paget, rather than Conan Doyle, who put Holmes in a deerstalker, but: did Sherlock Holmes, in the Canon, ever wear tweed?

The Public Domain Review recently posted an article about what may be the earliest "rogues' gallery" made available to the public: Samuel G. Szabo's *Rogues: A Study of Characters*, a photographic album published in 1857; the Pinkertons' collection of mug shots was circulated in 1855, but only among law enforcement agents <www.tinyurl.com/yxnmwmlid>.

Edward C. McManus celebrated the holidays in verse with an amusing "Sherlockian Christmas Carol" posted to the blog of the Strand Magazine on Jan. 8 <www.tinyurl.com/y5nzzx22>.

Further to the announcement of the publication of a facsimile of the manuscript of "The Lost World" (Dec 20 #1), Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" web-site <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/lost-world-2020.htm> now has a review of the facsimile, as well as interesting details about the manuscript and the story.

Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson have compiled a (now) 310-page data-base entitled "Under the Clock, Sherlock—Still Rockin' After All These Years" that discusses (often with colorful illustrations) a wide variety of Sherlockian music, in various formats, from 1893 to the present. It's available on request from Howard at <howardostrom@gmail.com>, and is a delightful demonstration of the many ways in which Sherlock Holmes has become a part of our cultural literacy.

Jan 21 #4 Carter Dickson's *The Plague Court Murders* (1934) featured Sir Henry Merrivale, who is a member of the Diogenes Club and explains how and why he received the nickname of Mycroft. Carter Dickson is a pseudonym used by John Dickson Carr, and his novel is the latest in Otto Penzler's series of *American Mystery Classics*, with an introduction by Michael Dirda (416 pp., \$25.95).

Karen Murdock has reported some interesting numbers in an article in *Business Insider* (Jan. 20): Netflix has listed its ten most-watched original movies, and "Enola Holmes" ranked 7th, with 76 million views ("Extraction" came in first, with 99 million views). The article also notes that Netflix counts a view if an account watches at least two minutes of a movie, so it isn't clear how Netflix views would translate into box-office dollars if the films had been shown in theaters.

It's marginally Sherlockian, but Alexander Orlov spotted an advertisement <www.tinyurl.com/y2fy34hq> for Sadler's Peaky Blinder spirits with an image of what seems to be a detective. Sadler's, originally a brewery that was founded in Birmingham's "Black Country" in 1900, has expanded its offerings, and their Peaky Blinder label celebrates the violent urban street gang that flourished there <www.tinyurl.com/y2p97gqf>. There's also a television series, and you can look them up at Wikipedia. You needn't worry about what the advertisement says: it's in Latvian, and a dire warning about the dangers of alcohol.

Did Sherlock Holmes, in the Canon, ever wear tweed? Yes, in "A Scandal in Bohemia": "With a nod he vanished into the bedroom, whence he emerged in five minutes tweed-suited and respectable, as of old."

Andy Fusco has noted a nice essay ("The Mystery Is Holmes. Why We Return to Conan Doyle's Stories Over and Over Again") posted by Timothy Miller at the CrimeReads blog on Jan. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/y3edtyv9>. There's also:

Timothy Miller's new pastiche *The Strange Case of Eliza Doolittle* (Hoboken: Seventh Street, 2021; 249 pp., \$15.95) is an imaginative mix of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, George Bernard Shaw, and Robert Louis Stevenson in a nicely-written story that offers some dramatic surprises.

The Parallel Case of St. Louis recently discussed "The Six Napoleons" at a meeting of their society, and someone reported a different and decidedly unusual bust of Napoleon <www.tinyurl.com/y5jhponj>.

J.P. Van Gordon has discovered a four-hour "ambience video" for Sherlock Holmes' Parlour at 221B Baker Street <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJeNG1R7FzM> (ambience videos offer "pleasant, soothing background images & sound for relaxation, study, play, or work"). A YouTube search for [ambience/asmr sherlock] will bring up many others.

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

Jan 21 #5 John Dickson Carr's *The Island of Coffins and Other Mysteries from the Casebook of Cabin B-13* (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2020; 329 pp., \$47.00 cloth/\$22.00 paper) is a collection of his scripts, published for the first time, from the 1948-1949 CBS radio series. Tony Medawar and James Keirans noted in *The Armchair Detective* (fall 1991) that "Death in the Desert" echoes Conan Doyle's *The Tragedy of the Korosko*, and that the murder methods used in "Till Death Do His Part" and "The Sleep of Death" were echoed in the 1953 Collier's pastiches "The Adventure of the Sealed Room" and "The Adventure of the Gold Hunter". The publisher's website is at <www.crippenlandru.com>. Carr was a master of the locked-room mystery, and his scripts provide a chance to see how much fun radio drama could be in (what some like to say) the good old days.

Ron Fish renews his offer to add meetings of Sherlockian societies to his Sherlockian Calendar, including gatherings held via Zoom or other technology; you can see his format at <www.sherlockiancalendar.com>, and send him information about up-coming meetings at <ronf404@aol.com>.

One of the nice things about buying a mixed lot of books at an auction (as I did at the Paul Herbert auction) is finding something unexpected, such as Bob Brumfield's *Brumfield* (1980), a collection of columns he wrote for the Cincinnati Enquirer that includes one Sherlockian column. The opening is well worth quoting: "Baker Street seemed darker than I remembered it. This was due, primarily, to the energy crisis in England, with a resultant cutback in the use of electric lights; and, to some measure, I suppose, to the fact that I'd never been on Baker Street before."

Robert Lloyd Parry's "Nunkie Films" YouTube channel offers a long list of excellent readings of authors who include M. R. James, H. G. Wells, Arthur Machen, Edgar Allan Poe, H. P. Lovecraft, W. W. Jacobs, and Arthur Conan Doyle (five Sherlockian and two non-Sherlockian stories); the channel is at <www.youtube.com/c/NunkieFilms/videos>.

If you're concerned (and many are) about delays in receiving your copies of the Baker Street Journal, BSJ publisher Steve Doyle has a YouTube explanation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnX5N37Xdcc&feature=youtu.be> about how the pandemic has affected mail delivery.

Tedd Long's *Forgotten Visitors: Northwest Ohio's Notable Guests* (Toledo: Univ. of Toledo Press, 2020; 197 pp., \$24.95) tells stories of a variety of visitors, from explorers Zebulon Pike and William Clark in 1794 to musician Neil Young in 2004, with a chapter devoted to Arthur Conan Doyle, who visited in 1894, 1922, and 1923.

Christopher Morley's poem "Graduate Student" (it's one of his many "Translations from the Chinese") was published in the *Saturday Review of Literature* (Nov. 5, 1938) and reprinted in *The Middle Kingdom* (1944): "The loveliest pupil I ever had / Was my little Samoyed soubrette / Who use to cry, after every lecture, / "When does the drinking begin?" / And declared that Bosanquet's *Essentials of Logic* / Was more fun than Sherlock Holmes. You can find Bosanquet's book (first published in 1895) on-line at the Internet Archive <www.archive.org/details/theessentialsof100bosauoft>.

Jan 21 #6 It's possible to feel grateful that postal mail gets through at all during the pandemic (not mentioned in the USPS unofficial motto "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds"). But: on Jan. 21 my mail delivery included a Christmas card mailed from Barcelona on Dec. 7, and another that was mailed from Buffalo on Dec. 16. So much for the old excuse "my check is in the mail."

Scott Hilburn's amusing "Argyle Sweater" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Jan. 22 <www.gocomics.com/theargylesweater/2021/01/22>, kindly reported by John Bergquist.

The Mystery Writers of America have announced the nominees for this year's Edgar Awards, and one of them is Nev March's *Murder in Old Bombay* (Nov 20 #7) for best first novel by an American author (last year the novel won an MWA award for the best unpublished first crime novel). The winners of the Edgars will be announced on Apr. 29.

Dick Van Dyke will receive a Kennedy Center Honor this year (you will be able to watch the festivities on CBS-TV on June 6). He started his acting career more than 70 years ago (he's now 95 years old), and likely is best known for his "The Dick Van Dyke Show" television series. He went on to play Dr. Mark Sloan in the "Diagnosis Murder" television series; the episode "In Defense of Murder" (1997) was inspired by "A Scandal in Bohemia" and the Sherlock Holmes story is credited in the dialogue.

There's still news of some live theater: Neill Hartley's will perform his one-man show "Sherlock Holmes and the Speckled Band" at the Historic Village at Allaire in Wall Township, N.J., on Feb. 13 and 20; their web-site's at <www.allairevillage.org>.

William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (adapted for the digital stage by Rachel Köhler) will be performed at the Majestic Theatre in Corvallis, Ore., on Feb. 13 <www.majestic.org> and uploaded to Facebook and Vimeo.

John Nicholson and Steven Canny's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed (and streamed) at the Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando, Fla., Mar. 15 <www.madcowtheatre.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Ziegfeld Theater in Ogden, Utah, Mar. 26-Apr. 10 <www.zigarts.com>; the announcement of auditions is an interesting summary of precautions some theaters are taking: "Safety: we will be taking every security measure possible throughout this process. No person will be allowed to attend our first in-person rehearsal without providing proof of receiving a negative test result for covid-19 within a week of Feb. 20. Masks will be required for all rehearsals. We will have enhanced sanitization of rehearsal and performance spaces to provide extra safety. For performances, actors will be masked off stage and possibly on stage in some scenarios."

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

Feb 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

The 2020 Christmas Annual of The Baker Street Journal celebrated the 100th anniversary of the publication of Vincent Starrett's classic pastiche "The Adventure of the Unique Hamlet", and Ray Betzner has written about the Annual, and the pastiche, at his Studies in Starrett blog; you can read all about it at <www.tinyurl.com/y4aog2a2>.

A correction: the Mystery Writers of America have announced their nominees for this year's Edgar Awards; Nev March's *Murder in Old Bombay* (Nov 20 #7) for best first novel by an American author (last year the novel won an MWA award for the best unpublished first crime novel), and James W. Ziskin's "The Twenty-Five Year Engagement" in *In League with Sherlock Holmes* (Dec 20 #2) for best short story. The winners of the Edgars will be announced on Apr. 29.

Angela Misri, whose *The Detective and the Spy* (Nov 20 #4) was the fourth in her series about Portia Adams, granddaughter of both Holmes and Watson, was interviewed by Shelagh Rogers on the CBC on Jan. 22; you can listen to the 17-minute interview from a link at <www.tinyurl.com/y6z5fso4>.

Warren Randall ("Harold Stackhurst") died on Jan. 26. He worked in administration at Stony Brook University on Long Island, and joined the Three Garridebs in 1987 and in 1988 he volunteered to edit the society's newsletter Prescott's Press, serving in that post for more than a quarter of a century. Warren was an enthusiastic member of most of the Sherlockian societies in New York and New Jersey, writing songs and skits for performances at their meetings, and was an expert punster. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2007.

"Under the Clock, Sherlock--Still Rockin' After All These Years" (the now-317-page data-base on Sherlockian music compiled by Howard Ostrom and Ray Wilcockson) (May 20 #5) now is readily available, with all the images and links, at Willis Frick's "Sherlocktron" <www.sherlocktron.com>; there's a link at the top of the column at the left.

The second issue of the Beacon Society's "Sherlock's Spotlight" (described as "a quarterly gazette for young Sherlockians everywhere") is now available for (and for sharing with) youngsters who might enjoy an introduction to the Canonical world. Anyone who wants to be on their mailing list can contact Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

The Beacon Society offers annual Jan Stauber grants of up to \$750 to fund development of programs that introduce young people to Sherlock Holmes in the U.S. and Canada; the deadline for grant applications is May 1, and details are available at the society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/h7acxds>.

Jennie Paton found an interesting article at the We Are the Mighty blog on Apr. 2, 2018 <www.wearethemighty.com/articles/army-crime-lab-mickey-mouse> about Mickey Mouse appearing in Sherlockian costume in the official logo of the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory. The logo also is online at the lab's web-site <www.cid.army.mil/dfsc-usacil.html#sec3>.

Feb 21 #2 *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village* (London: Bloomsbury, 2021; 320 pp., £20.00) is written by Shrabani Basu, an Indian author who tells the reader about George's father Shapurji Edalji, the complicated battle over George Edalji's guilt or innocence, and the deaths of George Edalji and all of his family, with due attention to the prejudice at the time against Indians in Britain. The book's available in India, the U.K., and Australia; no plans for a U.S. edition.

R. Wolfgang Schramm's *The Apocryphal Cases of Sherlock Holmes* (Bloomington: Xlibris, 2010; 78 pp., \$10.00) has Sherlock Holmes and Dr. James Watson investigating the shroud of Turin, the Loch Ness monster, and the Tunguska explosion.

Karen Murdock has reported an exhibition ("The Great Fog and Other London Pictures") at the Paul Mahder Gallery in Healdsburg, Calif., of paintings by Lawrence Gipe that offer a colorful idea of what London looked like in the past <www.paulmahdergallery.com/current-exhibit>.

Is "Enola Holmes" the most evil movie ever made? Yes indeed, according to Cy Kellett on the Catholic Answers Live podcast on Jan. 4 (there's a transcript, in case you don't want to listen to the entire 30-minute podcast) <www.tinyurl.com/y12jzssz>. Reported by Jennie Paton, who does find truly weird things on-line.

When in Happisburgh: you can visit the Hill House Hotel and see the blue plaque installed there in 2006 by the Eastern Daily Press and the Norwich School of Art & Design (it says that Conan Doyle, during a visit to the hotel, was inspired to write "The Dancing Men"). The hotel now is the Happisburgh Hill House Inn <www.hillhouseinn.co.uk>, which offers a pub, dining room, coffee shop & carvery, and bed & breakfast, as well as a beer garden and the Dancing Men Brewery (plus a silhouette of Holmes at the web-site).



Alison Flood's story in the Guardian (Feb. 4) was headlined "'I Think I've Written More Sherlock Holmes Than Even Conan Doyle': The Ongoing Fight to Reimagine Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/4qqtfaqv>; it's a good look at current and recently-past pastichery. The author who says he has written more Holmes than Conan Doyle, in case you don't want to read the article, is James Lovegrove.

Christopher Plummer died on Feb. 5. He began his acting career in Canada on stage and radio, performing in both French and English, and went on to a career that lasted almost 70 years. He played Sherlock Holmes on television in "Silver Blaze" (1977) and then on screen in "Murder by Decree" (1979), and is one of the very few actors to have played both Holmes and an actor who played Holmes, the latter on stage in "Barrymore" (1998). It has been reported that Jeremy Brett suggested that Plummer tour as Holmes in Jeremy Paul's play "The Secret of Sherlock Holmes". Plummer's autobiography *In Spite of Myself: A Memoir* (2008) is well worth reading, and you can watch "Silver Blaze" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=817hs0tRCCo> where there also are clips from "Murder by Decree")

Feb 21 #3 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The Southern Daily Echo reported on Feb. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/2xluefjx> that the Hoburne Group is seeking permission to demolish most of the derelict hotel, which closed in 2014; the company wants to build 79 apartments and three commercial units on the site, and plans to retain the hotel's historic façade (the entrance and battlement-style terraces reportedly were designed by Conan Doyle in 1912).

Needless to say, there is opposition: "Residents Give Mixed Response to Lyndhurst Park Hotel Plans as Verderers Slam Proposals' Effect on Forest" was the headline on an article in the local Advertiser & Times on Feb. 24 <www.tinyurl.com/kt3w9fby>. Official Verderer Lord Manners said that the verderers "do not usually comment on planning applications," but are making an exception in this case. In case you are wondering, verderers are forestry officials who deal with common land in former royal hunting areas that are the property of the Crown; the office dates from the Middle Ages, and the New Forest is of interest to them.

Entertainment Weekly reported on Feb. 22 <tinyurl.com/da2dpu2z> that the new Netflix series "The Irregulars" will debut on Mar. 26. According to showrunner Tom Bidwell, "Sherlock Holmes is in the story, it's his world, but he's not the central focus. He plays a big part of it, don't get me wrong, but it's about the kids and their journeys." The Irregulars, now a slightly older group of teens "are the only ones who can stop an impending dark magical threat from destroying London." There will be eight episodes and there's a teaser video at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1APF6a4m74k>.

The fall/winter issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) includes articles by Doug Elliott (about annotating Conan Doyle's *The White Company*) and Hartley R. Nathan (about Conan Doyle's *The Firm of Girdlestone*), and other reports from and about the Library and the Collection. You can ask for a copy of the newsletter from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The 2019 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture was presented at the Library by Martin Edwards (*In Sherlock's Footsteps: The Connection Between Sherlock Holmes and the Detection Club*) and his paper has now been published for members of The Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection; a limited number of copies are available to people who join the Friends now. Their web-site at <www.acdfriends.org> has PayPal and credit-card capability, or you can contact Cliff Goldfarb (addresses above); the minimum donation of \$35.00 brings you three issues of their newsletter and a copy of the 2020 Memorial Lecture. Edwards' presentation included a nice quote from Ronald Knox, who once wrote "A Study in Scarlet appeared in 1887, and since that date other things have been published, but it is only the detective stories that mattered."

Steve Emecz continues to host on-line Sherlockian events for MX Publishing and offers links to videos of past events <www.tinyurl.com/2p3aw6wp>; you can explore the web-site to find information on their more than 400 titles and links to a long list of Sherlockian blogs.

Feb 21 #4 Michael Cox died on Jan. 29. He began his television career as a director of episodes of Granada's television series "Coronation Street" in 1965 and went on to a long career as director and producer. He was executive producer for "Young Sherlock: The Mystery of the Manor House" (1982) and producer (from its beginning in 1984) of Granada's "Sherlock Holmes" series, in which he can be seen (uncredited) as the zoo cleaner in "The Creeping Man" (1991). His excellent *A Study in Celluloid: A Producer's Account of Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes* (2000), reprinted by the Wessex Press <www.wessexpress.com/html/studyincelluloid.html>, offers a fascinating history of the series, and Scott Monty's warm tribute to Cox is on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/3je82yaw>.

Alexis Barquin has reported a truly unusual example of Sherlock Holmes in advertising, in a 2018 video from Prostate Cancer Canada (Sherlock is at the left) <www.tinyurl.com/lokjyfs6>.

There were virtual birthday festivities from the Sherlock Holmes Society of London last month, and their annual dinner on Jan. 16 included a Zoom performance of Bonnie MacBird's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle", now on-line at the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/lcob324u>.

One finds all sorts of interesting things at Wikipedia, including an entry for "Sherlock Holmes fandom" (created in 2015). There also are entries for "The Baker Street Irregulars" and "The Baker Street Journal".

The success of the Netflix film "Enola Holmes" seems to have drawn renewed attention to the books about her: Bill Seil notes that Publishers Weekly has reported that Nancy Springer has a new publisher (St. Martin's Press/Wednesday Books) for two more books in the series; the first, *Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche*, is due in August.

Ioan Baicu offers an interesting list of Romanian material for Sherlockians and Doyleans: movie posters and translations of Sherlockian and Doylean books <www.romanian-movie-collectibles.eu/sherlock-holmes.html>.

Larry Flynt died on Feb. 10. Once called "the Horatio Alger of the sexual revolution" by the N.Y. Times, he launched Hustler as an explicit version of magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse, and reveled in the controversy that ensued. He published "The Affair of the Disappearing Dildo" (by John Hegenberger aka Dr. John H. Twatson) Nov. 1975 (noted by Ron De Waal as "a sure candidate for the most obscene parody"), as well as (at least) three Sherlockian cartoons over the years,

The Wrap reported (Feb. 22) <www.tinyurl.com/bh3febmc>, that Guy Ritchie, who directed the first two films in the Sherlock Holmes that starred Robert Downey Jr., will write and direct a film about the Baker Street Irregulars. Not the Sherlockians, but rather the Special Operations Executive; the film ("Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare") is based on the book by Damien Lewis that is subtitled "how Churchill's secret warriors set Europe ablaze and gave birth to modern black ops." The SOE had its headquarters in Baker Street, and they were called (by those few who knew about them) the Baker Street Irregulars).

Feb 21 #5 "Dame Judi Dench and Benedict Cumberbatch as you've never seen them before" is Howard Ostrom's description of an amusing video at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=ka47YeUj6eg> that takes you behind the scenes for a promotion recorded for Red Nose Day (which will on Mar. 19 in Britain). For adults only, perhaps, but they had fun.

Cédric Asna's imaginative *Sherlock Holmes: The Beginning* (Van Ryder Games, 2020; \$22.99) is the first of a series of five "graphic novel adventures" that allow the reader to try to solve a mystery along with Sherlock Holmes (and it's not easy) <www.vanrydergames.com>.

Christopher Redmond's *Lives Beyond Baker Street: A Biographical Dictionary of Sherlock Holmes's Contemporaries* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 299 pp., \$18.95) offers a grand tour of the real and not-so-real people who are and who aren't mentioned in the Canon, with more than 400 brief (but informative) entries for people who range from George Wombwell and Sir Moses Montefiore to Mary Pickford and Marjorie Kay. MX Publishing's many books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

Also from MX: Nicko Vaughan's *The Adventure of the Wordy Companion* (2018; 171 pp., \$12.95) provides "an A-Z guide to Sherlockian phraseology" (from "a priori" to "Zeppelin"), helpful to the young (and perhaps no so young) reader.

SHERLOC and WATSON are now on Mars. The Perseverance Rover, launched last year on July 30, landed safely on Feb. 18. They are resting quietly while the National Aeronautics and Space Administration tests the Ingenuity helicopter before activating the instruments on the rover. SHERLOC and WATSON are acronymed instruments (Jun 20 #2) that contribute to the exploration of the Red Planet.

Ron Weighell died on Dec. 24. He wrote fiction in the supernatural, fantasy, and horror genres, as well as *Sherlock Holmes and the Shadow of the Wolf* (1992) and a collection of pastiches *The Irregular Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (2000).

The Book of Extraordinary New Sherlock Holmes Stories, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Coral Gables: Mango, 2020; 281 pp., \$18.95), is an anthology offering 15 pastiches, some straightforward, some supernatural and psychological. And Breck England's *The Tarleton Murders: Sherlock Holmes in America* (2017; 247 pp., \$18.95) is set in pre-Watson 1878, in a story told by Rev. Simon Peter Grosjean, S.J., who was at school with Holmes at Stonyhurst, and brings Holmes a mystery that takes them to Rome (where they meet the Pope) and America (where they meet characters later found in the Canon and in other writers' fiction, as well as Gen. William T. Sherman and many other historical figures).

Also from Mango: *The Book of Extraordinary Amateur Sleuth and Private Eye Stories*, edited by Maxim Jakubowski (2019; 267 pp., \$19.95) is an anthology of new and interesting (although non-Sherlockian) stories, with a nice reward for those who look at a table of contents to decide what story to read first: Mary Harris' "The Chocolate Underpants Caper".

Feb 21 #6 Darlene A. Cypser's *The Consulting Detective Trilogy Part II: On Stage* (Morrison: Foolscape & Quill, 2017; 282 pp., \$12.99) continues her entertaining account of Sherlock Holmes' early life; he's no longer at Cambridge, after an explosive laboratory accident, and back in London becomes an actor with the Sassanof company, touring in England and then in the United States, hard at work honing his skills as a detective.

If you bought the 50p Sherlock Holmes coin the Royal Mint issued in 2019 thinking it would be a good investment, there were only 8,602,000 of the coins minted <www.tinyurl.com/33v6g9n>.

Margaret Maron died on Feb. 23. She was a prolific mystery author, and a Grand Master of the Mystery Writers of America. From her *Corpus Christmas* (1989): "People used to kill for 'noble' reasons—for revenge or honor or to usurp a throne. Today, everyone lets it 'all hang out'" ... "You can't build a believable mystery around simple scandal for its own sake anymore. Can you imagine trying to write *A Scandal in Bohemia* today? Instead of hiring Sherlock Holmes to retrieve that picture of himself with Irene Adler, the king would probably be trying to peddle the negatives to *The National Enquirer*." ... "And would probably be turned down because both parties in the picture were fully clothed."

Jennie Paton has reported some intriguing Displates offered by the English Society <www.displate.com/zoreroom/the-english-society>; a Displate is a magnet-mounted metal poster "designed to capture your unique passions."

The French television series "Lupin" (available on Netflix) stars Omay Sy as Assane Diop, a present-day gentleman thief who is inspired by Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin; it's well done indeed, although so far Sherlockian only for brief glimpses in one episode of a book-cover poster for *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*. There has been quite a bit of Internet buzz about whether there will be a Sherlockian cross-over in the series, and it turns out that there well might be: George Kay, one of the creators of the series, told Radio Times (Feb. 6) that he's "really interested" in exploring the idea <www.tinyurl.com/4xexmpf7>. Stay tuned for the second season to see what develops.

The Purple Rose Theatre is partnering with the Chelsea District Library to present a reading of David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Ghost Machine" on-line on Mar. 6. There's no charge to attend, and you can register at <www.tinyurl.com/4ta4avjv>.

Jacklyn Fazio's new "Sherlock Holmes: Making the Grade" is scheduled during the next Sherlock Holmes Weekend in Cape May, N.J. on Mar. 19-21, and it will be repeated on Oct. 29-Nov. 7 <www.tinyurl.com/28273yxd>.

Craig Wichman's dramatization of "The Blue Carbuncle" will be performed at the Cape May Presbyterian Church in Cape May, N.J., from Oct. 29 to Nov. 6 <www.eastlynnetheater.org>.

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

Mar 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

Benedict Cumberbatch designed a statue of Paddington Bear in Sherlockian costume, one of 50 statues on display in London to promote the film when it was released in 2014 (Nov 14 #3), and it sold at a charity auction for £17,000 (Jan 15 #4). There's an interesting interview with David Field, who sculpted the statues, at a Hungarian web-site for Sherlockian; it's in English, at <www.tinyurl.com/mpaavhc4>.

It has been said that Sherlockian chronology is the most abstract and confusing and contradictory aspect of the grand game that Sherlockians enjoy playing, and now there's a Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, founded by Brad Keefauver, who edits and publishes their electronic newsletter Timeline. If you would like to join the Guild, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, you can contact Brad at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

It's always interesting to see people quoting Sherlock Holmes from outside the Canon, as in a PsychTests press release (Feb. 27) noted by Karen Murdoch <www.tinyurl.com/j9ar3pub>: "No one epitomizes the cool use of logic like Sherlock Holmes, who sliced through ignorance and ambiguity with his sharp, precise intellect. 'Sentiment,' he once remarked, 'is a chemical defect found on the losing side.'" Where and when did Sherlock Holmes say that?

If you enjoyed the first episodes of "Lupin" on Netflix (Feb 21 #6), you will welcome the rest of the first season, due this summer; here's a brief teaser <www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWawfOjLZI>.

Jeff Falkingham's *Focusing the Lens on Doyle and Holmes* (Monee: Frontier Fantasies, 2021; 78 pp., \$6.99) offers 13 chapters that include his personal essays, scholarly studies, limericks, and book and film reviews, all nicely illustrated; his web-site is at <www.cccaper.com>.

"When times are tough, we turn to detective fiction," according to Stephen Armstrong in *The Sunday Times* on Mar. 7 (in a review of the new television series "Unforgotten"). "Arthur Conan Doyle's first Sherlock Holmes story was published during the long depression of 1873-96," he added. "Raymond Chandler's hardboiled 'tec sprang from the 1930s slump. In 2020, as the pandemic ravaged us all, detective fiction offered resolution and even a sense of justice being done." There was indeed a Long Depression in Western Europe and North America, according to Wikipedia (in the United Kingdom it was called the Great Depression of British Agriculture). I don't recall any Sherlockian scholarship that addresses the economic situation when the early stories were written and published.

Leonard Goldberg's new *The Abduction of Pretty Penny* (New York: Minotaur Books, 2021; 340 pp., \$26.99), is the fifth in his series that stars Sherlock Holmes' daughter Joanna Blalock, who learned much from her father and is working with Dr. John H. Watson and his son Dr. John H. Watson Jr. to rescue a young actress who has gone missing; they quickly find that she is a captive of Jack the Ripper, who has reappeared 28 years after his reign of terror in Whitechapel and soon threatens Joanna herself. The author's web-site is at <www.leonardgoldberg.com>.

Mar 21 #2 Radric Delantic Davis (known professionally as Gucci Mane) is an American rapper with a long list of studio albums and mix-tapes, and an interesting entry at Wikipedia. The Music Ally web-site reported on Mar. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/3jzkz785y> that a group called MSCHF has created Project Gucciberg with a deep-faked version of Gucci Mane's voice deployed to read classic works of literature, including "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" <www.projectgucciberg.mschfmag.com>. Here's your chance to hear a rapper's "A Scandal in Bohemia".

Trevor Peacock died on Mar. 8. He had a long career on British television beginning in 1961, appeared also on stage, and wrote for musicals; he was best known for his role as Jim Trott in the series "The Vicar of Dibley" on the BBC (1994-2015), he also played Sidney Prince in the Royal Shakespeare Company's revival of William Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" in 1974 in London, Washington, and New York.

A tip of the deerstalker to Roger Johnson who has reported the interesting RadioEchoes web-site <www.radioechoes.com>, which offers access to 99,842 episodes, of which there are 574 hits for [sherlock] in the comedy and detective genres, some of which have not previously been available (such as five of the eight episodes of the "Sherlock Holmes" series adapted by Michael Hardwick and broadcast by the BBC Light Programme in 1962, starring Carleton Hobbs and Norman Shelley).

So: where and when did Sherlock Holmes say, "Sentiment is a chemical defect found on the losing side"? Paige Bigelow was quick to answer: in "A Scandal in Belgravia" (2012) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=utwenXbh9hA>.

Nicola Pagett died on Mar. 3. She launched her acting career at the age of 8 in a school play, and went on to a long career on stage and then in television; her break-out role was Elizabeth Bellamy in "Upstairs, Downstairs" (1971-1973), and she played Countess Nadja in "Anonymous Letters" in the series "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes" (1973).

Gender and the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film and Television Adaptations Since 2009, edited by Nadine Farghaly (Jefferson: McFarland & Co., 2015; 252 pp., \$29.95), is a collection of discussions by (mostly) academic writers about the sexuality of, and the relations between, characters in Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" films and the "Sherlock" and "Elementary" television series. It can be interesting examining footnotes and citations such books, and making discoveries such as:

Ariane Devere's list of interests includes barbershop singing, Formula One Grand Prix, and (most importantly for readers of this newsletter) Sherlock Holmes, and devoted fans of the BBC's "Sherlock" series will welcome her transcripts of every episode <www.arianedevere.livejournal.com>. They are in fact more than transcripts, since they include her commentaries of what is happening as well as on what is being said.

Herewith a reminder that the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition will be open at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., from Oct. 1 through Mar. 21, 2022 <www.mnhs.org>. The exhibition, created by the Exhibits Development Group, has been on tour since 2013, and there's an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where EDG promotes the exhibition to museums that might want to put it on display.

Mar 21 #3 The saga of the Lyndhurst Park Hotel continues. The local Advertiser & Times reported (Mar. 4) <www.tinyurl.com/p2eam9cv> that the Parish Council has recommended approval of the redevelopment, despite the plan calling for only eight affordable homes even though the New Forest National Park Authority's policy calls for 50 affordable homes on the site. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is said to have designed the entrance of the hotel and its battlement-style terraces in 1912, and the Daily Telegraph reported on Mar. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/p3a4482e> on a new discovery by local historian Brice Stratford in Portsmouth's Arthur Conan Doyle Collection of a sketch showing that his design for the front façade "was based on the spiritual view of the journey of the soul."

Ronald Pickup died on Feb. 24. He began his acting career on stage with the National Theatre Company in 1964 (earning praise from Laurence Olivier), and went on to a longer career that included films, radio, and television. He played Barrymore in Granada's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (1988), Sherlock Holmes in "The Singular Case of Sherlock H. and Sigmund F." on BBC Radio 3 (1988), the Narrator in BBC-1's Merrison/Williams "The Valley of Fear" on BBC-1 (1997), and Sir John Starr in "Murder Rooms: The White Knight Stratagem" (2001).

Here's a somewhat unusual hansom cab, at auction in Switzerland this month: a German wind-up sheet-metal toy, color lithographed and hand-lacquered, made ca. 1910/20, and there's more information available at <www.tinyurl.com/ydkrr5mv>. It was estimated at 900-1800 CHF [Swiss francs], and sold for 1100 CHF [or about \$1175].

The 38th (2020) issue of Beaten's Christmas Annual has been published by The Sound of the Baskervilles of Seattle; it has 77 pages of scholarship (including an interesting article by Daniel Polvere about George Macy, who presided over the Limited Editions Club when it issued its landmark edition of the Canon), quizzes, theatric, artwork, and reports on the society and its members. The annual costs \$13.00 postpaid (or \$20.00 outside the U.S.); checks (in U.S. dollars, please) payable to The Sound of the Baskervilles can be sent to Terri Haugen, 6710 51st Street Court West, University Place, WA 98467.

Something new for fans of "Doctor Who": Mark Gatiss revealed in an interview in Radio Times (Mar. 14) <www.tinyurl.com/2zry963s> that he briefly considered having Conan Doyle appear in "The Crimson Horror" (2013). "The original pitch was going to have Conan Doyle in it," he said, but the idea didn't make it past the plotting stage. "There certainly wasn't a first draft with Doyle," Gatiss recalled, "but he does deserve his own story, so maybe some day."

The Three Locks, by Bonnie MacBird (London: Collins Crime Club, 2021; 412 pp., \$26.99), is the fourth in her series of pastiches, and a prequel, set in 1887 and involving Holmes and Watson with stage magicians in London and with students and dons at Cambridge; it's nicely done, and a welcome addition to the series. The story is told with style and surprises, and there is a personal mystery for Watson. Her web-site <www.macbird.com> has interesting and colorful annotations for all of the books in the series.

Mar 21 #4 Richard T. Ryan's *The Vatican Cameos* (London: MX Publishing, 2016; 319 pp., \$16.95) alternates between the early 16th century, when Pope Alexander VI commissions Michelangelo to create the cameos, and the early 20th century, when Pope Leo XIII needs assistance from Holmes and Watson in recovering the cameos after they're stolen from the Vatican and the papacy is threatened. MX Publishing's books are available at a discount at <www.sherlockholmesbooks.com>.

The Scotsman reported on Mar. 13 <www.tinyurl.com/yzsryxur> on an on-line exhibition ("Photographing Fairies") at the Stills center for photography in Edinburgh <www.stills.org/exhibitions/photographing-fairies>; it's colorful and interesting, and there's a 50-page exhibition book available for download.

Adler was a five-issue comic-book mini-series written by Lavie Tidhar and drawn by Paul McCafferty, and it's now available as a graphic novel (London: Titan Comics, 2021; 128 pp., \$16.95); "it's time to meet the League of Extraordinary Gentlewomen" is the premise, in a story set in London in 1902, when Irene is involved with a host of heroines and villains (Canonical and otherwise) in a battle to save London. There also is a colorful gallery of the mini-series covers, and a gallery of the artist's designs for many of the characters.

Umberto Eco's best-selling novel *The Name of the Rose* (1980) was a medieval mystery that featured William of Baskerville as its detective, while confusing many readers with passages in Latin, including its last sentence (*Stat rosa pristina nomine, nomina nuda tenemus*). Lion Heart Autographs offers a letter from Eco in which he explains the meaning of the sentence <www.tinyurl.com/3vcas7r7>.

This month all residents of England and Wales were legally obliged to complete a census form for the Office of National Statistics, or face a fine of up to £1,000, according to a story in the magazine *Country Life* (Mar. 6) <www.tinyurl.com/2bmajhum> that explains, among other things, when the first British census was held. Has anyone ever checked the 1890s census records to see who lived at 221B Baker Street, wherever it might have been at the time?

The "Holmes in the Heartland" scheduled in St. Louis on July 9-11 has been cancelled. It's the latest casualty of the pandemic, according to an announcement from The Parallel Case of St. Louis, and they hope to be able to hold the conference safely, sooner rather than later.

Accidental discoveries can be great fun; Anders Wiggstrom recently held a lottery for members of the Baskerville Hall Club (in Sweden), offering a copy of Patrick Kincaid's *The Continuity Girl* (London: Unbound, 2018; 268 pp.), described by the publisher <www.unbound.com> as "a comic love story in which the discovery of a long-lost version of a cult movie sheds light on a 45-year-old love affair between a Hollywood filmmaker and a real-life Loch Ness monster hunter." The movie, of course, is "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (1970), and the story alternates between Scotland in 1969 and London and Scotland in 2013 and 2014, and it's a pleasure to read.

Mar 21 #5 The Lima Symphony Orchestra began streaming a performance of "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" on Mar. 20, with Andrew Crust as the conductor and Enrico Lopez-Yañez as Sherlock Holmes; there's a teaser at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbG2uynt564>, and you can watch the performance at <www.limasymphony.com>.

Dr. John H. Watson's Last Chronicles, by C. Alfred Lewis, Sr. (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 81 pp., \$5.95), is an account of events at the end of the partnership of Holmes and Watson, and the results of Holmes' experiments with bees in his retreat on the Sussex Downs.

John Hillman describes his "Travels Through Time" podcast as "a mixture of serious history and a playful parlour game," and you can hear Peter Moore interview Shrabani Basu, author of *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer: Arthur Conan Doyle, George Edalji, and the Case of the Foreigner in the English Village* (Feb 21 #2) at <www.tinyurl.com/pn2fs96>.

Laurie R. King's next Mary Russell novel, *Castle Shade* (Oct 20 #5), is due in June, and you'll find an amusing promotional video, and more news about Laurie, at <www.tinyurl.com/wfuuxe6p>.

"Tell Me More" was a 30-minute television series broadcast by BBC-1, and on July 9, 1977, the program included a 6-minute segment with Nanette Newman interviewing Lord Gore-Booth (the president of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London) and Chris Bazlinton (Sherlock Holmes' secretary at Abbey National) <www.archive.org/details/twitter-1148630309434482690>; thanks to Jennie Paton for finding the clip on-line.

On Nov. 13, 1968, Sir Paul (as he was then) was the castaway on BBC Radio 4's "Desert Island Discs"; he briefly discussed his participation in the Society's first tour of Switzerland, and you can listen to a 12-minute extract from the program at <www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p009y1j7>.

The Bavarian poet and painter Carl Spitzweg (1808-1885) is perhaps best known for "Der Bucherwurm" [The Bookworm]. It is an image that resonates with book collectors, and Anders Wiggstrom (of the Baskerville Hall Club in Sweden) has found (and kindly forwarded) this amusingly-edited version on the Internet.

Buckingham Palace announced on Mar. 1 that "The Duke of Edinburgh was today transferred from King Edward VII's Hospital to St. Bartholomew's Hospital where doctors will continue to treat him for an infection, as well as undertake testing and observation for a pre-existing heart condition." He underwent a successful heart procedure on Mar. 3, returned to King Edward VII's Hospital for rest and recuperation, and then left the hospital on Mar. 16 to return to Windsor Castle.

Prince Philip, now 99 years old, was initially admitted to hospital as a precautionary measure after feeling unwell. Barts, founded in 1123 is the oldest hospital in Britain still providing medical services on its original site; it is well known to Sherlockians, of course, as the location of the first meeting of Holmes and Watson.

Mar 21 #6 Robert Downey Jr. had a spectacular fight scene in "Sherlock Holmes" (2009), and there is a detailed and interesting analysis of the fight by a British doctor named Ed Hope that is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmltHCrXklQ>. Bob Katz (also a doctor, and one who knows whereof he speaks when it comes matters medical), says that the analysis is "very well done and comprehensive."

Frank Mills died on Feb. 11. He began acting on television in Britain in 1958, and was perhaps best known for his starring role in the ITV series "Coronation Street". He also played Commissionaire Peterson in Granada's "The Blue Carbuncle" (1984).

Cliff Goldfarb has kindly forwarded a Mar. 17 article about Sherlock's Hats in Jerusalem <www.tinyurl.com/rw63cfz7>; it's an emporium that happily offers deerstalkers and many other styles of headgear. You can explore the shop in 3D at <www.sherlockshats.com>, and look for the picture of Sherlock Holmes.



Country Life published an interesting article ("Who Created the Your Country Needs YOU Poster") on Mar. 13, and you can read the article on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/23nze82p>. The poster is one of most iconic images of World War One, and the artist was Alfred Leete, who was best known, perhaps, for his work for Punch, but he also was a prolific illustrator in The Strand Magazine from 1912 to 1932, including, in Oct. 1915, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's article "An Outing in War-Time".

"An Outing in War-Time" seems not to have been reprinted, so it is only in the Strand (and now here) that one can see his portrait of Conan Doyle, sitting in a railway-carriage with a wounded veteran. It is interesting to consider how much the illustration echoes the now-iconic Sidney Paget illustration that shows Watson and Holmes on their way by rail to Exeter to investigate the disappearance of Silver Blaze.



The Internet is a great source for Sherlockian cartoons that may not turn up in your daily newspaper, such as "The Flying McCoys" (which was Sherlockian on Mar. 6) <www.gocomics.com/theflyingmccoys/2021/03/06>; kindly reported by John Bergquist.

In case you were worried about the bats at Highwell House (Dec 20 #7), the home of Cate Blanchett in Crowborough, the Tatler reported on Jan. 12 that that the Wealdon district council has granted permission to demolish the cottage on the grounds, provided that a "bat mitigation strategy" is implemented <www.tinyurl.com/y44x8r7z>. Press reports continue to say that Tom Baker and Conan Doyle lived at Highwell house; it's true that Tom Baker did, but Sir Arthur lived nearby at Windlesham.

Ken Ludwig has written three Sherlockian plays ("Postmortem", "The Game's Afoot", and "Baskerville") and many others, and there's a lot about them all at his web-site <www.kenludwig.com>; click on the menu (the three horizontal bars at upper right) and then on [media] and [thoughts on comedy].

Mar 21 #7 *Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Japan*, by Vasudev Murthy (Scottsdale: Poisoned Pen, 2015; 270 pp., \$24.95), is an account of some of Holmes' adventures (with Watson) during the Great Hiatus, on their travels from London to Tokyo, via Alexandria, Bombay, Calcutta, Angkor Wat, Saigon, Nagasaki, and Kyoto, all the while attempting to foil Professor Moriarty's evil plans.

Otto Penzler plans to celebrate the publication of *The Three Locks* with an on-line conversation with Bonnie MacBird and Dan Stashower, on Apr. 13 at 6:00 pm DST. Details will be available at the Mysterious Bookshop's website <www.mysteriousbookshop.com/pages/events>.

How to Instantly Size-Up Strangers Like Sherlock Holmes, by Mark A. Williams, Sr. (South Richmond Hill: Real Deal, 2014; 384 pp., \$26.79) offers a detailed examination of the many ways in which Holmes observed, drew inferences, and reached conclusions, and explains how you too can try to do the same.

The Baker Street Players at Baker Street West have added a dramatization of "The Speckled Band" to their podcasts, and you're welcome to listen in at <bakerstreetwest.com/test-page-2>.



Sherlockiana, the newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben I Danmark, now in its 56th year and edited by Svend Ranild, has in its first issue of 2021 some delightful artwork by Michael Skov Lambeck, thoroughly appropriate for these lockdown days, which will send sooner rather than later as more and more of us are being vaccinated.

"A crew of misfits investigates a series of supernatural crimes in Victorian London for Dr. Watson and his shadowy associate, Sherlock Holmes," is the premise of the new eight-episode series "The Irregulars" (launched on Netflix on Mar. 26). No spoilers here, in case you haven't watched it yet (or are refusing to watch it), although the Internet is full of buzz about the series (as was the case with Netflix' earlier series "Enola Holmes").

There have been some interesting articles about the series, including one in Radio Times (Mar. 26) <www.tinyurl.com/5b8k92vk>. It would appear that there's a lot of binge-watching in Britain: Radio Times also provided (on Mar. 26) an explanation of the ending of the series, with a firm warning about spoilers <www.tinyurl.com/mfhwhv9s>.

If you've not seen the 1929 silent "Der Hund von Baskerville" that starred Carlyle Blackwell as Sherlock Holmes, the first 12 minutes are available on-line at <www.vimeo.com/529650729>

"An Evening with Jeremy Brett's Sherlock Holmes" is the title of an interesting two-hour presentation arranged by Steve Emecz for MX Publishing on Mar. 27 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=6h1rFs1Ls34>, featuring the premiere of a performance by Jonathan Goodwin, a reading from Maureen Whittaker's *Jeremy Brett Is Sherlock Holmes*, and a panel of admirers.

Mar 21 #8 Elizabeth Crowens' *A Pocketful of Lodestones* (New York: Atomic Alchemist, 2019; 314 pp., \$20.00), a sequel to her *Silent Meridian* in her *The Time Traveler Professor* series (Oct 18 #4), is a complicated time-shifting novel that involves a set of parallel (and sometimes supernatural) universes; Conan Doyle is one of the characters. The author's web-site is at <www.elizabethcrowens.com>.

Catherine Cooke reports that the City of Westminster Libraries & Archives will present "A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" via Microsoft Teams on May 20, to celebrate Bonnie MacBird's *The Three Locks* <www.tinyurl.com/xr78y3hz>.

The Spanish artist Marco Navas offered a "Sherlockians" collection with 12 7-cm figurines some years ago (Nov 14 #5), hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and there's now a new "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" collection that begins with a graphic scene from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.marconavas.com/Sherlock%20Holmes.html>. The web-site is in Spanish, and in English at <www.marconavas.com/EEsherlock%20Holmes.html>.

"It was a very good year." 1887 is, of course, important as the year in which the first Sherlock Holmes story appeared, but it also marked Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee, which was celebrated by the Royal Mint with a rarely-issued £5 golden sovereign. The Royal Mint now does more than provide Great Britain with its coinage; it's now a state-owned limited company that also deals in old coins, including the Golden Jubilee £5 sovereign (the first £5 sovereign ever minted), which they are advertising for a mere £3,950 <www.tinyurl.com/2mjncs4u>. There also was a Golden Jubilee £2 sovereign, available for only £1,720.



Christopher Walsh's "Miss Holmes" will be performed at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colo., Apr. 8-11, with audio of the production streamed on Apr. 14-22 <www.tinyurl.com/ya84htwa>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" (scheduled at the Longwood University Theatre in Farmville, Va., last year but postponed due to the coronavirus) will be produced and streamed on Apr. 14-18 <www.blogs.longwood.edu/theatre>. And it is scheduled at the Windhover Center for the Performing Arts in Rockport, Mass., July 2-25 <www.windhover.org>.

Cardinal Stage is presenting a walkabout radio-play series featuring two original Sherlock Holmes mysteries set in Bloomington, Ind. "Sherlock in Btown" will be presented in April, according to an article in the *Indiana Daily Student* (Mar. 3) <www.tinyurl.com/y6kv5k2x>. The two plays are Liam Castellan's "Predisposed to Violins" (beginning Apr. 15) and Bruce Walsh's "John Watson, PhD" (Apr. 23); more information will be found at their web-site <www.cardinalstage.com/mainstage/walkabout-radio-plays>. If you're not able to walk the route, Cardinal will be providing a visual companion featuring photos of the walk, allowing you to enjoy the self-guided option from home.

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

Apr 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

A public service announcement: now that vaccines have become widely available, and more and more people are being vaccinated, it is possible that (at least) some people have not been fully advised on how important it can be to safeguard your vaccination records, because if they are lost it may not be possible to replace them. So: you should photograph or scan your card and store the image on your smart phone and other devices. You also should make copies of your card, for your wallet and for your files, and keep the original safe with your important papers, to tide you over until official vaccine passports are available for those who want to travel to other countries, or even within the United States. And do deliver a copy of the record to your primary care physician.

"Her letters to the flighty soldier are, without a doubt, among the great literary monuments that women of talent have, with relative frequency, erected to total good-for-nothings." That's from the chapter on "Julie de Lespinasse" (subtitled "The Amorous Mistress") in Javier Marias' *Written Lives* (New York: New Directions, 2007; 200 pp., \$14.95). There also are chapters on many other writers (including "Arthur Conan Doyle and Women"), in a book that Michael Dirda correctly called "an immensely enjoyable collection of vignettes."

The Chinese animated film "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Jail-Breaker" (2019) has been dubbed in English (and with sub-titles) and released on an 84-minute DVD as "Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" from Shout Factory (\$19.98); all of the characters are animals, and it's nicely done; you can see previews at YouTube.

The Adventure of the Oakshott Trunk, by C. Alfred Lewis, Sr. (Charleston: CreateSpace, 2010; 50 pp., \$6.95), is a revised second edition of a story about Holmes and Watson's success in rescuing a young client while thwarting an evil villain.

Les Enfants Terribles, a theatre company that was founded in 2001, created "The Game's Afoot" for Madame Tussaud's in London a few years ago, and now offers "The Case of the Hung Parliament" as an "immersive on-line experience" <www.sherlockimmerisive.com> (described by one Sherlockian as "utterly delightful" but "not for purists").

Howard Ostrom discovered "Dave Gorman's Terms & Conditions Apply" channel on the Internet, with an episode on "Guessing Weird Acronyms" that you can watch at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqoNZNms-fk>. Two of the acronyms are HOLMES, one them the Home Office Large Major Enquires System, and the other Hunting cOol Low Mass Extrasolar planetS (which does seem to be a cheat).

"As a small kid in South Africa in the late 60s and 70s, I didn't see anything unusual about being called Sherlock Holmes. He wasn't a well-known character there at that time." That's from an interview in Metro UK (Apr. 1) <www.tinyurl.com/kwmb2vj5> with a present-day Sherlock Holmes (who was named after his father, whose mother had a sense of humor).

Apr 21 #2 *The Case of the Displaced Detective: The Arrival*, by Stephanie Osborn (Kingsport: Twilight Times, 2011; 326 pp., \$19.95), is the first in a science fiction/mystery series in which Holmes has survived his battle with Moriarty at the Reichenbach having been transported to an alternate universe thanks to Project Tesseract, a government project supervised by Skye Chadwick, who becomes both his protector and his assistant. The author's web-site is at <www.stephanie-osborn.com>.

Britain is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Royal Albert Hall in London, and there was a well-illustrated report on its history published by the BBC News on Mar. 29 <www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-56428543>. The Royal Mint also is celebrating the event with a f5 coin; details on the coin are at <www.tinyurl.com/53ns63sn>.

It should be noted that Conan Doyle appeared at least twice in the Royal Albert Hall, the first time in 1901, when he was one of the judges at the world's first body-building contest, orchestrated by the strong man Eugene Sandow, and the second time in 1929, when he spoke during an Armistice Day spiritualist assembly. He may (or may not) have appeared a third time in 1930, during a spiritual memorial service in which a clairvoyant tried to contact him before an audience of 10,000 people; his widow, Lady Jean Conan Doyle, said that the event was "cheering and encouraging."

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with David Stuart Davies, Rebecca Romney, and Roger Johnson.

Many Sherlockians have seen and enjoyed the International Sherlock Holmes Exhibition, which will be at the Science Museum of Oklahoma, May 1-Sept. 6 <www.sciencemuseumok.org>. Created by the Exhibits Development Group, the exhibition has an impressive web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y9b7yq83> where the company promotes the exhibition to museums that might consider putting it on display. The exhibition is scheduled next at the Frost Science Center in Miami, Fla., May 14-Sept. 5, 2022 (the appearance at the Minnesota Historical Center in St. Paul, Minn., has been postponed).

Christopher Redmond's *A Sherlockian History of England*, a new 28-page monograph that traces the country's history from prehistoric times into the Victorian era as echoed in the Canon; it is nicely done, and conveniently available as a free PDF file from Chris at <redmond2@execulink.com>; ink-on-paper copies are available for US\$5.00 or CA\$6.00 (postpaid) via PayPal or Interac.

Sherlock Holmes y la Conspiración de Barcelona written by Sergio Colomino and illustrated in full color by Jordi Palomé (Barcelona: Norma Editorial, 2012; 152 pp., \$19.65) is an attractive example of graphic novels in other languages; it's set in 1893, during the Great Hiatus, with Holmes in dire peril in Barcelona. It's available from Amazon in Spanish and in Catalan, and the publisher's web-site is at <www.normaeditorial.com>. Also available from Amazon is their *Sherlock Holmes y el Legado de Moriarty* (2016), and Colomino's *Sherlock Holmes de Hayao Miyazaki* (2020), both in Spanish.

Apr 21 #3 Ridley Pearson's *Lock and Key: The Initiation* (New York: HarperCollins, 2016; 419 pp., \$17.99) is the first volume in his trilogy about twelve-year-old Moria Moriarty. She's at school at Baskerville Academy, near Boston, where her older brother James is the roommate of Sherlock Holmes, and the series, written for young adults (age 8+) presents a well-told origin story for the boys who wind up arch enemies. The other two books in the series are *The Downward Spiral* (2017) and *The Final Step* (2018); the author has a web-site <www.ridleypearson.com>, where you can download a free prequel short story *The Gadwell Incident*.

John Christopher's *The London of Sherlock Holmes* (Stroud: Amberley, 2012; 96 pp., \$11.99) offers a tour of Canonical locations, with an attractive variety of period photographs and illustrations; the publisher's web-site is at <www.amberley-books.com>.

Learn French with Sherlock Holmes and *Learn Spanish with Sherlock Holmes* (Dublin: Diglot, 2020) offer an intriguing approach to learning languages; each book has the text of "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Hound of the Baskervilles" in English, and page by page introduces more and more words in the foreign language, helping the reader understand context and meaning, without the need to focus on translation and grammar. Both of the books are available at Amazon (\$15.20 each), and you can use the "look inside" feature to see how the system works. Diglot's web-site at <www.diglot.ie> offers a look at all their languages and authors, and they're on Instagram @diglotsocial, for those who want to know what's new with the company.

Sandra de Helen's *The Hounding* (McCorkle Ink, 2013; 168 pp., \$14.57) features Shirley Combs (who would like to be the world's greatest detective) and Dr. Mary Watson in a murder mystery set in modern-day Portland. The sequel, *The Illustrious Client* (2013), has them investigating a series of murders, in the midst of which Mary finds romance (although not with Shirley). The author's web-site <www.sandradehelen.com> includes a video interview about the first book.

Olivia Rutigliano suggests that "Once you eliminate the least compelling Sherlock Holmes performances, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the best" in her article "The 100 Best, Worst, and Strangest Sherlock Holmes Portrayals of All-Time, Ranked" posted to the CrimeReads blog on Apr. 8 <www.crimereads.com/100-sherlock-holmes-ranked>, kindly reported by Les Klinger. One can agree or disagree with her choices, and comments, but it is interesting to consider how many (or few) people there are who actually have seen all 100 of the portrayals.

"Both in the books and on screen, Sherlock is shown to be fond of his tea, and so we infused vodka with Earl Grey tea. He's also found with a glass of wine, and we made a beetroot and wine reduction, making it look a little like blood for all the murder mysteries he's solved. Add to it a hint of rose for his unrequited hostility toward women, and a little fresh lime to balance it all. The very English gherkin pickles are added to it. We serve it with Sherlock's iconic magnifying glass." That's the recipe for "Sherlock in a Pickle" a cocktail reported (with an image) by Bill Seil in the Asian Age <www.tinyurl.com/39bfv9ch>.

Apr 21 #4 *Printer's Error*, by J. P. Romney and Rebecca Romney (New York: Harper, 2017; 353 pp., \$26.00), is subtitled "irreverent stories from book history," and it's a delightful excursion into the world of books and those who create them. It is not really Sherlockian (although Arthur Conan Doyle and Christopher Morley are quoted), but it is full of great stories, and Rebecca (who is "That Gap on the Second Shelf" in the Baker Street Irregulars) presides over Type Punch Matrix, with an on-line catalog <www.typepunchmatrix.com> that does not neglect the Canon in its offerings of interesting and rare books.

J. K. Van Dover's *The Detective and the Artist: Painters, Poets, and Writers in Crime Fiction, 1840s-1970s* (Jefferson, McFarland & Co., 2019; 188 pp., \$55.00) explores artists in the detective genre, as detectives, villains, and victims, from Poe's Dupin through the hard-boiled detectives, with (of course) detailed discussion of the Sherlock Holmes stories.

Christopher Redmond wonders, "Can you name two literary works that never mention Sherlock Holmes but are coveted by Sherlockian collectors everywhere?" in his article in the spring issue of Canadian Holmes (published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto). The literary works are "Food for Poser" and "The Four Leaved Shamrock" (two drawing-room plays that accompanied "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887); Chris has some interesting commentary about the plays and their authors. Canadian Holmes costs \$30.00 a year (US or CA), and single issues cost \$12.00 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Nikki Stafford's *Investigating Sherlock: The Unofficial Guide* (Oct 15 #4) Was an insightful companion to the first three seasons of the series, with discussions of its history, analysis, and commentary on each episode. She hasn't updated the book, but her blog <www.nikkistafford.blogspot.com> has her commentary on "The Abominable Bride" and many other television series.

The Washington Post ran a "March Madness" poll to determine the greatest fictional detective <www.tinyurl.com/9d29c9y3>, with 32 bracketed choices; the winner was Armand Gamache, with Sherlock Holmes in second place. The poll still is up and running, so you can still vote (and see how many of the detectives you actually recognize). It has been suggested that fans of Louise Penny's books carried out an organized campaign in favor of her detective.

Quartet Records has released a "50th Anniversary Special Edition" CD for "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes" (£21.95) <www.tinyurl.com/54ykk6y8>; it's a remastered version of their 2013 CD, with additional material that includes a bonus track of "Gabrielle" (omitted from the 2013 version).

"Spring Cleaning the Old-Fashioned Way" is the title of an article posted on-line by English Heritage on Mar. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/bx82cxa5>, with a link to an instructive video, offering a look at some of things that Mrs. Hudson did (or perhaps tried to do) when it came to clean-up time. There also is Lucy Lethbridge's *Mind Your Manors: Tried-and-True British Household Cleaning Tips* (2016), noted with commentary in Maria Cramer's article in the N.Y. Times on Mar. 21 <www.tinyurl.com/9sbecdyf>.

Apr 21 #5 "Meitantei Conan" [Detective Conan] was first a Japanese manga comic-book series created by Gyosho Aoyama, developed into a long-running animated television series, and then animated films; Shinichi Kudo is a 17-year-old master detective who has been turned by villains into a child, and assumes the name Conan Edogawa (in tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle) and pursues evil-doers. The character is still popular. The Japan Times reported on Apr. 14 <www.tinyurl.com/5zzm4aw> that a train station in central Japan has (briefly) been renamed "Meitantei Conan" to celebrate this month's release of a new film "Detective Conan: The Scarlet Bullet".

SHERLOC and WATSON are alive and well on Mars, as you will see if you go to <www.apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> and click on the Calendar link at the bottom of the page, and then on the image for Apr. 3.

"There's a genre of Sherlock Holmes story that starts brilliantly," Steven Moffat said, Radio Times reported (July 20, 2020), "and obviously someone comes to the door and suggests to Sir Arthur that maybe a game of cricket is in the offing, and he just dashes an ending rather quickly. Five Or-Orange Pips and the Engineer's Thumb both fall foul of that. But they've got great beginnings!" <www.tinyurl.com/7kwpfvp2>.

Will Thomas' *Dance with Death* (New York: Minotaur, 2021; 307 pp., \$27.99) is the latest in his excellent series that features private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker (an homage to Holmes' rival in "The Retired Colourman") and his assistant Thomas Llewelyn; it's now 1893, and they're involved in combatting an attempt to assassinate the future czar of Russian, who is visiting London for a royal wedding; strong characters are the mark of a good series, and as usual, the plot is interesting and the story well told.

Stefan Bechtel and Laurence Roy Stains' *Through a Glass Darkly* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 2017; 303 pp., \$26.99) reports in detail on "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and the quest to solve the greatest mystery of all"; the authors note that they "are not true believers," adding "but it's fair to say we don't not believe," and address both sides of the lengthy argument over Spiritualism.

"Tobacco for the cigars was sourced from as far as Cuba and was fermented in fruits, jaggery, and honey, giving them their unique taste," according to the News Minute (Feb. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/pxzkr7st>, in a story about the Trichinopoly cigar. It appears that cigars made in Trichinopoly are still available for purchase in India <www.tinyurl.com/5f7dr9dm>, although perhaps not with the same flavor as the cigar smoked by Jefferson Hope (in "A Study in Scarlet").

Matt Wingett's *The Mysteries of Portsmouth* (Portsmouth: Life Is Amazing, 2019; 107 pp., £10.00) includes his acknowledgement that "while many stories in this book are explicable, many appear not to be," and among those stories is his brief account about "Conan Doyle and the Paranormal". Matt earlier published an excellent facsimile of Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, *Conan Doyle and the Mysterious World of Light 1887-1920*, and *Portsmouth: A Literary and Pictorial Tour*, (Feb 19 #6), and all his books are available at <www.lifeisamazing.co.uk>.

Apr 21 #6 Paul T. Gilbert's *Sherlock Holmes and the Unholy Trinity* (London: Robert Hall, 205; 222 pp., £19.99) is his version of two of the unrecorded cases ("The Death of Cardinal Tosca" and "The Coptic Patriarchs"), and it takes Holmes and Watson to Italy and Egypt in a battle against a mysterious and malignant enemy. The author's Facebook page is at <www.facebook.com/paul.gilbert.589100>.

Diana Bacco explained "Why we should thank Sherlock Holmes for the invention of forensic geology" in a post on Apr. 22 to the Ripley's Believe It or Not! web-site <www.tinyurl.com/48hfjnke>.

Bill Peschel's *The Casebook of Twain and Holmes* (Herschel: Peschel Press, 2018; 233 pp., \$17.95) offers seven stories "as dictated by Samuel Clemens" in which Twain encounters Sherlock Holmes and other Canonical characters, most reprinted from his "223B Casebook Series" and all nicely capturing Twain's style and self-deprecating humor. Bill has a web-site at <www.peschelpress.com>.

Alexander Orlov reports something new for Sherlockian gardeners: seeds for Sherlock Holmes sweet peppers <www.tinyurl.com/2nhparmb>; the web-site describes them as "incredibly productive" and "zoned for Siberia."

Jon L. Lellenberg ("Rodger Prescott") died on Apr. 24. He had a long career as a strategist for the Defense Department, serving as the director of the Policy and Strategy Office of the Special Operations & Counterterrorism Bureau when he retired in 2006. Jon found the Sherlockian world as a member of the Red Circle of in the early 1970s, became the American representative for Dame Jean Conan Doyle after she was able to gain control of her father's American copyrights, and wrote and edited volumes for the Baker Street Irregulars archival history series and about Conan Doyle and his writings. He received his Investiture from the BSI in 1974, and the BSI's Two-Shilling Award in 1988.

It's nice that theaters continue to open (with appropriate wear-your-mask precautions, while more and more of us are being vaccinated for COVID-19). Susan Zeder's "The Death and Life of Sherlock Holmes" will be performed at the Royal Theatre in Versailles, Mo., May 6-9 <www.theroyaltheatre.com>.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be performed at the Historic Casino Hall in La Grange, Tex., May 14-16; Facebook page at <www.facebook.com/Fayettecountycommunitytheatre>.

Amy Frey's new "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" will be performed at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum in Pelham Bay Park, N.Y., on June 14-13 <www.bartowpellmansionmuseum.org>.

Leslie Bricusse's musical "The Revenge of Sherlock Holmes" is scheduled in a Spiegel-tent tour in Britain that's due to begin in Leicester in August <www.morphicgraffiti.co.uk>.

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

May 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

D. Martin Dakin's *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary* (1972) was widely hailed as an important contribution to the Higher Criticism; he discussed all of the Canon, plus two apocryphal tales, noting many of the scholars who had preceded him. Now Bruce Harris, in his *Anticipations in D. Martin Dakin's A Sherlock Holmes Commentary*, recently published by George A. Vanderburgh, digs deeper into the older scholarship, in an era when modern technology has made older publications so much more easily available, and has found more earlier commentary on the points that interested Dakin. The 87-page book is available from Harris <marxman@comcast.net> (\$19.00 postpaid).

Russian writer and director Aleksandr Bubnov's credits include many artistic and amusing animations, two of them being "Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson: The Murder of Lord Waterbrook" (2006) and "Sherlock Holmes and the Little Chimney Sweeps" (2012), both now available at YouTube, with English subtitles, at <www.tinyurl.com/ev9v3puj> and <www.tinyurl.com/2y95dhna>, kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

Sherlock Holmes from Screen to Stage, by Benjamin Poore (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017; 258 pp., \$119.99), is a well-written and entertaining examination of the impact of stage, screen, and television on the continuing popularity of Sherlock Holmes, and it offers much more than its subtitle ("post-millennial adaptations in British theatre") suggests; there's discussion of William Gillette's play as well as many other American versions of Holmes, and more importantly, the author has seen or read the many productions, and has not merely relied on reviews.

There were 28 issues of *Moody Street Irregulars* (A Jack Kerouac Newsletter) published from 1978 to 1992, and according to the entry at Wikipedia "the title of the publication derives from the Baker Street Irregulars, a group of street urchins often employed by Sherlock Holmes." No one seems to have reported a mention of Holmes in the newsletter.

The Sherlock Holmes Society of London is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year, and Nicholas Utechin tells some grand stories about its history in an interview at the I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere web-site; listen in at <www.tinyurl.com/8mcw2b5j>.

The spring issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight Gazette* (the Beach Society's outreach to younger Sherlockians) and a Sherlockian thread in John Hambrook's amusing comic strip "The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee" are now available from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>; he'll be glad to add you to their mailing list.

Christine Estima had an interesting article in the *Hamilton Spectator* (May 1) <www.tinyurl.com/2tt6mvhz> about the illustrated guidebooks published by Ward, Lock & Co. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mentioning in passing a Great Postcard competition in 1907 that was judged by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with £6,666 in prizes. Thanks to Google, one finds the "Raphael Tuck and Sons Competitive Prize Exhibition of Postcard Home Decorations and Tours, Together with Postcard Originals" in London in the summer of 1907; it was an imaginative promotional effort, and the catalogue's on-line at <www.catalogues.tuckdb.org/sets/5993>. Conan Doyle was on the board of directors of the company, and yes indeed, it was Ward, Lock & Co. who published Beeton's Christmas Annual in 1887.

May 21 #2 "In a bookless household, I had managed to acquire some sort of taste for books, largely because of a master at one of my early schools who read aloud to us beautifully from Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton." John le Carré, quoted in the Sunday Times on May 2, from his new introduction to the 60th-anniversary of his first novel *Call for the Dead*, published by Penguin Classics this month.

The spring issue of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust's electronic newsletter For the Sake of the Trust has been uploaded to the Trust's web-site <www.bsitrust.org>, where you'll also find information about the Trust's Oct. 2 webinar lecture by Roberta Pearson (professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham).

The Paranormal World of Sherlock Holmes, edited by Timothy Green Beckley (New Brunswick, Global Communications, 2010; 292 pp, \$21.95) is subtitled "Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, First Ghostbuster and Psychic Sleuth" and offers commentary on Conan Doyle and on the Cottingley Fairies; most of the book consists of reprints from Conan Doyle's writings about Spiritualism, including the complete text of *The Edge of the Unknown*.

The Reichenbach Irregulars will launch their new *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland: Serious and Less Serious Musings!* at a conference via Zoom on June 15; details on the conference and about the book will be found (in German and English) at their web-site <www.221b.ch>.

Netflix has cancelled plans for a second season of the series "The Irregulars", even though the series ranked in the channel's top ten programs in April. This certainly will not please Read & Co. Classics, who have just published *The Irregulars: A Complete Collection of the Baker Street Irregular Stories* (290 pp., \$14.99), with "A Study in Scarlet," "The Sign of the Four", and "The Crooked Man", as a tie-in to the series.

It is nice to be reminded that the Baker Street Irregulars, who have appeared in countless pastiches, are mentioned in only three of the stories in the Canon.

Scott Monty and Burt Wolder are continuing their long series of interviews at their "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihearofsherlock.com>; their latest episodes offer Bill Peschel (#214), Nicholas Utechin (#205), and a tribute to Jon Lellenberg (#216).

Karen Murdock reported that Garrison Keillor honored Christopher Morley's birthday in "The Writer's Almanac" on May 5: "Morley said, 'You can blow up a man with gunpowder in half a second, while it may take twenty years to blow him up with a book. But the gunpowder destroys itself along with its victim, while a book can keep on exploding for centuries.'"

Ron Fish's "Sherlockian Calendar" <www.sherlockiancalendar.com> continues to be a go-to destination for anyone who wants to see what Sherlockian societies are doing, and thanks to Zoom there certainly has been a lot going on during the pandemic. The Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis happily celebrated the beginning of the end of the pandemic by holding a "hybrid" meeting on Apr. 24, in person for locals and via Zoom for those more distant, and a recording of the event, the first of its kind for a Sherlockian society meeting, is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=if91SjIiQtE>.

May 21 #3 This August and *Scholarly Body: The Society at 70*, edited by Nicholas Utechin, is a delightful and colorful 116-page celebration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London, presenting its history; an account of its publications, meetings, and excursions; and the story behind the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition during the Festival of Britain in 1951. It's available (£11.00) from the Society's on-line shop at <www.tinyurl.com/sd6kx8>.

The National Archives in the U.K. have an interesting web-site, as well as a weekly newsletter <www.tinyurl.com/4cuw5df2>, noted by Howard Ostrom.

Paul Thomas Miller, not content with presiding over Doyle's Rotary Coffin, has created an electronic Chapter and Verse edition of the Canon, by way of making it easy to cite specific sentences in the stories. It's available as a free download at <www.chapterandverseholmes.co.uk>. The Appendix will be especially useful to some Sherlockians and Holmesians.

ALT.SHERLOCK.HOLMES (Oxford: Abaddon Books, 2016; 416 pp., \$9.99) offers novellas by Jamie Wyman, Gini Koch, and Glen Mehn, each of them with their own and thoroughly non-Canonical versions of Sherlock Holmes, set in the worlds of a 1930s carnival, the drug-culture 1960s in New York, and today in Hollywood.

Admirers of Will Thomas' series about private enquiry agents Barker and Llewelyn (Apr 21 #5) will enjoy Vick Mickunas' May 8 interview with Will on WYSO-FM <www.tinyurl.com/yv9fvwue>.

Patricia Raybon's *All That Is Secret* (Carol Stream: Tyndale House, 2021; 374 pp., \$25.99) is set in 1925, when Annalee Spain, a young Black theology professor in Chicago travels to Denver to investigate her father's murder; she is a devotee of Sherlock Holmes, and each chapter begins with a quote from the Canon, and it's an interesting mystery but not a pastiche.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Jayantika Ganguly, Bert Coules, and others.

Robert J. Harris' *A Study in Crimson: Sherlock Holmes 1942* (New York: Pegasus Crime, 2021; 306 pp., \$25.95) is inspired by the Universal series of films that brought Holmes and Watson into the 1940s, and presents them in war-time Britain in pursuit of Crimson Jack, a serial killer whose crimes echo those of Jack the Ripper; Holmes and Watson don't echo Rathbone and Bruce, but one can see this as one of their films. The author has a web-site at <www.harris-authors.com>.

You can see Sherlock Holmes in action (in Spanish) in a video spotted by Jennie Paton at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-QY2cXxRKI>.

And here's Herbert Pattee as Sherlock Moans in a short silent film held at Southern Methodist University <www.youtube.com/watch?v=117R2TWXa8w>. But it doesn't seem to match any of Pattee's films listed in the Internet Movie Data Base. The shimmy was popular enough to have had its own song, "I Wish I Could Shimmy Like My Sister Kate" (written by Armand J. Piron and published in 1922), and if you would like to try the dance out for yourself, here's how <www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1MwrNuXikA>.

May 21 #4 The Beacon Society has created an impressive web-site devoted to Sherlockian societies, full of information and advice, on-line at <www.beaconsociety.com/sherlockian-societies.html>; it includes an interactive map that allows you to find geographical societies in the U.S. and in other countries (just zero in on wherever you are, or plan to be) with contact information and web-site URLs. If your society is not listed you can contact Mike McSwiggin <mikemcswiggin@gmail.com> and he'll be glad to add you to the map.

There's welcome news for all who enjoyed the first episodes of the Netflix series "Lupin" (Mar 21 #1): the rest of the first season will be available on June 11. The trailer is at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ6x279y8GI>, and the web-site for the series is at <www.netflix.com/title/80994082>.

Norman Lloyd died on May 11. He had a long career on stage and screen and in television. His Sherlockian connection is by association: according to his obituary in the *Hollywood Reporter*, his first big break came in 1932, when while attending New York University, he was offered an apprenticeship at Eve Le Gallienne's Civic Repertory Theatre. Seeking advice, he knocked unannounced at the Broadway stage door of Nigel Bruce, who was then in the three-act play "Springtime for Henry".

Bruce played the same part (the jealous husband) when the play was filmed in 1934. Alas: the film seems not to be available on-line or on DVD, but you can see what Nigel Bruce looked like in 1934 in a lobby card that may still be available at eBay <www.tinyurl.com/3f6z4bd3>.

"The game is afoot again as Millie Bobby Brown and Henry Cavill have reunited for a sequel to "Enola Holmes", the female-centric Sherlock Holmes hit from Legendary Entertainment and Netflix," according to the *Hollywood Reporter* (May 12); they're far more reliable than the click-bait rumor on the Internet.

Palgrave Macmillan's Crime Files series includes Clara Clarke's *Late Victorian Crime Fiction in the Shadows of Sherlock* (New York: 2014; 221 pp., \$199.99), an interesting exploration of the genre in the 1890s and 1900s (which has been called "the first golden age of detective fiction"), in a discussion that ranges from Robert Louis Stevenson to Guy Boothby; there's a chapter on "The Sherlock Holmes Stories and Work", and among many other contributions to the literature she traces the phrase "detective fiction" to its first appearance in print, in the *Saturday Review* (Dec. 4, 1886) a year before the publication of "A Study in Scarlet" in Beeton's Christmas Annual.

Brianna Benji's *Shirley Jane and the Mystery of the Golden Monkey* (2014) is the first of five booklets for children aged 8-10; Shirley Jane Holmes is the great-great-granddaughter of Sherlock Holmes, who solve mysteries with her friends Janice Dickinson and Joshua Edgar Poe.

Raise Your Glass to Sherlock Holmes, by Phil Angelo (Flesherton: Battered Silicon Dispatch Box, 2020; 159 pp., \$15.00), is a pleasant collection of 75 toasts that were delivered at meetings of the South Downers, for each of the 60 stories and some of the major characters, enhanced by attractive woodcuts by George and Betty Wells, plus John Brousch's heraldic coats of arms for the stories. \$19.83 postpaid from the author (740 South Greenwood Avenue, Kankakee, IL 60901) <philangelo@comcast.net>.

May 21 #5 The publishing world ain't what it used to be: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt has been purchased by HarperCollins, which brings the number of major publishers down to five. To see just how big HarperCollins is now, go to <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HarperCollins> and scroll down to Imprints. Penguin Random House is planning to buy Simon & Schuster, which will take the number of major publishers down to four.

Chicago artist Scott Gustafson has painted three impressive portraits of Sherlock Holmes, offering the original artwork as well as prints of each portrait <www.scottgustafson.com>.

Lincoln Peirce's "Big Nate" comic strip featured a Sherlockian sequence on May 17-22; its on-line at <www.gocomics.com/bignate/2021/05/17>.

Reported: H. F. Heard's pastiche "The Enchanted Garden" (featuring Mr. Mycroft) in *Golden Age Detective Stories*, edited by Otto Penzler for his *American Mystery Classics* anthology (2021; 312 pp., \$25.95).

Elizabeth Crowens' *A War in Too Many Worlds* (New York: Atomic Alchemist, 2021; 293 pp., \$20.00), is the third in her "The Time Traveler Professor" series (Mar 21 #8); it's a complicated time-shifting novel that involves a set of parallel (and sometimes supernatural) universes; Conan Doyle is involved, along with H. G. Wells and Harry Houdini (and there are echoes of "The Lost World" and "The Island of Dr. Moreau"). The author's web-site at <www.elizabethcrowens.com> has more information on the series.

A nice quote, from the May issue of *Timeline*: "The beauty of Sherlockian scholarship, however, is that any one person may be right." *Timeline* is the official newsletter published by the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild, and the quotation is from William R. Cochran's *Thinking Outside the Tin-Dispatch Box* (2011). If you would like to join the Guild, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, contact Brad at <bkkeefauver@gmail.com>.

The Sensible Necktie and Other Stories of Sherlock Holmes by Peter K. Anderson (London: MX Publishing, 2015; 204 pp., \$14.95), offers nine traditional (and nicely plotted) pastiches. Susan Knight's *Mrs. Hudson Investigates* (2019; 218 pp., \$14.95) offers seven stories that feature Holmes and Watson's landlady as the detective, and doing quite well with her own cases. Molly Carr's *Sherlock in the Springtime* (2012; 130 pp., \$9.95) is a pleasant miscellany of notes and comments (as well as a short pastiche). A. S. Croyle's *The Case of the Swan in the Fog* (2017; 163 pp., \$14.95) is the third in her "Before Watson" series; Dr. Poppy Stanford is again solving mysteries with Sherlock Holmes (while avoiding romantic entanglement with each other). All MX books are available at <www.sherlockholmes.com>, and MX has a "younger, sassier sibling" at <www.orangepipbooks.com>.

Laurie R. King's *Castle Shade* (New York: Bantam, 2021; 360 pp., \$28.00) is the latest in her long series of novels about Mary Russell and her husband Sherlock Holmes, who (after their adventures in *Riviera Gold*) find themselves in Roumania; their client is Queen Marie, and since her Castle Bran is in Transylvania there's much talk of vampires and other creatures that go bump in the night. Laurie has much to say about the suspenseful story at her interesting web-site <www.laurierking.com>; just click on [blogs] to read her "Mutterings" and on [events] for information on upcoming signings, and don't neglect her YouTube channel <www.tinyurl.com/neh4hzac>.

May 21 #6 One of the most unusual Sherlockian musical performances ever is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (composed by Jon Deak for Richard Hartshorne); it's a dramatization of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for double bass and six voices (all provided by Hartshorne), and it premiered in Maine in 1985. Hartshorne has performed the piece hither and yon since then, and you will be able to see (and hear) him in action in a video reported by Jennie Paton at <vimeo.com/552244434>.

Alexander Orlov has reported an imaginative do-it-yourself version of the Hound of the Baskervilles <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIelKyKuvPg>.

The Conan Doyle Collection in Portsmouth is holding a series of four lectures via Zoom in honor of the late Neil McCaw, their academic director; details are available at their web-site <www.tinyurl.com/v424xtfw>.

Mike McClure, who presides over Stimson & Co. (a professional society for Sherlockian funeral directors), is seeking photographs of the final resting places of notable Sherlockians from around the world, accompanied by a brief biography; visit <www.baskervilleproductions.com/sherlockianplots> to see how it works, and provide assistance to Mike.

The latest issue of the newsletter of the Friends of Gillette Castle State Park reports that the Castle (in Hadlyme, Conn.) opened to the public on May 29. The Friends' web-site is at <www.gilletteastlefriends.org>.

Murder at the Royal Observatory, by Anna Elliott and Charley Veley (Wilton, 154 pp., \$9.00), is the 27th volume in their "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series; Lucy and her father, and her husband Dr. John H. Watson Jr., and his father) investigate a mysterious death at the Royal Observatory in 1900 that may be evidence of a real Martian invasion. The series has web-site at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>, and all of the books and stories can be bought at <www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0753CS4DJ>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" is running at the Arts Theatre Cronulla in Cronulla, N.S.W., through June 12 <www.artstheatrechronulla.com.au>.

A partially-improvised three-actor dramatization "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is being performed in the gardens at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury, Berks., through June 19 <www.watermill.org.uk>.

Craig Sodaro's "Young Sherlock" will be performed at the Ames City Auditorium in Ames, Iowa, June 18-27 <www.storytheatercompany.org>.

The East Haddam Stage Company is celebrating its return to live theater with performances at Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam, Conn., of a radio script of "A Scandal in Bohemia" on weekends, July 3 through Aug. 8 <www.ehsco.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton, Lancs., from July 5 to Aug. 7 <www.octagonbolton.co.uk>.

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

Jun 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermace ti Press

Mark your calendar for Aug. 21, when Denny Dobry will be holding an open house from 10:00 am onward at his home in Reading, Pa., where visitors can enter and play in his splendid recreation of the sitting-room, and browse the shelves in his book fair, where he will be selling Sherlockiana that has been donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust (prices will be modest indeed) and publications of the BSI Press. It is well worth a visit, and directions are available from Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>. There are some enticing images at <www.bsitrust.org/2021/06/book-fair-2021.html>.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Sean Wright, Monica Schmidt, and others.

"Omnibus" (for those too young to remember black-and-white television) was a 90-minute series produced by the Ford Foundation and broadcast weekly by ABC-TV. On Dec. 9, 1956, the program included a 40-minute segment titled "The Fine Art of Murder" that featured a murder solved in different ways by some detective-story writers and their heroes, and you can see Dennis Hoey as Conan Doyle in a 9-minute clip spotted by Jennie Paton at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=fAH27x79zDc>; you also get to see Rex Stout, and yes) Dennis Hoey also played Inspector Lestrade in the Universal series.

An imaginative "Sherlock Holmes Pixie Door" is available from Blue Toucan Studios <www.tinyurl.com/j4shankc>.

Peterson of Dublin began making and selling pipes in the 1870s, and their pipes have long been popular with Sherlockians (even though there are far fewer Sherlockian pipe-smokers now). Sean Wright has kindly reported the recent blog by Mark Irwin <www.tinyurl.com/3npxmjdfo> about their Rathbone (XL20) that honors the pipes that Rathbone smoked in his Sherlock Holmes films. Smokers (and collectors) will find the Rathbone pipe, in various finishes, at <www.peterson.ie/search/?term=Rathbone>.

Jennie Paton spotted the Forgotten Library <www.forgottenlibrary.com> and their offers of amusing literary merchandise. Search for [sherlock], and pay close attention to their bookshelf layout humour bookmark.

Otto Penzler is continuing his "Otto Penzler Presents" series at YouTube, talking about authors, collecting, and collectibles at YouTube; a recent video was about Rex Stout, and of course Otto describes the debt that Nero Wolfe owes to Sherlock Holmes <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKOAxONytKc>.

When in Novgorod: there's now a Mycroft pub, noted on Facebook by Alexander Sedov <tinyurl.com/2yuewt5y>. The Russians are enjoying their interesting "Everything Sherlock Holmes" Facebook page.

Nice news for film fans: the British Film Institute's National Archive has announced that Iron Mountain Entertainment Services will fund a full restoration of all of the 1920s films that starred Eille Norwood as Sherlock Holmes. This year is the 100th anniversary of the release of the first of his films, and the project is expected to be completed by 2023, the 100th anniversary of the last of his films. Only a few of the films can be seen at YouTube (search for "eille norwood"), and it will be grand to be able to see all of them (that's 45 two-reelers and two features).

Jun 21 #2 Paula Berinstein's *Amanda Lester and the Purple Rainbow Puzzle* (Agoura Hills: The Writing Show, 2015; 386 pp., \$14.99) is the third in a young-adult series that now runs to ten titles; Amanda Lester, a descendant of Inspector Lestrade, is sent to a mysterious British school for descendants of famous detectives, where she encounters a real mystery and an assortment of villains, as well as some fantasy and science fiction (and with amusing touches) <www.amandalester.net>.

Jennie Paton spotted video of "The Musgrave Treasure" on-line; this is an alternate title for Georges Tréville's "The Musgrave Ritual" (1912), and you can watch it at <www.dailymotion.com/video/x81a4rd>.

Sherlockian fans of "Doctor Who" will recall "The Talons of Weng-Chiang" (broadcast by BBC-1 in 1977), starring Tom Baker as the Fourth Doctor. Big Chief Studios is taking pre-orders for its Fourth Doctor Mini Bobble <www.tinyurl.com/9au6rz64>; £9.99, due in November.

Proceedings of the Pondicherry Lodge, the semi-annual electronic newsletter edited by Jayantika Ganguly for the Sherlock Holmes Society of India, is now in its ninth year, and it's one of the better Sherlockian society publications. The current issue (with 204 colorful pages) offers scholarship, pastiches, and commentary, including Howard Ostrom's discussion of Father Brown and many other priests, vicars, and rabbis who had talents for detection, and David Marcum's detailed report on "prolific pasticheurs." All of the issues of the Proceedings are available at the society's web-site at <www.sherlockholmessocietyofindia.com>.

"West of Kashmir: A Sherlock Holmes Adventure" is a film that was planned by Jim Danforth in the 1990s, but never made, except for a brief preview clip that you can watch at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dJfPSvF7dVo>; thanks to Doug Chapman for reporting the clip. And to Howard Ostrom for identifying Mark Clifton as Holmes and Gordan Roberts as Dr. John Watson.

Young Sherlock: Night Break, by Andrew Lane (London: Macmillan, 2015; 295 pp., £12.99), is the eighth and last book in his imaginative series; Sherlock leaves Oxford after his mother's death and his father's disappearance in India, and continues to combat bizarre crimes and criminals; the books are nicely written, and will interest young adults. There is a web-site for the series at <www.youngsherlock.com>.

One of the four stories in "Tales from the Darkside: The Movie" (1990) was Michael McDowell's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "Lot No. 249"; Julianne Moore played Susan and on May 28 told an amusing behind-the-scenes story on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (on NBC-TV). There's a clip available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ok2bWabNeTg>.

Mark Jones and Paul Chapman continue their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) on-line at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post considers "The Terror of Blue John Gap" and they also have an interesting consideration of the Captain Sharkey stories (in case you're a fan of pirates), and a comprehensive report on the "Conan Doyle in Edinburgh" conference that was held at Napier University last September.

Jun 21 #3 "Typewriters might not be the first thing that comes to mind when watching 'The Lost World'" leads off Heritage Auctions' description of an unusual "Corona in the Lost World" tie-in poster issued in 1925, coming up in their sale #7243 on July 24-25, estimated at \$1,500-\$3,000 <www.tinyurl.com/2my245an>. And yes, Edward Malone did indeed have a Corona with him as part of his essential gear in the film.

It's not Sherlockian, but if you've ever wondered about how they came up with the two-letter abbreviations for the names of all the states, here's an explanation <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dLECCmKnrYs>.

Nye & Company offered an interesting item at auction on June 2: 23 of the 24 volumes of the Crowborough Edition, apparently bound in leather, lacking (of course) the first volume (which was signed by Conan Doyle), with an opening bid of \$100 and an estimate of \$200-\$300. It's possible that it was one of the few presentation sets, but one cannot tell without knowing the number that appeared on the signed limitation page in the missing first volume <www.tinyurl.com/274n67w3>. Presumably the first volume was sold earlier, by someone who valued only Conan Doyle's signature. The 23 volumes sold for only \$250. Complete sets with all 24 volumes are advertised by used-book dealers now for \$5,000 or more.

Magda Jozsa's *Sherlock Holmes in the 21st Century* (CreateSpace, 2000; 314 pp., \$13.99); offers three stories that involve time travel, clones of Mycroft and Moriarty, and the children of Holmes and Watson; she has written many other pastiches, and her web-site's at <www.read4life.com>.

Tor.com is an on-line magazine launched in 2008, and one of its features is a "Reading the Weird" department in which Anne M. Pillsworth and Ruthanna Emrys recently discussed "The Horror of the Heights" in some detail <www.tinyurl.com/4mhhybkt>; there's also a link to their thoughts on Neil Gaiman's "A Study in Emerald", and the web-site has a search engine useful if you want to search for [sherlock holmes] or [conan doyle] or anyone or anything else.

John Murray founded his publishing house in London in 1768, and the company went on to become (and still is) the publisher of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's books; this month they announced a new imprint, to be called Baskerville, for new crime and thriller authors.

The Washington Post Book Club held an on-line "March Madness" bracket contest to "Pick the Best Fictional Detective" contest from Mar. 25 to Apr. 5 and can still see how it worked at <www.tinyurl.com/u9rmzpyy>. Your vote won't count now, alas; Sherlock Holmes came in second, well behind Armand Gamache. One might uncharitably assume that fans of Louise Penny's books launched an energetic turn-out-the-vote campaign (so far no one seems to have demanded a Cyber Ninjas recount).

Hamilton House in Winnipeg, described as "one of the most historically and culturally important site in North America," is up for sale, at CA\$410,000 (according to an article in the Winnipeg Free Press on May 25); what makes it so important is that it was the home of Thomas Glendenning Hamilton, a noted spiritualist who arranged for a séance that Conan Doyle attended in 1923, when he was visiting Winnipeg. You can read about the séance in an article by Michael W. Homer <www.tinyurl.com/39rucsjn>, and the realtor is Emma Alfons <www.tinyurl.com/ykz4pakj>.

Jun 21 #4 Roger Johnson has reported news from the Deadline web-site (on June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/w8bfupd>: New Republic Pictures has optioned Adam Roche's podcast "The Secret History of Hollywood". The podcast included "The Game Is Afoot" (about Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce, and their long friendship); there were three episodes, broadcast in 2018, and audio is available at Amazon <www.tinyurl.com/3h4p7a8p>.

The Baker Street Almanac 2021, edited by Ross E. Davies, Jayantika Ganguly, Ira Brad Matetsky, and Monica Schmidt, is now available in print for \$30.00 postpaid <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/2021.html> or from The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015), with a copiously-annotated edition of "The Priory School" (and much more about the Sherlockian world), as well as some "amusing extras" that are not included in the on-line edition. All four issues of the Almanac are available on-line (free) as PDFs at <www.greenbag.org/almanacs/BS/bsa.html>.

"Dear Holmes" is a monthly mysteries-by-mail subscription package created by Michael Silver <www.dearholmes.com> (Jun 20 #5); none of my readers has reported on it, but David John Moratta praised it enthusiastically in an article in Forbes (June 10) <www.tinyurl.com/h5hpmv7>.

Reported: H. F. Heard's pastiche "The Enchanted Garden" (featuring Mr. Mycroft) in *Golden Age Detective Stories*, edited by Otto Penzler for his American Mystery Classics anthology (2021; 312 pp., \$25.99).

John Gaspard's *The Greyhound of the Baskervilles* (Albert's Bridge Books, 2019; 218 pp., \$19.99) is an amusing revision of the Canonical tale, told by Sherlock Holmes' greyhound Septimus. As with many books today, it also is available less expensively as a trade paperback, as well as via Kindle and Audible; the publisher's web-site is at <www.albertsbridgebooks.com>.

The British Library's HistFest series included (in May) a panel discussion of "The Real World of Arthur Conan Doyle" with BBC broadcast Matthew Sweet and authors Shrabani Basu and Clare Clarke. You can watch them at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkFTZRRTEuQ>.

More news for film fans, but this time it's good news and bad news. The good news is that the Museum of Modern Art has restored its print of Clive Brook's "Sherlock Holmes" (1932), reported by Russell Merritt in a post to "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" <www.tinyurl.com/n5nv99hj>. The bad news is that the film was available on-line for only one month and only to members of the Museum, and (Russell notes) "the Walt Disney Company controls distribution rights, and getting them to release the film is likely to be an uphill battle."

Marvin Kaye died on May 13. He was an editor and anthologist, mainly science fiction, fantasy, horror, and mystery, and also was a playwright and an author of novels and short stories. Kaye wrote two amusing pastiches, *The Incredible Umbrella* (1979) and *The Amorous Umbrella* (1981), as well as short stories that were collected in *The Confidential Casebook of Sherlock Holmes* (1998); he also edited *The Game Is Afoot: Parodies, Pastiches, and Ponderings of Sherlock Holmes* (1994) and *The Resurrected Holmes* (1996).

Jun 21 #5 *Villains, Victims, and Violets*, edited by Resa Haile and Tamara Bower (Irvine: BrownWalker Press, 2019; 316 pp., \$39.95), is an interesting anthology published by the Studious Scarletts, a society for women who write Sherlockiana; it is subtitled "Agency and Feminism in the Original Sherlock Holmes Canon," and the articles offer a new look at the ability of the women in the stories to act independently and to make their own decisions (that's "agency" in this context) in the man's world of the Sherlockian era.

Margaret H. Laing has fun with her imaginative blog about "The Imaginary Writers' Room" for the Chicago Tribune <www.tinyurl.com/ytyfmk97>; you can search her archive to find earlier posts about Conan Doyle, and Holmes.

Charmouth, a small coastal village in Dorset near Lyme Regis, has a long history and an active local history society, which has published a colorful 8-page pamphlet "Discover Charmouth Old Village" that offers information about the many famous people who have lived and visited there. One of them was Arthur Conan Doyle, who in 1894 visited a local haunted house (which no longer survives). The pamphlet is available as a PDF from the society <www.freshford.com/Charmouth%20Trail%20and%20Map.html> Conan Doyle is on page 7).

Mark your calendar for June 18 next year (and every year): it's International Picnic Day, according to a post by Shikha Goyal at the Jagan Josh web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3kuxnddz>. The post quotes Conan Doyle: "Picnics are very dear to those who are in the first stage of the tender passion." The quote is from the short story "Our Derby Sweepstakes" (first published in London Society, May 1882); the text is conveniently available at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3uvbrw>.

Alexis Barquin presides over the Encyclopedia, which is comprehensive indeed, and well worth exploring. As an example, there's a detailed examination of the 62 Sherlock Holmes stories written by Conan Doyle (yes, 62) <www.tinyurl.com/vaxct9ut>, with text, artwork, commentary, and much more.

The Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021 included a knighthood for Jonathan Pryce for services to drama and charity (he played Holmes in the 2007 television film "Sherlock Holmes and the Baker Street Irregulars"), and an appointment as OBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) David Forbes-Nixon for services to children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities (he created the DFN Charitable Foundation to fund the purchase of Undershaw, where Conan Doyle once lived, and converting it into the Stepping Stones School for children with learning difficulties).

What does it mean to be a "Holmesian?" asks Stephen R. McAllister in his four-page Foreword to *The Black Book of Justice Holmes*, edited by Michael H. Hoeflich and Ross E. Davies (Clark: Talbot Publishing, 2021; 497 pp., \$195.00). And nowhere in the Foreword does he mention Sherlock Holmes; he and his fellow Holmesians are devout admirers of Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. The Black Book is Holmes' list of the books he read throughout his life, now reprinted both in facsimile and with a transcription. Holmes was an enthusiastic reader, and his notes include *Exploits of Gerard* and *Study in Scarlet* &c. &c. It's nice to know that Holmes read Holmes. And frustrating not to know more about the &c. &c.

Jun 21 #6 Serendipitous Adventures with Britannia: Personalities, Politics, and Culture in Britain, edited by Wm. Roger Louis (London: I. B. Tauris, 2019; 366 pp., \$50.00), is an anthology of thoroughly interesting lectures delivered at the British Studies seminar at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin, including one by David L. Leal on "Arthur Conan Doyle and Spiritualism". Leal's exploration of the Center's splendid Conan Doyle collection yielded some intriguing discoveries, including a statement by Conan Doyle that "his own writing was worse when he used a typewriter rather than a pen.:

"Herr Skopf shook his head; then he scratched it. He was baffled. He had never heard of Sherlock Holmes or he would have lost no time in invoking the aid of that celebrated sleuth, for here was a real mystery." One does indeed hear of Sherlock everywhere, this time in Edgar Rice Burroughs' *The Son of Tarzan*, serialized in *All-Story Weekly* (1915-1916) and published as a novel by A. C. McClurg (1917). Kindly reported by Don Miguel, who notes that it's available at <www.gutenberg.org/files/90/90-h/90-h.htm#chap04>.

"Gomorra" (2014) is a four-season Italian television series that aired in the U.S. on SundanceTV in 2016; the series is a fictionalized account of today's crime syndicate in Naples <www.tinyurl.com/2yfundtv>. The title of the series is a pun on the syndicate's real name, the Camorra, which is well known to those who are aware that the manuscript of "The Red Circle" states "Camorra" (when the story was published the name was changed, and is "Carbonari"). The series is now streaming on HBO Max (in case you subscribe to the service, or want an excuse to) <www.tinyurl.com/t84r7reb>, and you can watch a trailer at the web-site. There are subtitles in English, of course; when the series aired in Italy it was subtitled in Italian, because the dialogue is in the Neapolitan dialect rather than in proper Italian. Fair warning the series is not for the faint-hearted.

MousePlanet (which describes itself as an "independent consumer guide to Disney travel and vacations") offers a blog on "Where Is the Love for This Disney Animation?"; on June 16 Jim Korkis had nice comments about Ratigan and "Basil of Baker Street" <www.tinyurl.com/yc34zd3r>.

The French television series "Lupin" that's available on Netflix (Feb 21 #6) offers more Sherlockian allusions: in the eighth episode Assane Diop steals into his son Raoul's bedroom and leaves him a copy of *Arsène Lupin contre Sherlock Holmes*, and in the ninth episode Raoul is seen reading the book. Diop is a present-day gentleman thief inspired by Maurice Leblanc's Arsène Lupin (it's an excellent series). Omar Sy plays Assane, and Lauren Collins had an interesting profile of him in the June 21 issue of *The New Yorker* <www.tinyurl.com/4h6fwvyy>.

Sherlock Holmes loves drinking at the Sherlock Holmes pub, according to an article in the *Daily Mail* (June 15) <www.tinyurl.com/x58fdj28>.

Amir Joy's *The Chronicles of the Obscure Detective* (2021; 174 pp., \$9.99) stars Williams Joy, an "ambitious and obscure detective" who comes to modern-day London to follow in Sherlock Holmes' footsteps and manages to rent Holmes' rooms at 221B; the ink-on-paper version is mostly printed in white on black pages, but the less expensive and more readable e-book is black-on-white. The author, born in Romania and now an Egyptian national boxing champion, has a web-site at <www.amirjoy.net>.

Jun 21 #7 *Sherlock Holmes, Arthur Conan Doyle, and Switzerland: Serious and Less Serious Musings!*, edited by Marcus Geisser, Guy Marriott, and Michael A. Meer (Meiringen: Reichenbach Irregulars, 2021; 108 pp., €21.99) is the society's first book, offering papers delivered at the conferences held in Switzerland since the society was founded in 1989; it is all nicely done, and you can visit <www.tinyurl.com/4epcnrsx> to see a sample from the book. There are various ways to order the book, on paper and as an e-book, depending on where you are; the society will be happy to explain it all <reichenbachirregulars@gmail.com>. The book will be celebrated at a "Routes to the Reichenbach" virtual event with the Red Circle of Washington, via Zoom on July 10; details and a registration button are available at <www.redcircledc.org>.

Robert Quackenbush died on May 17. He began his literary career as an illustrator of children's books, and then began writing as well. His creations included Sherlock Chick (who hatched from an egg holding a magnifying glass), and Detective Mole (who wore a trench coat and a houndstooth deerstalker).

Up for bids at Heritage Auctions in Dallas on Oct 20: a single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (from the Karpeles Manuscript Museum) <www.tinyurl.com/m9um7m9d>; the page is item H31 in Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" census of pages from the story's manuscript, at <www.bestofsherlock.com/baskervilles-manuscript.htm#h31>.

The spring issue of *The Magic Door* (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) offers Joanne Alberstat's "A Diamond Cut Three Ways" (about "The Crown Diamond" and "The Mazarin Stone" and Eille Norwood), and reports from and about the Library and the Collection, which will mark its 50th anniversary this year with a celebration, possibly virtual, on Sept. 24-26. The celebration will include the 2021 Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture on Sept. 25, with Jeffrey Hatcher speaking on "Arthur Conan Doyle as Playwright"; there's no charge for the lecture, which will be a Zoom event, with registration opening on Aug. 23 <www.acdfriends.org>. A copy of the newsletter is available on request from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

Laurie R. King continues to post about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes, and *Castle Shade*, at her "Mutterings" blog at <www.laurierking.com/blog>; and you can listen to Laurie and Les Klinger talk about the book at Nancie Clare's "Speaking of Mysteries" podcast <www.tinyurl.com/3cd3b3ee>; search the blog for [sherlock] to find other Sherlockian conversations.

If you don't already have *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* with illustrations by Sophia Martineck (Dec 14 #6), it is now available discounted to \$5.98 from Daedalus Books <www.daedalusbooks.com>; you can sample her imaginative artwork at <www.martineck.com/e/projekt.php?number=170>. Daedalus is an excellent resource for discounted books.

Is there anyone out there who is a devotee of electronic Sherlock Holmes games? Is there an archive somewhere of reviews of the games? Jennie Patton has noted a 9-minute video "Evolution of Sherlock Holmes Games 2002-2021" at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=1B-ZawdJHsw> that shows just how much the computer graphics have changed (for the better) over the years.

SCUTTLEBUTT FROM THE SPERMACETI PRESS 2021

Jun 21 #8 David MacGregor has written three plays produced by the Purple Rose Theatre in Chelsea, Mich., from 2018 to 2021, and he has turned the plays into short stories that have been collected in *Sherlock in Love: The Holmes-Adler Mysteries* (London: Orange Pip Books, 2021; 429 pp., \$34.95); they star Holmes, Watson, and Irene Adler (who in fact did not die after she encountered Holmes in "A Scandal in Bohemia" and instead has moved in with him at 221B Baker Street). To avoid shocking his readers, Watson has Irene posing as Mrs. Hudson, and their investigations involve them with Vincent Van Gogh, Oscar Wilde, Auguste Escoffier, Nikola Tesla, Thomas Edison, and Moriarty's evil daughter; the stories are told with humor and style, and are also available as separate volumes (\$14.95 each). Orange Pip is an imprint of MX Publishing <www.mxpublishing.com>.

Also from MX: David MacGregor's *Sherlock Holmes: The Hero with a Thousand Faces* is a carefully-researched and thoroughly-readable two-volume examination of the evolution of Sherlock Holmes, his readers, and the world of Sherlockians and Doyleans, with a particular emphasis (as one might expect from a playwright) on how Holmes has been portrayed on stage, screen, radio, television, video games, and the Internet. The first volume (2021; 338 pp., \$28.95) covers the years from 1887 to 1937, and the second volume (2021; 344 pp., \$28.95) brings everything up to date into 2021; MacGregor concludes by noting aptly that now "Sherlock Holmes isn't merely a popular character in the genre of detective fiction. Sherlock Holmes is a genre in and of itself."

Some theater news: Pat Mullen's "Kid Sherlock" is being performed at the Lilly Theatre in the Children's Museum in Indianapolis, Ind., through Aug. 1 <www.childrensmuseum.org/visit/calendar/event/31>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at the Mad Cow Theatre in Orlando, Fla., July 9-18 <www.madcowtheatre.com>; and at the Mount Gretna Playhouse in Mount Gretna, Pa., Aug. 5 to Aug. 8 <www.gretnatheatre.org>.

R. Hamilton Wright's "Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse" is scheduled at the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., July 23-Oct. 10 <www.shawfest.com>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" (improvised by the Spontaneous Players) is due at the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine, Scotland, Nov. 14 <www.thehac.co.uk>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Mercury Theatre in Colchester, July 30-Aug. 22 <www.mercurytheatre.co.uk>; and the Harlequins Coach House Theatre in Sandusky, Ohio, in October <www.harlequinstheatre.org>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" is scheduled by Fat Goose Productions in Cold Springs, N.Y., Nov. 22-Jan. 2, 2022.

Katie Forgette's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Jersey Lily" will be produced at the Ross Valley Players Barn Theater in Ross, Calif., Jan. 21-Feb. 20, 2022.

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

Jul 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Paul Thomas Miller has announced the first Doyle's Rotary Coffin Treasure Hunt <www.tinyurl.com/fke34nc6>; it's open to everyone, and you have until Blue Carbuncle Day (Dec. 27), when the Treasure Hunt ends. Paul has noted that "it will be presided over by the psychic ghost of Silver Blaze, the famous undead murder horse, so cheating is a very bad idea."

Richard Brown explores "The Place of William Clark Russell in the Sherlock Holmes Canon" and Mark Alberstat discusses "ACD and the Olympics of 1912-1916" in the summer issue of *Canadian Holmes*, which is published quarterly by the Bootmakers of Toronto, and also offers news of Sherlockian goings-on in Canada. Subscriptions cost \$30.00 a year (US or CA); single issues cost \$12.50 <www.torontobootmakers.com>.

Nicholas Utechin's *From Abbey to Wiles* (London: Sherlock Holmes Society of London, 2021; 30 pp., £7.00) is what he calls the "third incarnation" of the book published in 2016, offering a splendid (and full-color) examination of the work of the seven artists who illustrated the dust jackets for the John Murray editions of the Canon, revised to include new information. Nick believes (well, hopes) that he has now covered everything. You can purchase the new edition at <www.tinyurl.com/bsrv7wwb> (that's the shop of the Society, where you'll find a nice variety of interesting Sherlockian scholarship).

There will be a fifth season of "The Crown" on Netflix, covering the royal family in the early 1990s. Jonny Lee Miller has signed on to play Prime Minister John Major, and Jonathan Pryce (another actor who has performed as Holmes) will appear as Prince Philip.

Frederic Dorr Steele's original artwork showing "The Slaving Hound" was offered at Quinn's Auction Galleries in Falls Church, Va., on July 8, estimated at \$800-\$1200. Described as unpublished, it was loaned by Edgar W. Smith to the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London (1951) and at the Plaza Art Galleries in New York (1952). After Smith died his collection was bought by Carl Anderson, and after Anderson died his collection was purchased by Lew David Feldman, who published the artwork on the cover of his catalog *Sherlock Holmes and Sherlockiana: 76 Items* (1975). The artwork sold on July 8 for \$6,500 (plus buyer's premium) to Jerry Margolin; Randall Stock has a detailed discussion of the artwork at <www.tinyurl.com/phnwj64h>.

Storytel, a Swedish audiobook streaming subscription service that competes with Audible and is now available in 25 countries (not including the U.S., U.K., or Canada) has been licensed by the Conan Doyle Estate Ltd. to create new Sherlock Holmes stories to be scripted by a team of writers under the creative lead of Anthony Horowitz, who said "This is going to be Sherlock Holmes from a very different perspective, staying true to the spirit of the books—which I have always loved—but expanding the narrative and the vision of Conan Doyle in all sorts of unexpected ways." Their press release (June 28) <www.tinyurl.com/54ktw8kc> has more information.

Jul 21 #2 Roy V. Hunt: *A Retrospective*, edited by David and Daniel Ritter (First Fandom Experience, 2021; 144 pp., \$45.00), is a delightful tribute to a legendary fan, artist, and illustrator; he was one of the organizers of the third World Science Fiction Convention in Denver in 1941, and in 2016 at the 74th WorldCon was inducted into the Posthumous Hall of Fame. He also was a dedicated Sherlockian, one of the founders of the Council of Four in Denver (which in 1960 published the landmark anthology *The Science-Fictional Sherlock Holmes*), and the principal illustrator of books and journals published by Luther Norris' Pontine Press. The retrospective includes many of his Sherlockian illustrations, and is available at the publisher's web-site <www.firstfandomexperience.org>.

High fashion: Jennie Paton spotted Simona Lampe's autumn/winter "Sherlockology" collection on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/k4pp8umk>; scroll down and click on "part II" to see the rest of the collection.

Alexander Orlov has reported a connection between Sherlock Holmes and the Russian city of Archangel. It is really a connection between Conan Doyle and Archangel, but that's close enough. You can start at 16 minutes into a Russian news broadcast on June 15 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jpp9btEfv4> (it's possible to get closed captions in not very good English). Then you can go to <www.vk.com/wall11955238_11914> to read Evgeny Tenetov's article (in Russian) about the Northern Maritime Museum in Archangel having what's left of the Peterhead whaler *Eclipse*; Google Translate will help you read the article in English. The *Eclipse* was the sister ship of the *Hope*, on which Conan Doyle sailed to the Arctic in 1880; in his diary, published as '*Dangerous Work*' (2012), he records having visited the *Eclipse* more than once in 1880.

The Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's celebration of its 50th anniversary at the Toronto Public Library (Jun 21 #7) will be entirely virtual, on Sept. 25; stay tuned for details.

The Arts of Beauty: or, Secrets of a Lady's Toilet. With Hints to Gentlemen on the Art of Fascinating is the title of a book published in New York in 1858 that might be of interest to those who believe that the author was an inspiration when Conan Doyle created Irene Adler. The author? Madame Lola Montez, Countess of Landsfeld. A copy of the book was offered at the Swann Auction Galleries in New York on July 15, estimated at \$300-\$500; it sold for \$688 (including buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/yc7ymuk9>.

The book is dedicated (in an era when dedications in books were not brief) "To all men and women of every land, who are not afraid of themselves, who trust so much in their own souls that they dare to stand up in the might of their own individuality, to meet the tidal current of the world," and if you would like merely to read (rather than own) the first edition, and see what Madame Lopez had to say, you can, thanks to Google Books, do so at <www.tinyurl.com/uutzzzsw>.

Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 29, 2020, in Vestavia, Ala., at the age of 93, according to an obituary in the Carbondale Southern Illinoisan, a celebration of Life Service was held on July 10 <www.tinyurl.com/xsnnt9y9>.

Jul 21 #3 Ichthys Theatre Productions in Brantford, Ont., has been producing some of the old Sherlock Holmes radio programs and uploading the recordings to their channel at YouTube; four shows are available, and a fifth show is due on Sept. 10.

Denis Zilber has created an imaginative portrait of Holmes and Watson, in full color, and a thumbnail won't do it justice, so you'll need to go online to see it properly <www.tinyurl.com/vwfx94eu>: \$21.99 as a print, and \$95.99 on canvas. You can (and you should) see more of his artwork at his web-site <www.deniszilber.com>.

Sightseeing in style in London: a private three-hour "Sherlock" location tour by black taxi from Get Your Guide <www.tinyurl.com/kavth3jb>, with a professional guide, driver and transportation, and hotel pick-up, for only \$247.72 per person; kindly reported by Jennie Paton.

The July issue of Timeline (the Sherlockian Chronologist Guild's official newsletter) gives detailed attention to their proposed Supreme Chronology Court. If you would like to join the Guild, serve on the Court, or merely see an issue of their newsletter, that's easy enough to achieve: just contact Brad Keefauver at <bkeefauver@gmail.com>.

For anyone who remembers the film "Sin City" (2005) here's an interesting trailer that someone put together in 2011, kindly noted by Samantha Wolov <www.jezebel.com/walt-disney-presents-sin-city-5851797>; the film was not Sherlockian, but the trailer is.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to watch interviews with Ross Davies and others (including a tribute to John Bennett Shaw).

What is the world's oldest coin still in production today? According to the Royal Mint, it is the sovereign, first struck more than 500 years ago <www.tinyurl.com/mdrvuy6u>. Mentioned often in the Canon, the sovereign is a 11 coin (that's 20 shillings, for those who aren't decimalized).

"Sherlock Holmes Under the Magnifying Glass: The Game's Afoot!" is one of the many programs scheduled by the Smithsonian Associates, and since its programs still are presented on Zoom, you don't need to be in Panic on the Potomac to take advantage of them. This one is due on Oct. 8, at 6:30 pm (Eastern Time), and it will feature Dan Stashower discussing the Great Detective, and Scott Sedar reading from some of Conan Doyle's works; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/zmbeh8yr>. Dan and Scott team up often for the Smithsonian Associates, and they're always entertaining.

"Like Matthiessen, he is a kind of Watson figure, sidekick throughout his adventure to a savvier character." According to Kathryn Schulz, in an article about Sylvain Tesson and Peter Matthiessen in the July 12 issue of The New Yorker <www.tinyurl.com/976sn9e5>. It's a nice example of cultural literacy: Schulz assumes her readers will know who Watson is, without any mention of Holmes.

Jul 21 #4 Fans of Michael Bond's "Paddington Bear" surely will flock to the British Library to see their new exhibition "Paddington: The Story of a Bear" (open until Oct. 31) <www.tinyurl.com/64kajz5x>. The exhibition may or may not have something Sherlockian, but Paddington used Sherlockian methods, and dialogue, in "Paddington Turns Detective" in *More About Paddington* (1959) and *Paddington on Stage* (1977). There's a video trailer for the exhibition at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=wqK_2uc7xR0>.

The National Archives in London proclaim that "the great and undetectable detective—the clue is in our collection," and they do indeed have a lot to offer <www.tinyurl.com/ch5s7ezw>, including an imaginative on-line jigsaw puzzle. Kindly reported by Nick Utechin.

Bill Amend's comic strip "FoxTrot" began a detective-agency thread on-line on June 23, and it quickly turned Sherlockian <www.tinyurl.com/nabfzmv>; thanks to Stan Hill for reporting on it. If you recall seeing the thread before, that's because it's repeated from June 2000 ("FoxTrot" now runs in papers only on Sundays).

Brad Keefauver's interesting "The Seventeen Steps: Discussion Questions for Investigating Mr. Sherlock Holmes" covers each of the Canonical stories <www.theseventeenstepsto221b.blogspot.com> and will be useful to any Sherlockian society (or for that matter any Sherlockian) in an era when it occurs to many that no new insights to be found in the Canon. Alexander Braun (aka Murray the Orderly) posts discussions of the stories each week to the Hounds of the Internet, and they are readily available at Sherlocktron <www.sherlocktron.com/inquiries.html>, along with the Canon Queeries from the late Ralph Edwards <www.sherlocktron.com/queries.html>. You will find a great deal more of interest at Sherlockton, thanks to Willis Frick, who presides over the web-site.

The Great Sherlock Holmes Puzzle Book, by Gareth Moore (London: Arcturus, 2021; 256 pp., £7.99), is a collection of puzzles and riddles described as "enigmas to puzzle even the greatest detective of all." And here's an example: what is special about the number 8,549,176,320?

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration does far more than sending missions to the Moon and to Mars. The NASA Earth Observatory's "image of the day" for July 13 showed "Venezuela's Flat-Topped Mountains" (with a mention of Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*, and the movie "Up") and discussed the geography and geology of the area <www.tinyurl.com/2dzseytn>.

There are at least some (who's counting?) who enjoy both Sherlock Holmes and Minions, and will be proud to wear a "Consulting Minion" shirt offered by TeePublic <www.tinyurl.com/3dewzjyp> with long or short sleeves; stickers, mugs, and masks also are available.

The newsletter of the Public Domain Review recently called attention to an article about the Sanger Circus Collection that was published on July 9 at JSTOR <www.tinyurl.com/44t8vpzd>; those who have read "The Veiled Lodger" will recall the mention of Sanger. The nicely illustrated article offers a photograph of "Ellen Sanger, lion tamer and wife of George Sanger."

Jul 21 #5 What's the second-most valuable Sherlockian periodical? The most valuable would be Beeton's Christmas Annual for 1887, in which "A Study in Scarlet" was published. Next in line would be the first issue of Playboy, with an excerpt from "The Sign of the Four" (as well as the iconic calendar photograph of Marilyn Monroe); a copy of that issue, signed by Hugh Hefner, was offered at Heritage Auctions on July 16, and sold for \$48,750 (including buyer's premium) <www.tinyurl.com/ybdc6cjf>.

Alexander Orlov has noted the Finaketto House of Chess in Baku (in Azerbaijan) <www.trend.az/life/sports/3447998.html#>, decorated with a mural that shows Holmes and Watson playing chess.

Michael K. Vaughan is a prolific uploader to YouTube, talking about books, and so far he has done *The Lost World* (on the Sunday Penguin) and *A Study in Scarlet* and *The Sign of Four* (in Sherlock Saturday); they're excellent introductions for those who haven't read the books.

Ken Ludwig has a monthly on-line Comedy Play Club that in August will celebrate his play "Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery" with a discussion on Aug. 11, and all sorts of fun and games <www.tinyurl.com/2nvfsujy>.

"The Astonishing Adventures of Houdini's Favorite Detective" was the headline on Karen Lee's story at the Fishwrap blog on July 20. Houdini's favorite detective was not Sherlock Holmes, of course, but rather Rose Mackenberg, and you can read all about her at <www.tinyurl.com/xyrf4yef>. A tip of the deerstalker to Alan Rettig, for reporting the article.

What is special about the number 8,549,176,320? It's the only number that contains all ten digits in alphabetical order.

Fans of Benedict Cumberbatch who haven't already seen him in "Hamlet" and in "Frankenstein" (in which he and Jonny Lee Miller played both roles on alternate nights), and other fine actors in excellent plays, may wish to subscribe to National Theatre at Home <www.tinyurl.com/38n9rf5f>. Their plays have been streamed to theaters around the world, but you now have a chance to see them at home.

Tom Fahres has noted that on July 12 Bill Griffith's "Zippy" comic strip had Zippy the Pinhead visiting Gillette Castle <www.tinyurl.com/4yxu2wum>.

The "Corona in the Lost World" tie-in poster issued in 1925 and offered at Heritage Auctions this month (Jun 21 #3) was bought for \$1,200 (including the buyer's premium). And yes, Edward Malone did have a Corona typewriter with him as part of his essential gear in the film.

William F. Nolan died on July 15. A prolific author and screenwriter, as well as an artist and actor, he befriended Ray Bradbury and found his way into the world of science fiction. His short story "Sungrab" (first published in the anthology *After the Fall* in 1980), featured Mars-based private eye Sam Space, who was aided by computers named Holmes and Watson in pursuit of a new manifestation of the Baskerville curse; it was reprinted in his collection *Down the Long Night* in 2000.

Jul 21 #6 Just in case you want a nice present for someone special, the new Montblanc "writer's edition" tribute to Conan Doyle will do very nicely. There's a nice video <www.tinyurl.com/46kzdjf4> that features Dan Stashower and others talking about Conan Doyle and the new pens. Forbes has a fine article about the pens <www.tinyurl.com/tptrtdz73>; there are four different pens, priced from only \$1,150 up to \$4,600, with accessories also available <www.tinyurl.com/dnph2ydj>. And despite its fancy French name, the company has always been German (Wikipedia has a nice entry for Montblanc).

It's not easy, by the way, to find out just how limited Montblanc's limited editions are. One Internet source says that, "the piston-filled fountain pen is limited to 9,800 pieces; the ballpoint pen to 10,300; the capless rollerball is limited to 8,600 pieces."

"The Adventure of the Pimlico Poisoner" was a 90-minute drama written by Peter Mackie and broadcast by BBC Radio 4 in 1990, with William Chubb as Sherlock Holmes and Crawford Logan as Dr. Watson; Jennie Paton notes that it's now available at YouTube <www.tinyurl.com/pwvvnvstc>.

Yet another Sherlock Holmes cocktail, posted by Oliver Walkey at the Glass of Bubbly blog <www.glassofbubbly.com/sherlock-holmes-cocktail>; the explanation is perhaps more imaginative than the recipe. Sherlock Holmes is not recorded in the Canon as having imbibed a cocktail, although of course he could have: the Oxford English Dictionary cites the word as used in the Daily Telegraph (Aug. 23, 1864).

Theatrics: Daniel Foley's "The Return of Sherlock Holmes" will be produced (during the Edinburgh Festival Fringe) at the Gilded Ballroom Teviot, Aug. 5 to 29 <www.tinyurl.com/dybjxdeb>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Tarpon Springs Performing Art Center in Tarpon Springs, Sept. 11-19 <www.tarponarts.org>; at the Balzer Theater in Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 17-Dec. 19 <www.theatricaloutfit.org>.

Ed. Lange's "Sherlock's Secret Life" will be produced at the Southampton Cultural Center in Southampton, Long Island, N.Y., from Sept. 17 to Oct. 10 <www.scc-arts.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" is due at Theatr Clwyd in Mold, Wales, Sept. 21-25 <www.theatrclyd.com>; and at the York Theatre Royal in York, Oct. 19-23 (on tour from the Octagon Theatre in Bolton) <www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk>; and at the Weymouth Pavilion in Weymouth, Dorset, Oct. 21-23 <www.weymouthpavilion.com>.

Denis Green and Anthony Boucher's "A Scandal in Bohemia" will be streamed by the Resident Ensemble Players at the University of Delaware, Sept. 29-Oct. 17 <www.rep.udel.edu/presentations/a-scandal-in-bohemia>.

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

Aug 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Nancy Springer's *Enola Holmes and the Black Barouche* (New York: Wednesday Books, 2021; 261 pp., \$17.99) is the seventh book in her series about Enola, written after the successful release of "Enola Holmes" on Netflix; the story's set after the events in Millie Bobby Brown's film, and Enola and Sherlock are struggling to find an evil earl's missing wife. The story is lively and well-written, and the author's web-site <www.nancyspringer.com> offers information about all of her books, but not the eighth title in the "Enola Holmes" series; Springer has said that she had written eight books, with only six of them published; the success of the movie persuaded her to take the remaining two off the shelf, or out of the drawer.

The Unemployed Philosophers Guild <www.philosophersguild.com> continues to offer "thoughtful gifts for thinking people," honoring all sorts of authors and characters, and there are seven items to be found if one searches for [sherlock], including an imaginative little booklet of "Holmes Sticky Notes" (\$7.95).

William Gillette entertained Sherlock Holmes at Gillette Castle last month (Tyke and Teddie Niver, impersonating the Gillettes, welcomed John Sherwood, who often has portrayed Holmes), and there's a video: "William Gillette: The Man Meets His Legend" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxACsUCKgHs>.

The BSI Trust's webinar lecture by Roberta Pearson (professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham) will be held on Oct. 2; registration opened on Aug. 28 <www.bsitrust.org/2021/08/register-2021-lecture.html> (the lecture will be free via Zoom, but space may be limited, so registration early is encouraged).

Sherlock Hounds Detection Canines <www.sherlockhoundsdetectioncanines.com> "provides an effective, proactive program that deters the potential existence of drugs, alcohol, and gunpowder in schools, businesses, and private homes" in and around Berthoud, Colo.

Constantine Argyropo notes that Scott Hilburn's "The Argyle Sweater" comic strip was nicely Sherlockian on Aug. 4 <www.tinyurl.com/vtsw8cv9>.

The "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has reached episode 221, and by nice coincidence its subject is the Baker Street Journal; Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interviewed BSJ editor Steve Rothman about the BSJ's history, and much more <www.tinyurl.com/k2wzmsd3>. Episode 221B (they call it episode 222) is devoted to this newsletter, and other things.

Jennie Paton has noted an interesting unisex blemish-busting acne system on offer from various Internet shops; search for [no zit sherlock].

Isabella Goodman has won the 2021 Irene Adler Prize: a \$1,000 scholarship for a woman pursuing a degree in journalism, creative writing, or literature <www.tinyurl.com/2kykxaz2>. Founded in 2017, the prize is named in honor of the heroine in "A Scandal in Bohemia".

Aug 21 #2 Sheila Mitchell's *H.R.F. Keating: A Life of Crime* (Olney: Level Best Books, 2020; 264 pp., \$15.95), is an excellent biography of the award-winning author who created Indian Inspector Ganesh Ghote and wrote insightful books about crime fiction (including *Sherlock Holmes: The Man and His World* in 1979); Sheila Mitchell was his wife, and has many grand stories to tell about her husband's life and career, and his interest in Holmes and Conan Doyle (p. 137-139) (also discussed in the introduction by Len Deighton and the appendix by Martin Edwards). There's more about the book, and about Keating, at <www.hrfkeating.com>.

The Beacon Society is continuing to publish its quarterly newsletter for younger Sherlockians, and the latest issue of *Sherlock's Spotlight* can be found at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; they also have published a collection ("Peanuts by Schulz") that offers a set of the comic strip's Snoopy cartoons with Sherlockian content, available on request from Steve Mason <mason.steve8080@gmail.com>.

The Royal Mail has issued a set of ten stamps honoring "some of the ground-breaking inventions that defined the industrial and electric revolutions," one of them celebrating the incandescent light bulb patented by Joseph Wilson Swan in 1800 (there was mention of "a thousand candle-power Swan and Edison right here in front of the hall door" in "The Hound of the Baskervilles"). Swan and Edison sued each other for patent infringement, and after Swan won in a British court they merged into the Edison and Swan United Electric Light Company in 1883.

"The only Sherlockian picture & stage newspaper in the world" is how Howard Ostrom describes the new "Sherlock Holmes on Screens" (€4.00 for four pages); there's a promotional video at <www.tinyurl.com/dkx57ttz>, and additional information at <www.sherlock-holmes-on-screens.com> (scroll down to the Store).

We hear of Sherlock everywhere, including a 1992 television commercial for Huggies, spotted by Jennie Paton <www.youtube.com/watch?v=giN0hfho3GU>.

Una Stubbs died on Aug. 12. In the 1950s she appeared in advertisements as the "Rountree's Chocolate Girl" and began her acting career as a dancer in the chorus at the London Palladium, and went on to a long career on the stage and in films and television, where she was delightful as Mrs. Hudson in every episode of the BBC's "Sherlock" series.

Steve Doyle's video podcasts (for the Baker Street Irregulars) continue at YouTube; search for [fortnightly dispatch] to find interviews with Charles Prepolec, Scott Monty and Burt Wolder, and others.

The Spanish artist Marco Navas offered a "Sherlockians" collection with 12 7-cm figurines some years ago (Nov 14 #5), hand-crafted in resin and hand-painted, and their "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" collection now includes a graphic scene from "The Final Problem"; their web-site's in Spanish and English at <www.marconavas.com/EESherlock%20Holmes.html>.

Aug 21 #3 Cale Atkinson has written and illustrated *Simon and Chester: Super Detectives!* (New York: Tundra, 2021; 64 pp., \$12.99), a delightfully Sherlockian story for children aged 6-9. Simon is a professional ghost, and the book is a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection; the story's nicely and humorously told. The author's web-site is at <www.cale.ca>.

W.F. "Bill" Lawler died on July 19. He was an avid golfer, musician (he played the piano, guitar, and bluegrass banjo), and author; his books included two pastiches: *Mystery at St. Andrews* (2013) and *Treachery in Torquay* (2018).

"Holmes & Yoyo" was a 30-minute series broadcast by ABC-TV in 1976-1977, with Richard B. Shull (as Detective Alexander Holmes) and John Shuck (as his partner Gregory Yoyonovich, who is a good-natured but naive android); Shull was a member of the Baker Street Irregulars (as "An Actor and a Rare One"), but the series otherwise is not Sherlockian. According to Wikipedia, it was considered one of the worst television series ever made, and you can now decide for yourself: Jennie Paton reports that some of the 13 episodes are available at YouTube.

As usual, the Internet is full of rumor when it comes to the third Robert Downey Jr. "Sherlock Holmes" film and the next season of the BBC's "Sherlock" series, but there's real news about the second "Enola Holmes" film: the City Council of Hull (in East Yorkshire) has warned residents in the center of the city that scenes will be filmed there on Oct. 5-6.

Bert Coules has written "Watson: The Final Problem" as a one-man show for Tim Marriott; it's far more than the title suggests, and thoroughly imaginative, as might be expected from the creator of BBC Radio 4's broadcasts for the entire Canon. It's now on tour (Aug 21 #8); a video trailer and a 59-minute full audio recording are at <www.smokescreenprods.com/watson>.

Rob Byrne discussed the restoration of "Der Hund von Baskerville" (1929), with Carlyle Blackwell as Sherlock Holmes, in an interview in the Goethe Pop Up Seattle film series "German Cinema Now!" <www.vimeo.com/585518261>.

The August issue of the newsletter of the Gillette Castle State Park, online at <www.tinyurl.com/pxfee543>, turns its "museum spotlight" on Gillette and Conan Doyle, offering images of some of the interesting material in the Castle's collection.

Cost-of-living never seems to decrease. First it was my printer, and now it's the Postal Service: domestic mail is going up to 58¢ (from 55¢) and international to \$1.30 (from \$1.20) per ounce, so next month subscription prices will increase as well. Oh, for the days when my monthly mailings cost only \$6.00 a year. Do keep in mind that I won't be a bit offended if you decide to switch to reading the newsletter on-line (in full color and with live links); my circulation department does wonder occasionally why there are people who have computers and access to the Internet, but still are willing to receive paper pages in the mail.

Aug 21 #4 In case you don't know what to do with all the pandemic spare time on your hands, the National Archives at Kew offers free access (during the pandemic) to their digitized archives. One of the more interesting digitized items is the World War I medal record for Sherlock Holmes, a gunner in the Royal Field Artillery who was awarded both a 1914-15 Star and a Victory Medal.

"Jubilation in Skibbereen" was the headline on a story in the Irish Times <www.tinyurl.com/ytpbx2se>. The town's certainly not the same as it was when Sherlock Holmes gave serious trouble to the constabulary there (as in "His Last Bow"). Two members of the Skibbereen Rowing Club won gold medals in the double sculls event at the Olympics last month (kindly reported by Oscar Ross).

Reported: *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021*, edited by Lee Child (New York: Mysterious Press, 2021; 451 pp., \$25.95); contents include David Marcum's "The Adventure of the Home Office Baby" (reprinted from the Strand Magazine).

Bud Plant opened his first comic-book store in 1968, and now presides over Bud's Art Books <www.budsartbooks.com>, kindly reported by Tom Mann. You can search for [sherlock holmes] to find some unusual items.

Richard Levangie's *Secrets of the Hotel Maisonneuve* (Lunenburg: Trap Door, 2020; 213 pp., \$10.95) features a thirteen-year-old boy in Montreal, very much a teen-ager, who finds himself involved in solving a mystery that is full of Sherlockian echoes; the story is told with warmth and humor, and the book's a fine young-adult novel. You can sample the first chapter at the publisher's web-site <www.nevermorepress.ca/books>.

When in Stillwater, Minn. (near the Twin Cities) (they're Minneapolis and St. Paul), you can stay for a night or two in the Arthur Conan Doyle Grand Suite at the Rivertown Inn <www.rivertowninn.com/arthur-conan-doyle>.

Derham Groves has reported a designboom article from 2015 that will resonate with anyone who has read "The Engineer's Thumb" and would like to see a modern homage to the story <www.tinyurl.com/uh9jxcr2>. Justin Poulson is a Canadian artist, and his handcrafted artwork "blurs the lines between photography, sculpture, and CGI." Images of some of his work can be seen at <www.justinpoulsen.com>. He reports that he has never read the story, and, alas, he has no remaining items from 2015.

Anatoliy Rudakov died on Aug. 1. He was an Honored Artist of the Russian Federation, and played Lestrade's assistant Tracy in the 2013 Russian television "Sherlock Holmes" series that starred Igor Petrenko as Holmes.

"Bored on Board Onboard" (Aug. 15) is an episode of the 60-minute series "DC's Legends of Tomorrow" (broadcast by the CW), and for a while at least you can watch it at the series web-site <www.tinyurl.com/yh93f866> and see Jess Macallan (as Ava Sharpe, the twelfth genetically-engineered Advanced Variant Automation clone that Rip Hunter recruited) in Sherlockian costume as the Eccentric Detective while the Legends play a murder-mystery game.

Aug 21 #5 "Während eines harmlosen Spaziergangs wird einer jungen Frau ihre Halskette gestohlen. Sie wendet sich hilfeschend an den berühmten Detektiv Sherlock Holmes. Dieser kann den Dieb mit Hilfe seines Hundes fassen." That's the description of a two-minute German silent film recently discovered by Jennie Paton <www.vimeo.com/585461066>. Sorry: no additional information about the film is available, except that it might have been made in the 1920s.

If you've not yet had a chance to see the excellent 1979 Russian television series that starred Vitaliy Livanov as Holmes and Vasili Solomin as Watson, Jennie Paton found all of the episodes on-line (with English subtitles) at <www.youtube.com/channel/UCLihzBmlVfurivKdWkKXOQ>.

"The mysterious Edinburgh secret society with a temple to the supernatural" was the headline on a post to the Edinburgh Live web-site on Aug. 16 <www.tinyurl.com/2waa645>. The secret society is the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, and the article lists Conan Doyle as one of its members. The Wikipedia entry for the society lists him as one of the "known or alleged" members, but Andrew Lycett, in *The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* (2007), explains that while Conan Doyle knew members, and was invited to join, he declined, "claiming he was too busy to study to become an initiate."

"Step inside a world of mystery, suspense, and intrigue. this box pulls you into a Sherlock-inspired mood. Feel the soft wood and marble of Watson's writing desk under your fingertips and enjoy a cup of tea blended with a hint of spice, just as Irene Adler prefers it." That's the premise of the Arise Box <www.thearisebox.com> (\$55.00); there's a video trailer available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=614W7VkyMq4>.

Worton Hall Studios in Isleworth (a London suburb) now is a fine-arts complex, but it once was one of Britain's major film studios. The first film made there was "A Study in Scarlet" (1914), and there's more about Worton Hall in My London (Aug. 17) <www.tinyurl.com/fe68vabr>.

Tim Major's pastiche *The Back to Front Murder* (New York: Titan, 2021; 252 pp., \$14.95) is billed as "a fiendish plot," and so it is, beginning with a young woman, a writer of mysteries who finds that someone has been murdered following a scenario she has written but not published, and comes to Holmes for help; there are plenty of complications, twists, and turns.

Fred Taraba, a specialist dealer in original artwork by American illustrators <www.tarabaillustrationart.com>, has a delightful story that surely will resonate with any specialist collector: Shortly after he began working at Illustration House in 1991, they had a customer who wanted pictures with gas masks. So when a piece showing an attractive young woman holding a gas mask came in, he was over the Moon with excitement. At the time offering something to a client meant either mailing physical photo or having them come in, so called the customer and said, "We have a gas mask picture you might want to see next time you're in town." A couple of days later he was there looking at it. After a pause he said politely, "Well, she's not actually wearing the gas mask, is she? It's not for me."

Aug 21 #6 According to an item in the Rome News-Tribune (in Georgia, not Italy) on Aug. 19 <www.tinyurl.com/4z34apst>, local Sherlock Holmes fan Tim Naddy has received permission to renovate the façade of a building in the city's historic district so that it will appear similar to 221B Baker Street; the building will house his Hound Taint data-analysis business, and the offices of Baker Street Scientific.

Reported: "The Terror of Blue John Gap" is reprinted in Richard Fallon's anthology *Creatures of Another Age* (Vallancourt, 2021), one of an assortment of books about mythical and fictional creatures reviewed by Michael Dirda in the Washington Post (Aug. 18) <www.tinyurl.com/cwja3emv>.

Commentary in the press about what's happening in Afghanistan often mentions "A Study in Scarlet", as with David Von Drehle's column in the Washington Post (Aug. 20) <www.tinyurl.com/42n535vj>; Scott Monty, in his online newsletter "Timeless & Timely", also reminded his readers of the opening of "A Study in Pink" <www.timelesstimely.com/p/present-tense>.

The Building Design web-site reported on Aug. 19 that St. Bart's Grade I-listed north wing and gatehouse are to be restored and opened up to more visitors; it's certainly an impressive part of the hospital, and one wonders whether Holmes and Watson ever saw it <www.tinyurl.com/k75hf53c>.

Ellery Queen Mystery Magazine is continuing to add to the podcasts available at its web-site <www.tinyurl.com/2dsfx23f>; there now are more than 140 podcasts, and some of them are nicely Sherlockian (see episodes 5, 49, 64, 122, 123, and 135). Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" blog also is of interest, with four blogs about Holmes and one about Conan Doyle.

Heritage Auctions now has images of the single page from the manuscript of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" that will be at auction on Oct. 20 (Jun 21 #7); the page is item H31 in Randall Stock's "Best of Sherlock" census at <www.bestofsherlock.com/mss/hound-baskervilles-h31-2021.htm>.

Peter J. Crupe ("The Noble Bachelor") died on Aug. 14. Peter worked in forensic accounting and tax analysis, but his real passions were the N.Y. Yankees and Sherlock Holmes. He founded and presided over the Bay Ridge Irregulars and then the Montague Street Lodgers, and was an enthusiastic member of many other societies. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1994.

Bouchercon 2021 in New Orleans was cancelled (well, postponed, as you will soon see), but you can plan ahead for Minneapolis, Sept. 8-10, 2022; San Diego, Aug. 30-Sept. 3, 2023; Nashville, Aug. 28-Sept. 1, 2024; and back in New Orleans, Sept. 3-7, 2025.

Observations by Gaslight: Stories from the World of Sherlock Holmes (New York: Mysterious Press, 2021; 295 pp, \$25.95) is a collection of reminiscences by Irene Adler, Henry Wiggins, Geoffrey Lestrade, Stanley Hopkins, A. Davenport Lomax, and Martha Hudson, all thanks to Lyndsay Faye, who has had fun writing as each of the Canonical characters; it's all nicely done, with some interesting surprises.

Aug 21 #7 James E. Starrs died on June 26. He edited *The Noiseless Tenor: The Bicycle in Literature* (1982), an anthology that offers "The Priory School" and two excerpts from Christopher Morley's writings, but was much better known for work that resulted in *A Voice for the Dead: A Forensic Investigator's Pursuit of the Truth in the Grave* (2005), a book that covers his exhumations and research into the cases of Alferd Packer, Jesse James, and others, and of course he mentions Sherlock Holmes.

Jim Ballinger has entertained the Bootmakers of Toronto (and others) for many years, and Jennie Paton reports that Jim now has a "Sherlock Songs" channel at YouTube <www.youtube.com/channel/UCHevjXVMYSY-uviZ55e8mQqA>.

There's still time to register for the Toronto Arthur Conan Doyle Collection's "Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture" on Sept. 25 (via Zoom and free) <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>; this year's guest speaker will be Jeffrey Hatcher (on "The Adventure of the Occasional Playwright: Conan Doyle Onstage"). Their web-site also offers a recording of last year's virtual lecture, by Rebecca Romney (on "Sherlockian Collecting").

Paul Thomas Miller continues to preside over meetings of his society the Shingle of Southsea (which isn't difficult, since he's the only member) as well as the society's web-site <www.shingleofsouthsea.blogspot.com>, where you will find a series of Sherlockian "how to" videos, and much more.

Up for auction at Holts Auctioneers in Wolferton on Sept. 20: a rare .450 single-shot sealing rifle made by Alex'r Henry, Edinburgh. Better-known for inventing the seven-groove rifling in the Martini-Henry rifle, which entered service with the British Army in 1871, Alexander Henry also made and sold sealing rifles; his first client, in 1870, was Capt. John Grey of the S.S. Hope, on which young Arthur Conan Doyle sailed in 1879. You can see his sketch ("Five Bulls at a hundred Yards") in his diary of the voyage, showing him at work with a sealing rifle on May 3, 1880. The diary was published in 2012 as *Dangerous Work*, and the sketch is on p. 86. Conan Doyle mentions Martini-Henry rifles in his books about the Great Boer War, and in non-Sherlockian stories. Sherlock Holmes (in "The Sign of the Four") says, "I would sooner face a Martini bullet, myself."

The Sherlock Holmes Children's Collection (London: Sweet Cherry Publishing, 2019; \$45.99) is a boxed set of ten of the stories, adapted by Stephanie Baudet for readers aged 7 to 9 and illustrated by Arianna Bellucci; each book includes a QR code that links to an audio reading of the story. The publisher's web-site <www.sweetcherrypublishing.com> offers teaching resources, and two more boxed sets of ten stories were issued in 2020 and 2021; the 30 stories also are available as single volumes.

Derham Groves' *Sherlock in the Seventies* (Chambersburg: Visible Spectrum, 2021; 206 pp., \$15.00) surveys "A wild decade of Sherlock Holmes films," discussing in great detail the nine major films that made the 1970s so interesting for Sherlockian, and of course attracted attention from the general public; he has interviewed casts and crews, dug deeply into reviews and general criticism, and studied the films carefully, and tells all of his stories well. Recommended.

Aug 21 #8 "Dramarama" is a teen coming-out comedy that was screened at the British Film Institute's Flair: London LGBTIQ+ Film Festival in March. It was released in selected theaters in this month, and available in virtual theaters. It also will be streamed on-line; details can be found at the film's web-site <www.dramaramathemovie.com>, where you can watch a trailer and a "murder mystery" clip that features Nico Greetham (Oscar) as Sherlock Holmes.

There is plenty of theater coming up: Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Little Theatre of Virginia Beach in Virginia Beach, Va., Sept. 3-26 <www.ltvb.com>; also at the Reilly Arts Center in Ocala, Fla., Sept. 30-Oct. 2 <www.reillyartscenter.com>; and the Everest-Rohrer Chapel Fine Arts Center in Wishawaka, Ind., Nov. 4-6 <www.tinyurl.com/e8467a4s>.

James Barry's "Sherlock's Excellent Adventure" is due at the Parish Hall in Bosbury, Herts., on Sept. 4 <www.ourstartheatrecompany.com>.

The Octagon Theatre's production of Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be touring in Britain from Sept. 16 into 2022 <www.tinyurl.com/tv5zm4e2>.

Stuart Fortey's "Holmes and Watson: The Farewell Tour" ("The Case of the Prime Minister, the Floozie, and the Lummock Rock Lighthouse") will tour in Britain beginning on Sept. 17 <www.pyramusandthisbeproductions.com>.

Bert Coules' "Watson: The Final Problem" will be performed at Leconfield on Top in Petworth, West Sussex, on Sept. 22; and at the Rondo Theatre in Bath on Nov. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/57s38yfw>; see above (Aug 21 #x) for more about the show.

Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is coming up at the Centennial Station Arts Center in High Point, N.C., Sept. 24-26 <www.hpct.net>; and at the South Arkansas Arts Center in El Dorado, Ark., Nov. 5-6 <www.saac-arts.org>.

David MacGregor's "Sherlock Holmes and the Adventure of the Fallen Soufflé" will be performed at the Toledo Repertoire Theatre, from Oct. 29 to Nov. 7 <www.toldeorep.org>.

Charles Marowitz's "Sherlock's Last Case" will be performed at the Lohrey Theatre in Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 15-31 <www.theatrememphis.org>.

Steven Canny and John Nicholson's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" (on tour from the Octagon Theatre in Bolton) will be performed at the Richmond Theatre in Richmond, London, Nov. 2-6 <www.atgtickets.com>.

Mark Shanahan's "A Sherlock Carol" will be performed at New World Stages-Stage Three in New York, Nov. 11-Jan. 2 <www.asherlockcarol.com>.

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

Sep 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Howard Ostrom reports that The Sherlocks are now offering decorative cans of their new IPA [that's India Pale Ale] and glasses to drink it from, but the decorations are not Sherlockian <www.thesherlocksmusic.co.uk>; according to Wikipedia, The Sherlocks are a British alternative rock band, and their name was derived from an inside joke between the band mates. Howard says that he doesn't know the exact joke, but has heard that it included the "No sh*t Sherlock" phrase.

The Internet Archive <www.archive.org> is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. If you've never used it, there's far more than the Wayback Machine (which now contains more than 600 billion web-pages); the web-site and its resources are well worth exploring.

When in Tachikawa (a suburb of Tokyo): you can dine at the Sherlock Holmes Hamburger and Steak Restaurant, which was reviewed in Stars and Stripes on Aug. 26 <www.tinyurl.com/j3c29xc>.

Television Business International reported (Aug. 26) that the Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" has been bought by the French streaming service Salto, which will make it available as "Sherlock: Les Chroniques Russes" <www.tinyurl.com/4e4mxxre>.

Eart Lovin's imaginative dramatizations of "A Study in Scarlet" (2018) and "The Sign of the Four" (2019) at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., now are available streamed on demand through Jan. 31; details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/nnwp5d8z>.

"Coins in Great Works of Literature" is the headline on recent post at the blog of the Royal Mint, and yes, of course the Canon is one of those great works. You're welcome to try to guess which story they chose, before you read about it <www.tinyurl.com/dsdkjzc>.

Jennie Paton has noted the RP World Model Store in Britain, which offers 90mm miniatures of Holmes and Watson, and 54mm miniatures of Holmes, Watson, and Moriarty <www.tinyurl.com/e5t4tprt>.

"The pretty hidden gem of a town 62 minutes from London that has some of the 'best views in England,'" is what the My London web-site recently had to say about Crowborough; there's mention of the statue of Conan Doyle and an image of the Café Baskerville.

Nicko Vaughan's *Far from Holmes* (Canterbury: Telos, 2021; 262 pp., \$17.84) promises that it's "an irreverent guide to all the Sherlock Holmes films you really don't want to watch yourself," and it certainly lives up to her promise; she explains that she made it her goal to watch every on-screen adaptation of Sherlock Holmes that she could get her hands on, films and television, and wound up dealing with more than 350 titles, from which she selected 15 to discuss in detail. One of the best things about her book is that she actually likes bad films, and she writes about them with verve and humor. Recommended.

Sep 21 #2 Fans of American singer and songwriter Billie Eilish will know about her song "You Should See Me in a Crown", which you can see at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ah0Ys50Cq08>; Howard Ostrom has reported an interesting video in which she explains how and why she wrote the song <www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_gPCVSJRso> (and yes, it's Sherlockian).

Reported: *The Big Book of Victorian Mysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage Crime, 2021; 640 pp., \$27.00); 49 stories, among them "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Lost Special".

Stage Rights <www.stagerights.com> offers scripts for a variety of plays, among them Jaime Robledo's "Watson: The Last Great Tale of the Legendary Sherlock Holmes", "Watson and the Dark Art of Harry Houdini", and "Watson: The Final War"; Peter Sham and Brad Carroll's musical "Sherlock Holmes and the Great Royal Goose Chase!"; Mark Landon Smith's "Sherlock Holmes Mystery School", Jon Jory's "Sherlock Holmes, Sleuth, Meets Father Brown, Detective"; and Jonathan Josephson's dramatization of Conan Doyle's "The New Catacomb".

Jim Hawkins' 6-minute slide-show tribute to John Bennett Shaw is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeXEUQHZN2Y>; you'll have a chance to see what some of today's Sherlockians looked like when they were much younger. For more about John, tune in to episode 224 in the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" podcasts <www.tinyurl.com/zauzar72>, about "The Shaw 100" (his list of the most important books for a Sherlockian library), and about how the list changed over the years. It's Scott Monty and Burt Wolder's interview with Tim Johnson, curator of the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minnesota.

"The Electrical Life of Louis Wain" (screened at the Telluride Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival this month) features Benedict Cumberbatch as the prolific artist, who has an interesting entry at Wikipedia. He was famous as "the man who drew cats," one of which was his post-card rendition of a delightfully Sherlockian cat dressed as William Gillette dressed as Sherlock Holmes. British Pathé filmed Wain in 1921 <www.tinyurl.com/y2jpx667>; the new film is due in theaters on Oct. 22 and on Amazon Prime on Nov. 5.



The official trailer for "The Electrical Life of Louis Wain" is available at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=xzDr_tbl-es&t=23s>.

"The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" was a South African series broadcast by Springbok Radio (1979-1985), with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson; Jennie Paton notes that six of the programs are available at YouTube <tinyurl.com/2ek3w4r6>.

Nov. 15 is the deadline for nominations for this year's Susan Z. Diamond Beach Award, an on-going effort by the Beacon Society to honor people who have made a significant contribution to exposing young people to the stories of Sherlock Holmes. Details on the award, and a nomination form, are available at <www.beaconsociety.com/the-beacon-award.html>.

Sep 21 #3 The Jazz Journal reported on Sept. 2 <www.tinyurl.com/xxs3cc7m> on Ben Crossland Quintet: *Solway Stories Stories*, a new album of songs written by the virtuoso bassist; one of the tracks is "The Devil's Porridge" (a phrase first used by Conan Doyle to describe the cordite manufactured as a shell propellant in a munitions factory on the banks of the Solway Firth. The album is Jazz Cat JCCD118 (\$15.71); you can listen to the track at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYeWQU2cCm4>.

Erle Stanley Gardner's *The Case of the Borrowed Brunette* is the latest in Otto Penzler's series of American Mystery Classics (250 pp., \$15.59); the review in Publishers Weekly (Sept. 11) noted that book is a nice homage to "The Red-Headed League".

Wikipedia offers an interesting list of "actors who have played Sherlock Holmes" <www.tinyurl.com/54mmrn2f>, but don't bother counting them. Howard Ostrom's data-base of actors who have played Holmes now has more than 7,400 entries (and more than 16,000 images).

For those who fondly remember Sherlock Hemlock, there's a lot of information about him at Wikipedia <www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Hemlock>, and lots more if you scroll down and follow the external link to the Muppet Wiki. For those who came in late, Sherlock Hemlock was a long-running character on the television series "Sesame Street" and brought the iconic image of Sherlock Holmes to a vast audience of young (and older) viewers.

Mark Jones and Paul Chapman continue their interesting discussions of the writings of Conan Doyle (focusing on his non-Sherlockian work) on-line at their "Doings of Doyle" podcast <www.doingsofdoyle.com>; their latest post (episode 17) considers "Uncle Jeremy's Household" (1887).

Peter Melonas is a creative designer and illustrator who has been creating Sherlockian (and non-Sherlockian) artwork in black-and-white and color for decades; you can see (and purchase) his work at <www.tinyurl.com/5ped5ej>.

Simon Heffer's *The Age of Decadence: A History of Britain: 1880-1914* (New York: Pegasus, 2021; 897 pp., \$39.95) is a massive and thoroughly detailed examination of the world in which Conan Doyle, as well as Holmes and Watson, lived, and of which very little will be found in the Canon (although there's a chapter on "The Uses of Literacy" in which Heffer notes that Conan Doyle "turned out to be the perfect author for the new age.") Michael Dirda, in his review in the Washington Post (May 5), offers an interesting reason why people should read the book, suggesting that "history provides perspective on the present" <www.tinyurl.com/yh95avks>.

If you've not visited Birlstone Manor (which is featured in "The Valley of Fear"), you're welcome at Groombridge Place, where you'll be able to explore and enjoy the grounds <www.groombridgeplace.com>. Conan Doyle visited Groombridge when he lived in Crowborough, and acknowledged that it was the inspiration for Birlstone. He also once drove home from Groombridge with its ghost in his car; you can read about that in his article "The Ghost of the Moat", published in the Daily Express in 1927 and collected in *The Edge of the Unknown* (1930).

Sep 21 #4 Brian McCuskey's *How Sherlock Pulled the Trick: Spiritualism and the Pseudoscientific Method* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2021; 195 pp., \$34.95) offers an exploration of how Conan Doyle's long-standing belief in Spiritualism was reflected in the Sherlock Holmes stories, from their very beginning onward, as well as how his family, after he died, dealt with distractions such as mediums who delivered messages received from him, and with members of the Baker Street Irregulars and other Sherlockians, quoting Michael Saler's conclusion that Sherlockian belief may be ironic, but the faith is earnest; his principal thesis is that Holmes' reasoning is merely pseudoscientific, and he concludes with a discussion of how and why that sort of reasoning is found so widely today.

Fans of Laurie R. King's novels about Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are welcome to download (free) *The World of Castle Shade*, a 24-page anthology of fan fiction and fan art inspired by her latest novel and selected from submissions to a recent contest <www.tinyurl.com/a3nbk9yy>. There's also a new shop at <www.tinyurl.com/3ppdy57n> offering all sorts of merchandise displaying book covers and quotes and such.

The times they are a-changin': "An Incredible Private Island for Sale in the Summer Isles at the Price of a Central London Parking Space" was the headline on a story by Thomas Kent at the Country Life web-site on Sept. 3 <www.tinyurl.com/j93wm55m>. Càrn Deas is an uninhabited island off the north-west coast of Scotland, on offer for £50,000; in the 1960s, when I lived in Iverna Gardens in Kensington, I just parked on the street, where there weren't even any parking meters.

"When a doctor does go wrong he is the first of criminals. He has nerve and he has knowledge," Sherlock Holmes said (in "The Speckled Band"), adding, "Palmer and Pritchard were among the heads of their profession." The story was written in 1891, so Conan Doyle was not aware of another candidate, the subject of Dean Jobb's *The Case of the Murderous Dr. Cream: The Hunt for a Victorian Era Serial Killer* (Chapel Hill: Algonquin, 2021; 401 pp., \$27.95). Dr. Thomas Neill Cream poisoned women in Canada, the United States, and Britain, and was tried and convicted in London in October 1892 and executed in November 1892, too late for mention in the story about the evil Dr. Roylott. Jobb has done extremely well in researching and writing about Cream.

Reported: *The New Yale Book of Quotations*, edited by Fred R. Shapiro (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021; 1168 pp., \$50.00); revised and expanded from the 2006 edition (Dec 06 #1), with 39 quotations for Arthur Conan Doyle (all Sherlockian) as well as a very early source for "Quick, Watson, the needle."

Peterson of Dublin, which boasts that it is the oldest continuously-operating briar pipe factory in the world, has an extensive range of Sherlock Holmes pipes; the company will celebrate Christmas this year by offering all 14 best-selling shapes in three different finishes, with copper (rather than silver) mounts. You can see (and buy, of course) them all at the Laudisi web-site <www.laudisi.com/petersonpipes.cfm/christmas-2021-6938>.

Sep 21 #5 Big Finish continues to issue excellent Sherlockian audio, the latest of them being *Sherlock Holmes: The Seamstress of Peckham Rye*, dramatized by Jonathan Barnes, with Nicholas Briggs as Holmes and Richard Earl as Watson, on three CDs, with interviews with cast and crew (180 minutes, \$34.99); also available as a download (\$19.99), and you can listen to a sample from the story at their web-site <www.bigfinish.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker is the title of an exhibition scheduled at the Grolier Club in New York, from January 12 to Apr. 16, and to say that there will be some real treasures on display is an understatement; you can read about (and see) some of them at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>.

Jennie Paton reports a web-site <www.viewcomiconline.com> that will please comic-book aficionados; search for [sherlock holmes] to see what's available.

The "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog has reached episode 223, in which Scott Monty and Burt Wolder interview film scholar Russell Merritt about the British Film Institute's plans to restore all of the 1920s films that starred Eille Norwood <www.tinyurl.com/556krefk>. As noted earlier (Jun 21 #1), only a few of the films can be seen at YouTube.

An opulently-decorated Jezail flintlock weapon was offered at Auktionshaus am See in Konstanz on Sept. 11 <www.tinyurl.com/7hdvxn9z>, with an estimate of €380; it didn't sell.

Further to the report (Aug 21 #4) on *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021* (edited by Lee Child), the Mysterious Bookshop's formal announcement of the book includes an opportunity to read Child's interesting introduction <www.tinyurl.com/3ppdy57n>.

Sherlock Holmes from A to Z, by C. V. Shea III (Boston: Three Trees, 2015; 500 pp., \$24.99) is an alphabetical compilation of the people, places, and other things mentioned in the Canon, with descriptions taken from the stories; the "look inside" feature at Amazon offers a look at the beginning pages.

J. Randolph Cox ("The Conk-Singleton Forgery Case") died on Sept. 14. He worked as a librarian at the St. Paul Public Library and then as a reference librarian at St. Olaf College for more than 30 years. He taught one of the first college courses in the U.S. on mystery and detective fiction, and became a dedicated collector of dime novels and an expert on Nick Carter. Randy was an enthusiastic member of the Norwegian Explorers, and for a while presided over his own Birdy Edwards Society (whose members enjoyed 19th-century detective literature). He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 1967.

A Study in Lavender: Queering Sherlock Holmes, edited by Joseph R. G. DeMarco (Maple Shade: Lethe Press, 2011; 303 pp., \$20.00), is an anthology of ten pastiches featuring not only Holmes and Watson, but also other Canonical characters <www.lethepressbooks.com>.

Sep 21 #6 *Sherlock Holmes & the Ripper of Whitechapel*, by M. K. Wiseman (Milwaukee: 2020; 213 pp., \$22.50), is Holmes' own account of his pursuit of Jack the Ripper, a case that involved Watson not as partner and biographer, but rather as the leading suspect. Of course we know that Watson wasn't the Ripper, but Holmes doesn't, until he confronts the evil serial killer at the end of the book.

Her newest pastiche is *Sherlock Holmes & the Singular Affair* (Milwaukee: 2021; 192 pp., \$22.50), also from the pen (well, typewriter) of Sherlock Holmes, written after he retired but set many years earlier, when he was still living in Montague Street, beginning his career as a detective and involved in a complicated case of impersonation and revenge. The author's web-site is at <mkwisemanauthor.com>.

Ann Marlowe notes that the Internet Archive <www.archive.org> offers lots of fun for those who enjoy old movies: a search for [sherlock holmes] and [movies] turns up (at press time) 1,259 hits (use the search engine with the black "go" button).

Areté Editions has published a spectacular set of illustrated fine-press editions of Neil Gaiman's pastiche "The Case of Death and Honey" and "The Creeping Man" (which inspired Gaiman's tale); you can read about the company and their work at their web-site <www.arete-editions.com>, which also has information about and images of each of the editions.

The Beacon Society has announced its 2022 R. Joel Senter Sr. Memorial Essay Contest for students in grades 4 through 12; the deadline for submissions is Feb. 1, and details on the contest (and its history) can be found at <www.tinyurl.com/xysv4mth>.

Book Riot <www.bookriot.com> is a prolific podcast at which a search for [sherlock holmes] and [conan doyle] turns up many posts.

Jennie Paton spotted "The Complete Sherlock Holmes Book Ornament" at the on-line shop of the N.Y. Public Library <www.tinyurl.com/457rmvua>. One does wonder about the propriety of a library destroying books to make ornaments.

Nicholas Meyer's *The Return of the Pharaoh* (New York: Minotaur, 2021; 262 pp., \$25.99) is the latest pastiche by an author who has been writing stories about Sherlock Holmes longer than Conan Doyle did. The story is set in 1910, when Watson takes his wife to Egypt, in hopes of curing her consumption, and encounters Holmes, in disguise and in pursuit of a missing nobleman; there's much more to the case, of course, including dire peril, assistance from Howard Carter, and the discovery of an unknown tomb (no, not that one; Tutankhamun's tomb was not discovered until 1922). Nick's web-site is at <www.nicholas-meyer.com>.

"Perry Mason Was America's Sherlock" was the headline on an article in the September issue of the Spectator <www.tinyurl.com/bd2mfhhz>, at hand from Mark Johann; Chilton Williamson Jr. reminisces fondly about the detective who was almost as popular as Sherlock Holmes.

Sep 21 #7 Reported: the Sherlock Holmes Society of London has published a second edition of Bernard Davies' *Holmes & Watson Country: Travels in Search of Solutions* (Sep 08 #5); it's a two-volume collection of spectacular scholarship and research. Details will be found at the Society's web-site <www.sherlock-holmes.org.uk; click on [shop]. £22.00 to the U.K., and (alas) much more elsewhere, what with ever-increasing postal costs.

There's a long list of comic books (including many Sherlock Holmes titles) available in full color on-line at <www.read-comic.com>.

The Sierra Blanca Brewing Company <www.sierrablancabrewery.com>, founded in Moriarty, N.M., 1996, offers a wide range of craft beers and sodas, including a "farm-to-bottle" Green Chili Cerveza, reported recently by Bill and Nancy Anselm; old hands will remember the town when it was less civilized than now, and the home of John Bennett Shaw's society the Brothers Three of Moriarty.

The Novel Bookstore <www.novelbookstore.co> (in Portland, Ore.) offers attractive bookwallets (\$33.00 in leather), and one of them is "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes".

Robert Fyfe died on Sept. 22. He began his acting career in 1962 and went on to what may be a record: appearing as Howard Sibshaw in the BBC-TV series "The Last of the Summer Wine" in 230 episodes, from 1985 to 2010. He also played the Clerk at Woolwich Station in Granada's "The Bruce-Partington Plans" (1988)

The rare .450 single-shot sealing rifle (similar, perhaps, to the one used by Conan Doyle in the Arctic in 1879), at auction last month with an estimate of £1,200-£1,600 (Aug 21 #7), sold for £1,300.

When in Blackpool (in Lancashire): you'll soon be able to have a drink at Sherlock's Bar <www.tinyurl.com/xbm63bd8>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Great Escape" (aka "The Great Detective Sherlock Holmes: The Greatest Jail-Breaker"), an entertaining Chinese animated film released in Hong Kong in 2019, will debut on HBO on Oct. 1.

Dr. Doyle has done reasonably well at the track, Peter McIntyre reports. Racing, not betting <www.tinyurl.com/3tfydb3a>. Alas, he failed to rally and finished fifth in a race at Monmouth Park in New Jersey on Sept. 19. Details at <www.tinyurl.com/95snncbw>. There's also a three-year-old bay gelding Arthur Conan Doyle, now racing in Britain, who has not performed at all well <www.tinyurl.com/3672w2z3>.

Reported: Sherlockian costume and other allusions in *The Crazy Convention Caper*, written by Michael Anthony Steele and illustrated Dario Brizuela, in the "Batman and Scooby-Doo! Mysteries" series of books for children 8-11, just published by Stone Arch/Capstone. You can see the cover art and sample the text at Amazon.

Sep 21 #8 Further to the item about *Hericium erinaceus*, aka the Lion's Mane Mushroom (Sep 18 #4), it's now available as an ingredient in Social Elixir, a non-alcohol plant-based alternative liquor that's sold by Three Spirit. "This dark, herbal elixir raises spirits, enhances connection and sets the mood. Full-bodied and bittersweet with a curious savory bite, its balancing effect keeps you blissful and tuned-in," the company says at its web-site at <<https://us.threespiritdrinks.com>>. The "botanical alchemy" costs \$39.99 for 16.9 fl. oz.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Performing Arts Center at Fort Gordon, Ga., Oct. 8-24 <www.tinyurl.com/3wchb4a4>; at the Tryon Little Theater in Tryon, N.C., Nov. 11-21 <www.titinfo.org>; and at Theatre Three in Port Jefferson, N.Y., Jan. 8-Feb. 5, 2022 <www.theatrethree.com>.

Sean Coe's new "Hand Through the Veil" (featuring Conan Doyle and Houdini) will be performed at An die Musik Live in Baltimore, Md., Oct. 29-31; web-site at <www.andiemusiklive.com>.

Tim Kelly's "The Adventure of the Speckled Band" is due at the Detour Theatre in Auckland, New Zealand, Nov. 18-Dec. 4 <www.detour.co.nz>.

Jon Jory's "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes" (four one-act plays) will be performed at Walters State Community College in Morristown, Tenn., Nov. 18-21 <www.ws.edu/news/current/art-article.aspx?story=21858>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Kokomo Civic Theatre in Kokomo, Ind., Dec. 3-5 <www.kokomocivictheatre.org>.

Kate Hamill's new "(The Extremely Thrilling & Occasionally Shocking Mis-Adventures of Mesdames) Holmes & Watson" will be performed at the Copaken Stage in Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 1-20, 2022 <www.kcrep.org>.

Bill Van Horn's new "Sherlock Holmes: The Adventure of Speckled Band" is due at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia, from Feb. 22 to Mar. 27 <www.walnutstreettheatre.org> ("six talented actors playing over 30 quirky characters").

R. Hamilton Wright's new "Sherlock Holmes and the Vanishing Thimble" has been scheduled at the Vertigo Theatre in Calgary, Alta., Mar. 5 to Apr. 3 <www.vertigotheatre.com>

Christopher M. Walsh's "Miss Holmes Returns" (the sequel to his 2016 play "Miss Holmes") is scheduled at the Greater Boston Stage Company in Stoneham, Mass., Apr. 21-May 8 <www.greaterbostonstage.org>.

"The Remarkable Mister Holmes" (a new musical, with book by Omri Schein, lyrics by Schrein and David Ellenstein, and music by Daniel Lincoln) will be produced at the North Coast Repertory Theatre in Solana Beach, Calif., July 20-Aug. 14 <www.northcoastrep.org>.

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

Oct 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Sherlockians will gather in New York on Jan. 12-16 to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 168th birthday, and plans for almost all of the traditional events are afoot. There's a "Plans for BSI Weekend" page at the Baker Street Irregulars web-site <www.bakerstreetirregulars.com> that has information on BSI and non-BSI events; most of the events are open to everyone, and there always is much more going on than anyone with reasonable sense or stamina can deal with. There also will be information available in mid-November at Scott Monty's excellent web-site <www.bsiweekend.com>, and his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" will be found at <ihose.co/bsi2022tips>.

In plenty of time for holiday hinting (or shopping), Randall Stock's annual informative nominations for the best Sherlock Holmes books/DVDs of the year goes on-line at <www.bestofsherlock.com/sherlock-gifts.htm> on Nov. 1; there also are recommendations of older Sherlockiana, all with helpful explanations of his choices.

The summer issue of The Magic Door (published by the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Toronto Public Library) has Douglas Kerr's article about "Conan Doyle's Desert Drama", Jessie Amadio's discussion of "One-of-a-Kind Manuscripts from a One-of-a-Kind Collections", and reports from and about the Library and the Collection, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. A copy of the newsletter is available on request from Cliff Goldfarb, Toronto Public Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto M4W 2G8, Canada <cgoldfarb@sympatico.ca>.

The Extensión Universitaria in Vigo is holding an on-line course on "Jornadas de novela y crimen: Conan Doyle, el creador de Sherlock Holmes" from Nov. 3 to Dec. 1 <www.extension.uned.es/actividad/idactividad/25501>.

The Red-Throated League have been performing for the Norwegian Explorers for years, presenting staged readings from the Edith Meiser radio scripts held in the Sherlock Holmes Collections in Minneapolis, and you can watch some of their programs at <www.tinyurl.com/2sizr4u5r>.

The arguments over vaccinations and vaccination mandates continues, and it is interesting that Conan Doyle thought and wrote about the issue; thanks to the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia, you can read what he had to say at <www.tinyurl.com/4syk62kc>.

Illustrator Jonathan Barry wrote about "The Hound of the Baskervilles" for the Irish Times (Sept. 16) <www.tinyurl.com/79zbcab7>, commenting on the story and including some of his own atmospheric artwork.

It's not particularly Sherlockian, except that there are cross-over pastiches, but: Ron Charles noted in the Washington Post's on-line Book Club on Oct. 1 that "Steve Metze hoped to raise \$10,000 to publish a spell book inspired by the demonic works of H. P. Lovecraft. He reached that goal in 38 minutes." When the Kickstarter campaign ended, he had raised more than \$188,000, and Charles wrote that "I suspect Satanic intervention." There is more about it all at <www.tinyurl.com/peanz6ar> (you'll need to scroll down), and at Kickstarter <www.tinyurl.com/aaymkxuw>.

Oct 21 #2 A. J. West's *The Spirit Engineer* (Richmond: Duckworth, 2021; 208 pp., £14.99) is a novel based on the true story of Kathleen Goligher, an Irish spiritualist medium who was championed by engineer William Jackson Crawford; the book begins in Belfast in 1914 and tells an atmospheric and chilling story involving both belief and deception. Crawford encounters Conan Doyle (and Houdini) while supporting Goligher, but they are only minor characters in a macabre story. It's historical fiction, and an American edition is due this month.

The Bovestrians of Ragged Shaw is the most recently-formed Sherlockian society, which has two founding members, one of whom is Brad Keefauver, who provided information about the brief history of the society last month at his Sherlock Peoria blog <www.tinyurl.com/3w44cr4k>.

"Books, Bohemians, and Baker Street: A Study in Sherlock in Special Collections" is a new on-line exhibition at the web-site of the University of Delaware's library <www.exhibitions.lib.del.edu/sherlock>, kindly reported by Tom Horrocks. Browse the exhibition menu to see some real treasures, nicely presented.

"The Owner of The Mysterious Bookshop Built His Dream House" was the headline on an article in the real estate section of the N.Y. Times on Oct. 3. Go to <nytimes.com> and search for [otto penzler] to read the story (there is a fine slide-show with the on-line version).

One hears of Sherlock everywhere: you've likely read about the Pandora Papers (the treasure trove of leaked financial documents that show how some people have hidden assets in shell companies). According to bne IntelliNews <www.tinyurl.com/r5kh4j4f>, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky's chief aide Serhly Shefir is an owner of a Belize company that paid £22.3 million for an apartment in Baker Street, not far from 221B, and another nearby two-bedroom flat across the street from the Sherlock Holmes Museum was bought for £2.2 million.

Roberta Pearson's webinar lecture (on "The Adventure of the Mutable Detective") for the BSI Trust on Oct. 2 attracted an enthusiastic audience; if you weren't able to Zoom in, the lecture was recorded and will be available at the BSI Trust web-site <www.bsitrust.org> next year.

"Many of you have asked what will happen to Becky and Flynn," according to Anna Elliott. Becky and Flynn were supporting characters in the long-running "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series (written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley), and now feature in Elliott's *Guarded Ground* (available on Kindle). It's set in 1915 during the First World War; Becky has become a surgeon, and Flynn now is a major in the British army. Sherlock Holmes is a supporting character this time, setting Becky and Flynn in pursuit of a dangerous German spy <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.

The Sherlock Holmes Society's 2021 Christmas card celebrates the 70th anniversaries of both the Society and the Sherlock Holmes Exhibition at Abbey House in London; £5.00 for a packet of 10 cards (with envelopes), and you can order at the Society's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/55jkyrt8>.

Oct 21 #3 The late Paul Churchill was justifiably proud of his "evidence boxes" (one for each of the Canonical tales, and was fortunate in being able to track down so many souvenirs of each case (so fortunate that some people believe he was the greatest Sherlockian forger). Deborah Clark tells stories about Paul and his work in an interview at the "I Hear of Sherlock" blog, where you can also see some of the interesting things he found <www.patreon.com/posts/56803056>.

"Joseph Caminada and His Colt Lightning Revolver: Manchester's Real-Life Sherlock Holmes" is the headline on a story in *Guns-America Digest* (Sept. 24) <www.tinyurl.com/e5ajkv8k>, at hand from John Linsemeyer. Caminada has been mentioned here before (May 14 #6 and Apr 17 #2).

Reported: "The Lion's Mane" reprinted in *Guilty Creatures: A Menagerie of Mysteries*, an anthology edited and introduced by Martin Edwards (London: British Library, 2021; 336 pp., £9.99). It's the latest in the "British Library Crime Classics" series; an American edition is due next year from the Poisoned Pen Press (\$14.99).

The Internet Archive, which was founded in 1996, has come a long way in 25 years, and still is hard at work capturing everything on the Internet; you can see Brewster Kahle (one of its founders) then and now in a documentary video about "the first crawl" at <www.tinyurl.com/yxv66svy>.

Readers who know all about electric guitars will know what a compressor is and does; Derham Groves has reported *The Engineer's Thumb*, which was invented by Merlin Blencowe <www.valvewizard.co.uk/engineersthumb2.html>.

It's "the legal 7% solution," according to *En Voyage Perfumes* by Shelley Waddington <www.tinyurl.com/rbzb8d8>, kindly reported by Samantha Wolov. There's neither cocaine nor morphine nor heroin in *The 7% Solution* eau de cologne, and there's an on-line review at www.tinyurl.com/yj8c64r8.

Those who like to browse the Internet will be familiar with Google and the Google Doodle, which on Oct. 12 honored the Polish actor Helena Modrzejewska <www.tinyurl.com/4vz7x863>. Her Wikipedia entry notes that Joanna and Catharina Polatynska have suggested that she might have been the model for Irene Adler. The suggestion was in an article posted in 2000 to the Diogenes Club web-site <www.diogenes-club.com/irene.htm>.

When in Málaga (on the Costa del Sol in Spain); you can visit *La Casa de Sherlock Holmes* <www.facebook.com/SherlockHolmesPubMalaga>, kindly noted by James Utechin. It's a pub, and there's another one, not far away, in Torremolino.

Robert Richardson died on Aug. 31. He was a British journalist and crime writer, serving twice as head of the Crime Writers' Association; his *The Book of the Dead* (1989) was a pleasant murder mystery tied to a Sherlock Holmes story written in 1894 and published by Conan Doyle in an edition of only ten copies, all of which he presented to his godson as a christening present (the pastiche is included in the novel, and shows more imagination and style than many others in the genre).

Oct 21 #4 *The Only One in the World*, edited by Narrelle M. Harris (Bittern: Clan Destine, 2021; 257 pp., \$29.99), is an anthology of thirteen pastiches that reimagine Holmes and Watson in different time periods, cultures, and countries, from Viking Iceland to the distant future; the editor and many of the authors are Australian, and most are newcomers to the world of pastiches. Harris' web-site at <www.narrellemharris.com> offers information about this anthology and her other Sherlockian books, and there's a 49-minute video of her and Lucy Sussex (one of the authors) at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KspZU3gg08>.

The Sherlock Holmes Is Real podcast's "a fictional docudrama about a supposed conspiracy to turn Sherlock Holmes from a historical figure to a fictional character over the last hundred years by person or persons unknown" (according to Talon King and Paul Thomas Miller); you can tune in to their conclusions at <www.sherlockholmesisreal.libsyn.com>. Miller also is responsible (or to blame) for the web-site Doyle's Rotary Coffin, definitely well worth exploring <www.tinyurl.com/y2xzepz>.

Jennie Paton has reported the entire "Sherlock Holmes in the 22nd Century" animated series at <www.youtube.com/c/TwoBobWatch/videos>, along with much more, including all episodes of "The Rivals of Sherlock Holmes".

SHERLOC and WATSON are hard at work on Mars, making significant contributions to the study of the Red Planet <www.tinyurl.com/5xarkkwx>. As noted earlier (Jun 20 #2) their names are acronyms, and they are part of the instrumentation on Perseverance, the Martian rover.

Garage sales can be interesting, especially when someone finds and buys a piece of the Moon <www.tinyurl.com/cpxcr2c2>. The lunar rock was from the Apollo 17 mission, and quite possibly was collected by geologist/astronaut Jack Schmitt, who was responsible for naming Sherlock Crater in honor of geologist/detective Sherlock Holmes.

"The first humans to make up stories may just have saved us all. Or not. It's hard to know for sure," according to Lee Child. You can his interesting and insightful introduction to *The Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021* (Aug 21 4) at CrimeReads <www.tinyurl.com/24ckj6yn>.

The ACD Society ("a community dedicated to studying and enjoying the works of Arthur Conan Doyle") has a web-site at <www.acdsociety.com>, where you can read its first two newsletters, learn more about the society, and even become a member.

Philip R. Brogdon ("John Sanger") died on Sept. 30. Phil found the world of Sherlockians through the Red Circle of Washington in 1975, and was an enthusiastic member of the society through the 1980s and 1990s. He delivered one of the toasts at the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars in 1986, spoke at Sherlockian conferences in 1986 and 1987, and received his Investiture from the BSI in 1988. His special interests were poetry and the theater (and his fine voice served him well in both), and his book *Sherlock Holmes in Black* was published in 1995.

Oct 21 #5 Would you like to go for a ride on the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle?

Since 1999 the Brighton & Hove buses have been named in honor of people "who made a significant contribution to the area or had a strong connection during" their lifetimes; pages for the buses and their history are at <<http://history.buses.co.uk/history/fleethist/675ad.htm>>.

The second issue of *The Pontine Dossier: Millennium Edition* has appeared; edited by Derrick Belanger, it's a revival of the journal published by the late Luther Norris, who founded the *Praed Street Irregulars* (Manchester: Belanger Books, 2021; 77 pp., \$7.99), with more new articles about Solar Pons, including David Marcum's detailed discussion of Basil Copper's controversial editing of the Pontine Canon, and his pastiches.

"Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea Comes with an Antique Chest and a Cocktail in a Pipe," according *My London* (Oct. 11) <www.tinyurl.com/55npyt3j>. The boutique Holmes Hotel in Marylebone has revamped its tea, and the article includes a link to the menu; the meal costs only £42.00 (or £55.00 with a specialty drink).

Books of Wonder/William Morrow issued an attractive edition of *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* in 1992, illustrated by Barry Moser. Moser's own signed copy, with five signed original watercolors, will be up for bids on Nov. 10 at Hindman Auctions in Chicago <www.tinyurl.com/sd8mavk>, estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000.

H. F. Heard's delightful Mr. Mycroft pastiche *A Taste for Honey* (1941) has been filmed twice, first as "The Sting of Death" for television's "Elgin Hour" (1955), with Boris Karloff as Mr. Mycroft, and then as "The Deadly Bees" (1967), with no one as Mr. Mycroft, because he doesn't appear in the film (Robert Bloch wrote the screenplay, which was thoroughly revised by Anthony Marriott, who deleted Mr. Mycroft, and Bloch refused to watch what he called his "deformed offspring"). "The Deadly Bees" then was parodied on "Mystery Science Theater 3000" (1998), and you can watch all three at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=QChOFJHdQps>, <www.dailymotion.com/video/x21jjwh> and <www.club-mst3k.com/episodes/905-the-deadly-bees>.

Further to the report (Sep 21 #2) about "The Stories of Sherlock Holmes" (the long-running South African series broadcast by Springbok Radio), with Graham Armitage as Holmes and Kerry Jordan as Watson, Lenny Picker notes that almost all of the shows are available at the Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia <www.tinyurl.com/4eutpvf>.

Reported: "The Greek Interpreter" and "The Lost Special" reprinted in *The Big Book of Victorian Mysteries*, edited by Otto Penzler (New York: Vintage/Black Lizard, 2021; 640 pp., \$26.00); each story with an introduction by the editor.

When Otto Penzler's *Mysterious Obsession* (Oct 20 #2) was first published, he was interviewed by Gil Roth for the podcast *The Virtual Memories Show*; you can listen to Otto's stories about collecting and collectors, and his own collection and his decision to sell it, at <www.tinyurl.com/ud2jm8fs>. You can buy the book (in a fourth printing) at <www.tinyurl.com/yr63e9k3>.

Oct 21 #6 Mantan Web has reported (in Japanese) on Oct. 18 on just how popular Gosho Aoyama's "Detective Conan" manga has been since the series was launched in 1994 <www.tinyurl.com/yz8jkc2h>: the 100th volume has just been published, bringing the total number of copies to more than 250 million. That's not all: the CBR web-site reported (in English) on Oct. 20 <www.tinyurl.com/2fsnj2v4> that the television animation that began in 1996 now has more than 1,000 episodes, and there are 24 animated films in the franchise. The CBR web-site explains who Detective Conan is.

Viktor Yevgrafov died on Oct. 20. He was a Russian actor and a stuntman, and played a sinister Moriarty in two episodes of the series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1980, with Vasilii Livanov as Holmes and Vitali Solomin as Watson).

Simon Chapman has written for China Daily (Oct. 10) about his expedition in search of the Lost World, attempting to follow in the footsteps of Col. Percy H. Fawcett through the Amazon jungle <www.tinyurl.com/dvbwppj>; his web-site at <www.simonsjungle.co.uk>, and a video about the expedition is available at <www.youtube.com/watch?v=kt0iu4ckXMA>.

Dr. Doyle (the three-year-old brown gelding) (Sep 21 #7) continues to disappoint bettors, according to Peter McIntyre, finishing seventh (inside, weakened) on Oct. 12 <www.tinyurl.com/5eeyknpr> at Parx Racing in Bensalem, Pa.

The Eurocrypt Christopher Lee Collection is a new boxed set with five of his films <www.severin-films.com/shop/eurocrypt-christopher-lee> on Blu-ray and CD (\$105.00), with new audio commentary; one of the films is his "Sherlock Holmes and the Deadly Necklace" (1962). Alas: they there are no plans to issue to films separately.

Cliff Goldfarb notes that there's an elaborate Sherlockian corn maze about an hour's drive from Montréal <www.vergerlabonte.com/labyrinthes?lang=en>. "You'll scour the streets of Victorian London of the 1880s in the company of Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson," the folks at Verger Labonté promise.

Reported by Jennie Paton: an imaginative "Real Hollow Book Music Box" (the book is *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*) offered by Suegnight for \$35.00 (discounted from \$70.00) <www.suegnight.shop>, with any tune you choose).

Jennie also spotted just the thing for rush-hour drivers: a collection of 374 old-time-radio Sherlock Holmes programs on a thumb drive, offered by Rawhguide for \$13.00 (discounted from \$26.99) <www.tinyurl.com/erxs6p4w>.

Gyles Brandreth, who has written seven pastiches that feature Oscar Wilde and Arthur Conan Doyle, also is chairman of the "Oldie of the Year" awards committee of The Oldie magazine <www.theoldie.co.uk>. The BBC reported on Oct. 20 <www.bbc.com/news/uk-58974656> that Queen Elizabeth, now 95 years old, has declined this year's award; her assistant private secretary wrote to him that "Her Majesty believes you are as old as you feel, as such The Queen does not believe she meets the relevant criteria to be able to accept, and hopes you will find a more worthy recipient."

Oct 21 #7 It may be time for competition for the most-attention-getting title of a Sherlockian book. Certainly a serious contender in the contest would be Paul Thomas Miller's *Was Sherlock Holmes an Elephant?* (2021; 56 pp., \$5.57), which offers the results of his search for an answer to a question quite possibly asked for the first time by any Sherlockian (or non-Sherlockian, for that matter). His answer? Well, no spoilers here. It's a welcome contribution to the literature from the man who presides over Doyle's Rotary Coffin.

The Russian television series "Sherlock: The Russian Chronicles" (available on the French streaming service Salto (Sep 21 #1) also is available via the Roku digital media player <www.tinyurl.com/vbf4ccu>.

Tina Rhea reports the on-line store Spoonflower, which offers a wide variety of attractive Sherlockian designs <www.tinyurl.com/29dpesk9> on cloth and wallpaper.

The film "The Lost City of Z" (2017), which did not do well at the box office (according to Box Office Mojo, the world-wide gross was less than \$20 million), is available on Amazon Prime, and a DVD can be found at eBay and elsewhere. Charlie Hunnam stars as Col. Percy H. Fawcett, who met Conan Doyle in 1910 and later claimed that he inspired "The Lost World"; Fawcett never returned from his last expedition into the Amazon jungle. The two men are discussed in Roy Pilot and Alvin Rodin's *The Annotated Lost World* (1996) and David Grann's *The Lost City of Z* (2009), but there's no mention of Conan Doyle in the film.

Heritage Auctions <www.ha.com> will offer a complete set of single issues of *The Strand Magazine* with the 58 Sherlock Holmes stories first published in the magazine at their sale on Dec. 7-8; you can check their web-site on or after Nov. 18.

Speculation continues about who owns the block of property at 215-237 Baker Street, which includes the site of the former Abbey National Building Society (later the Abbey National Bank), where mail addressed to Sherlock Holmes was for many years answered by Holmes' secretary. A non-governmental organization called Global Witness reported (Jul 15 #2) that the property is included in a portfolio of real estate in London that's owned by a company tied to Rakhat Aliyev, a former Kazakh secret police chief accused in the European Union of money laundering and murder. Max Magee has found a Global Witness story <www.tinyurl.com/eauzkeu4> that includes a link to a report that includes a map that shows the company also owns property behind 239 Baker Street, site of the Sherlock Holmes Museum, but not the museum itself. Abbey National was at what's now 219 Baker Street, which retains the old façade and tower.

Marshall McLuhan, perhaps best known for proposing that "the medium is the message," wrote an article "Sherlock Holmes vs. the Bureaucrat" in *Explorations* (Oct. 1957). He also discussed Holmes (and Conan Doyle) in "From DaVinci to Holmes" in his first book *The Mechanical Bride: Folklore of Industrial Man* (1951). That discussion was reprinted in *Essential McLuhan* (1995), conveniently available at <www.llib.us/book/979006/ede63b>.

Oct 21 #8 C. T. Scott's article about "The Curious Incident of Sherlock Holmes's Real-Life Secretary" <www.tinyurl.com/96baau4d> was in the Economist's 1843 Magazine on Oct. 6 (with striking artwork by Noma Bar) features Chris Bazlinton, who (at the age of 27) signed on as Holmes' secretary at Abbey National; he still has (and treasures) many of the letters he received and answered on behalf of Holmes.

Louis Robinson is an Atlanta-based songwriter who has a wide-ranging YouTube channel, where he has posted a video about "The One and Only Sherlock Holmes" <www.youtube.com/watch?v=PpT6iRKh3hA>.

Carole Nelson Douglas died on Oct. 20. She started writing as a journalist and turned to fiction with the Gothic novel *Amberleigh* (1980). Carol went on to write more than 60 novels, and many short stories; her "Irene Adler" series included eight novels and six short stories. There's much more about her work at her web-site <www.carolenelsondouglas.com>.

"Why do clocks go clockwise?" is an intriguing, although non-Sherlockian, question. The answer will be found in an article at the Country Life web-site <www.tinyurl.com/3s47w7yw>.

"Sherlock Holmes Murder Suspect in Kentwood" is the headline on a story at HL Arledge's "Bayou Justice" web-site <www.tinyurl.com/y4fjh64d>. Kentwood a small town in Louisiana, perhaps best-known today as the birthplace of Britney Spears, but in 1915 it was the home of Claude "Sherlock" Holmes (you can read the article to learn more).

Theatrics: Michael Menendian and John Weagley's "Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" will be presented (as a 1940s radio play) at the Collaborative Theater Project in Medford, Ore., Nov. 5-14; web-site at <www.ctpmedford.org>.

Amy Frey's "Sherlock Holmes: A Scandal in Bohemia" is due at the Lyndhurst Mansion in Tarrytown, N.Y., Nov. 12-Dec. 5 <www.showclix.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Actors' NET of Bucks County in Morrisville, N.J., Dec. 3-19 <www.actorsnetbucks.org>.

Brian Horne's new musical "Second to Sherlock" will be performed at the Columbus Performing Arts Center in Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 3-11; web-site at <www.columbusmakesart.com/event/41139-second-to-sherlock>.

Ken Ludwig's "The Game's Afoot" will be performed at the Watertown Players Theater in Watertown, Wis., Dec. 10-12 <www.watertownplayers.org>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Christmas Goose" (a radio play by Michael Menedian and John Weagly) will be performed at the Warren Civic Center in Warren, Mich., Dec. 17-19 <www.warren Civic.org>.

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

Nov 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

Michael F. Whelan ("Vincent Spaulding") died on Oct. 25. Mike found the world of Sherlockians in the 1970s, and his business career took him all over the United States, enabling him to enjoy the fellowship of many Sherlockian societies as well as the Baker Street Irregulars, serving as the BSI's "Wiggins" from 1997 to 2020. He launched the continuing series of BSI conferences, greatly expanded the work of the BSI Press, and created the BSI Trust, which presides over the BSI Archives. He received his Investiture in 1974, the BSIs Two-Shilling Award in 1992, and a Golden Sovereign in 2017, marking his 20th year as head of the BSI. "A Quiet Air of Mastery" (the BSI's tribute volume to Mike) was published by the BSI Press in 2020 and is still available <www.tinyurl.com/463vad56>, and there's an excellent tribute to him, including a series of interviews, at the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.ihose.co/mikewhelan>.

The Lonely Planet web-site <www.tinyurl.com/23nxmwf> reports that tourists can now visit Roraima, the table-top mountain that many believe was the inspiration for "The Lost World". Scroll down to "Monte Roraima" for information about what they say is the 'best hike for bragging rights' (53 miles round trip, 6 days, difficult).

Gildart Jackson, who has narrated more than 400 audiobooks, now has a YouTube "Fireside Readings" channel, where you can watch (and hear) him read "The Hound of the Baskervilles" <www.tinyurl.com/4snbh2zj> and many other stories by other authors.

Tales the Devil Told Me, by Jen Fawkes (Winston-Salem: Press 53, 2021; 178 pp., \$27.95), is a collection of short stories that offer imaginative new versions of the lives of a dozen classical villains, from Rumpelstiltskin to King Claudius to Mrs. Danvers to Medusa to Captain Hook, and of course including Prof. Moriarty.

Jennie Paton has reported a Sherlockian allusion in the film "Inglourious Basterds" (2009): the scene in which Christoph Waltz (Hans Landa), interrogating a French farmer, smokes a calabash pipe. It was indeed a Sherlockian allusion, as Quentin Tarantino, the film's director, explained on "The Charlie Rose Show" on Aug. 21, 2019. You can watch an excerpt from the interview at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=dexvHVD8GEs>; the entire program is available at <www.charlierose.com/videos/26959>.

President Calvin Coolidge paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. William Gillette at Gillette Castle on Oct. 10 <www.tinyurl.com/cwztpz9z>. Coolidge was impersonated by Tracy Messer, and the Gillettes by Tyke and Teddie Niver.

"This Clock Uses Famous Book Quotes to Display the Time" was the headline on an article at Mental Floss (Oct. 27) <www.tinyurl.com/yk5yaw7k> about a new Author Clock created by Mechanical Design Labs. There's a different quote for every minute of the day, according to the article, and "a deep-cut Sherlock Holmes line chimes in at 10:36." There's no explanation why 10:36 is in some way Sherlockian, but if any reader finds out, you're welcome to tell us.

Nov 21 #2 Brad Keefauver's *The Rise and Fall of an Eighties Sherlockian* (2021; 206 pp., \$10,00) is both a memoir and a history of the decade, and it's nicely done indeed, packed with good stories about major and minor figures in the Sherlockian world; there's no index, so you will need to buy the book (it's at Amazon) to see if you appear in one of his stories. His "Sherlock Peoria" blog <www.sherlockpeoria.blogspot.com> is interesting as well.

"We like to think that Sherlock Holmes would approve of modern-day wrestling," Ross K. Foad and Howard Ostrom suggest in the introduction to their essay "Sherlock Holmes: Baker Street Brawler". You can read all about it at <www.nplh.co.uk/the-baker-street-brawler.html>.

You can make a collector happy: Joe Eckrich <jeckrich@sbcglobal.net> needs the first issue (v. 1, n. 1) of the *Sherlock Holmes Journal* so that he can complete his run of the magazine.

Ray Wilcockson continues to make interesting discoveries in the pages of digitized newspapers, and reports on them in his "Markings" blog; his latest <www.tinyurl.com/swnp66w> is about "Conan Doyle's Spooks Tour with The Rolling Stones (1920-22)".

Britain's National Archives has announced that the 1921 census of England and Wales will be made public on Jan. 6 <www.tinyurl.com/yy4zk4r9>, which is nice news genealogists, and people who just want to know who was where that year. The U.S. census is made public after only 75 years.

Video of this year's Cameron Hollyer Memorial Lecture, by Jeffrey Hatcher (on "The Adventure of the Occasional Playwright: Conan Doyle on Stage") is available at the web-site of the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection <www.acdfriends.org/events.html>; he has interesting comments on Conan Doyle as a playwright. You can also watch last year's lecture by Rebecca Romney (on "Sherlockian Collecting: A Tour of Clever, Creative, and Weird Pursuits").

"Otto Presents" is a weekly YouTube podcast from the Mysterious Bookshop in which Otto Penzler talks about authors, books, and collecting; in "Otto Presents Sherlock Holmes" he talked about Holmes, and the books written by Conan Doyle and others <www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOj2R8tDais>.

Sherlock Holmes died on Sept. 29, 2020, in Vestavia, Ala. He and his twin sister Shirley were born on May 20, 1927, in Marion, Ill., and he went on to found Sherlock Holmes Mobile Homes. You can read his obituary on-line at <www.tinyurl.com/nbxdux2m>.

The Word is a new library and exhibition space in South Shields (in north-eastern England), and their current exhibition "Investigating Detectives at The Word" also is available on-line <<https://detectives.theworduk.org>>. Sherlock Holmes and Detective Pikachu are among the detectives celebrated, and the web-site's well worth exploring. An earlier exhibition "Shiver Me Timbers: Pirates on Page, Stage and Screen" still is available on-line and is nicely done indeed (with a mention of Conan Doyle's "Captain Sharkey").

Nov 21 #3 One does hear of Sherlock everywhere: it turns out that there is something Sherlockian about the new movie "Dune" (based on the classic SF novel by Frank Herbert). Stephen McKinley Henderson plays Hawat (a human computer called a Mentat), and explained in an interview in the Hollywood Reporter (Oct 22) <www.tinyurl.com/5a2nwhrf> that his life-long enthusiasm for Sherlock Holmes helped him play a Mentat.

Atlas Obscura celebrated Halloween with a long article about "The Famous Fight Over the Turn-of-the-Century Trend of Spirit Photography" that's of interest for the photograph taken in 1931 of Conan Doyle, his wife Jean, and their son Denis <www.tinyurl.com/w4rtcb4n>. It's a spirit photograph, of course (Conan Doyle died in 1930).

The Beacon Society is continuing to publish its quarterly newsletter for younger Sherlockians, and the latest issue of Sherlock's Spotlight can be found at their web-site <www.beaconsociety.com>; the contents include material both by and for younger followers of the Great Detective.

Mark Levy ("Don Juan Murillo") died on Oct. 30, 2021. A patent attorney by profession, he also was a writer, an inventor, and an enthusiastic member of Dr. Watson's Neglected Patents in Denver. His first article in the Baker Street Journal appeared in 1971, and he went on to contribute often to our literature. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2013.

VioletandOberon offers a wide range of attractive Sherlockian merchandise; their web-site is at <www.violetandoberon.com>, and you can browse their collections at <www.tinyurl.com/4x9wsu5r>. There's also a colorful brochure available on request as a PDF <contact@violetandoberon.com>.

A complete run of single issues of The Strand Magazine will all 58 of the Sherlock Holmes stories that appeared in the magazine will be offered in the Heritage Auctions sale on Dec. 9-10 <www.tinyurl.com/46dbf8hb>. It's not often that a complete run of single issues is available; the last time was in 2016. There will be some other nice Sherlockiana and Doyleana in the sale.

Further to the report (Sep 21 #2) on American singer and songwriter Billie Eilish's explanation of how and why she wrote her song "You Should See Me in a Crown", the Geo News web-site reported on Nov. 10 that she responded to Instagram's "Ask me a question" feature with a Sherlockian answer when asked "Favorite fictional character?" <www.tinyurl.com/ztjr9urk>.

Brimptmead Estate, in the heart of Dartmoor National Park, for sale, offered at £4,950,000 <www.tinyurl.com/sfuxwawh>; according to the realtor's brochure, the building was leased from the then Prince of Wales in 1906, and the present owners were allowed to purchase the freehold from Prince Charles, but "His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales retains the right to fish on the river bank owned by The Brimptmead Estate, with 24 hours' notice." Press reports say that Conan Doyle stayed at the house, but that's not stated in the brochure.

Nov 21 #4 "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects" from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker (curated by Glen and his wife Cathy), is an exhibition scheduled at the Grolier Club in New York from January 12 to Apr. 16; it will have some real treasures on display, and it will be well worth a visit; Glen was recently interviewed on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/thhr4ztvb>. There's a web-site for the exhibition at <www.sherlockin221objects.org>; click on "Visit" for information about current regulations in New York City, and to make a reservation to see the exhibition.

The exhibition catalogue, which will be published by the Grolier Club on Jan. 5, and is available now for pre-order at Amazon (168 pp., \$60.00); is spectacular, with splendid full-color illustrations as well as grand stories about the exhibits, and highly recommended.

Readers who lament the lack of reviews of Sherlockian video games in this newsletter may enjoy the conclusions of a reviewer who posts to YouTube: <www.youtube.com/watch?v=NZcjQb2fE6M> (kindly noted by Jennie Paton); it's stated as Part One, so there may be a second installment eventually.

It's not quite "The Six Napoleons", but a letter, signed by Napoleon six times, listing the rolls of gold napoleons he was given when he left Elba in 1815, was sent to auction at Lion Heart Autographs on Oct. 27, with an estimate of \$15,000-\$16,000 <www.tinyurl.com/rabe2zb4>. The letter sold for \$10,500.

Lou Coty has commissioned an impressive and artistic image of the sitting-room at 221B Baker Street, available as a print and on pillows, blankets, mugs, and much more, at <www.gothicandlight.com>; a 10% discount is available if you use the magic word (SCUTTLEBUTT10) at check-out.

Steve Mason continues to add to his collection of autographs of actors who have portrayed Sherlock Holmes, and now has more than 700 autographs; you can see them all at <www.tinyurl.com/44mh9e8u>. And he asks that if you, or someone you know, has been Holmes on stage, screen, radio, television, or anywhere else, he's at <mason.steve8080@gmail.com> and would be happy to add to his collection.

When in Bury St. Edmunds (in Suffolk): you can stop by Baskerville's Bar (formerly Moriarty's) <www.baskervilles.uk>; it's a vegan coffee shop with a "secret, hidden cocktail bar."

James Thurber's *The Cases of Blue Floermell* (Hershey: Peschel Press, 2021; 195 pp., \$18.95) offers (reprinted for the first time) all of the baker's dozen of the stories about the detective who was described by Ray Betzner in 1992 as a "cross-eyed" parody of Sherlock Holmes, accompanied by notes and essays by Bill Peschel. The stories fill only a quarter of the book, and Bill has provided a detailed discussion of Thurber's life and career, journalism in 1923 (when the parodies were published in the *Columbus Dispatch*), and much more about one of America's greatest humorists. Bill's web-site <www.peschelpress.com> has information about all of the volumes in his 223B Casebook Series, and his many other books.

Nov 21 #5 Alex Ovechkin, who is well known to everyone who roots for or against the Washington Capitals (and for those who don't, the Washington Capitals play in the National Hockey League), has appeared in Sherlockian costume in Russian television commercials that promote the PSB Bank; the Russian Machine Never Breaks web-site <www.tinyurl.com/rwespfxn> has kindly made the commercials available.

The page from "The Hound of the Baskervilles" sold at Heritage Auctions on Nov. 6 for \$423,000 (including the buyer's premium); it's the second-highest auction price for any Canonical manuscript ("The Sign of the Four" was sold for \$519,500 in 1996); no complete short-story manuscript has brought more than this single page did. Offered at auction in 2016, estimated at \$100,000-\$150,000, the page went unsold; offered again in 2019, estimated at \$120,000-\$150,000, it went unsold once more. Randall Stock has a detailed history and description of the page in his "Best of Sherlock" census at <www.tinyurl.com/yu7jrhj>.

It should be noted that the page from the manuscript wasn't the only expensive item at auction this month: Kenneth Griffin, chief executive officer of the multinational hedge fund Citadel, paid \$43.2 million for one of only two surviving first printings of the Constitution in private collections, setting a record for the most expensive book, manuscript, historical document, or printed text ever sold at auction. Smithsonian magazine <www.tinyurl.com/2p92np9x> had a nicely illustrated article about the sale at Sotheby's on Nov. 18.

The Return of Sherlock Holmes: Further Extraordinary Tales of the Famous Sleuth, is edited by Maxim Jakubowski (Coral Gables: Mango, 2021; 321 pp., \$18.95); it's an anthology of traditional and non-traditional pastiches, some nicely faithful to the Canon, and some imaginatively not.

"Attention all scalawags, layabouts, rapscallions, and full-grown street urchins of the Sherlockian, Holmesian, and Watsonian worlds!" according to Brad Keefauver, who has announced a non-annual non-dinner Zoom meeting of the Montague Street Incurables at the Dangling Prussian on Jan. 14, for those who may wish to celebrate Sherlock Holmes' 168th birthday somewhere other than New York. Details are available at <www.tinyurl.com/4cb3xpek>.

"The Baker Street Classics Sherlock Holmes" (Newbury: Baker Street Press, 2021) is a new uniform set of all of the nine Canonical books, with colorful dust-jacket artwork from the old John Murray Uniform Edition (£14.99 each).

Kuonyi Nxlia, by John R. Morrison (Pittsburgh: Dorrance Publishing, 2021; 180 pp., \$23.00), is the biography of his grand-uncle Dr. William McCutchan Morrison, who served as an American missionary in the Congo from 1906 to 1918 and was sued for his criticism of the abuses of the natives by the Belgian administrators of the colony. In *The Crime of the Congo* (1909), Conan Doyle wrote that "At this moment two American citizens, Shepherd and that noble Virginian, Morrison, are about to be tried at Boma for telling the truth about the scoundrels. Morrison in the dock makes a finer Statue of Liberty than Bartholdi's in New York harbour."

Nov 21 #6 Neil Gaiman's *A Study in Emerald* (Milwaukie: Dark Horse, 2018; 88 pp., \$19.99) is an impressive graphic novel, with art and adaptation by Rafael Albuquerque, that's based on a short story written to combine the worlds of Sherlock Holmes and H. P. Lovecraft; the story won a Hugo Award in 2004, and the graphic novel is a careful (and colorful) presentation of Gaiman's story.

Allan Devitt ("The Dancing Men") died on Oct. 17. He had a long career in management, at the University of Chicago and then at the American Management Association. Allan was an enthusiastic member of the Criterion Bar Association and other Sherlockian societies in Chicago, and of the Beacon Society, and with his wife Susan Z. Diamond presided over the running of the Silver Blaze in Chicago for many years. He received his Investiture from the Baker Street Irregulars in 2009.

Under a Raven's Wing, by Stephen Volk (Hornsea: PS Publishing, 2021; 384 pp., £25.00), is a collection of excellent pastiches, five reprinted and two new, set in the 1870s, when a young Sherlock Holmes, in Paris, meets C. Auguste Dupin, who is not at all what he seems to be. Volk pays tribute to Arthur Conan Doyle and Edgar Allan Poe, and is skillful at presenting stories that truly are "tales of mystery and imagination." His web-site's at <www.stephenvolk.net>.

Upcoming theater: Debbie Phillips' new "A Study on Sherlock" is to be performed as "immersive theater" at the Parish House in Clifton, Yorks., Dec. 6-11 <www.tinyurl.com/yk8e8j7v>.

Wayne R. Scott's "Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles" will be performed at the LifeHouse Theater in Redlands, Calif., Jan. 15-30; web-site at <www.lifehousetheater.com>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" is scheduled at the Abbotsford Arts Centre in Abbotsford, B.C., Mar. 11-19 <www.abbotsfordarts.abbyschools.ca>.

"Spontaneous Sherlock" will be performed at the Sundial Theatre in Cirencester, Glos., Mar. 12 <www.sundial-theatre.co.uk>.

Michael Fitcher's new "The Mystery of the Valkyrie" (with Holmes, Watson, Adler, and Moriarty) is due at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre in Brisbane, Qld., Mar. 29-Apr. 2 <www.qpac.com.au>.

Richard Lavin's new "Sherlock Holmes & the Star of Arabia" is scheduled at the Heisler Theater in Crestline, Calif., Apr. 15-May 1; their web-site's at <www.heislertheater.com>.

"Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Maestro" is due at the Noorda Center for the Performing Arts in Orem, Utah, on Apr. 19, and then moves to the Maurice Abravanel Hall in Salt Lake City, on Apr. 23; the web-site is at <www.visitsaltlake.com>.

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

Dec 21 #1

Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press

If you're planning to be in New York for the birthday festivities (or anything else), Tom Cynkin has kindly reported that the NYC COVID SAFE app is widely accepted at venues requiring proof of vaccination. It's free, easy to use, and helpful, but it may not be accepted everywhere, so don't leave your vaccination cards at home. Information about access to Baker Street Irregulars events may change; check at <www.tinyurl.com/ycktt4ecm> for the latest requirements, and you can stay truly up to date by signing up for free News from the BSI e-mail <www.tinyurl.com/2p8n2ptm>.

The Clients of Adrian Mulliner (for Sherlockian admirers of Wodehouse and Woodhousean admirers of Holmes) will hold their annual Junior Bloodstain via Zoom at 1:00 pm EST on Jan. 8, discussing Wodehouse's "The Split Infinitive". Contact Elaine Coppola <emcoppol@syr.edu> to request a copy of the story and a Zoom link.

Scott Monty has updated his helpful "Here Are Your #BSIWeekend Tips" (recommended for anyone planning to be in New York for the birthday festivities <<http://ihose.co/bsi2022tips>>).

Randall Stock has an excellent (and well-illustrated) report at his "Best of Sherlock" web-site on the "Sherlock Holmes in 221 Objects from the Collection of Glen S. Miranker" exhibition that opens at the Grolier Club in New York in January <www.tinyurl.com/bddzt>.

Lyndsay Faye was interviewed by Scott Monty and Burt Wolder on the "I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere" blog <www.tinyurl.com/yx2u8na4>, talking about *Observations by Gaslight* (her new collection of pastiches), and about many other things.

Leroy L. Panek died on Nov. 5. He worked for decades in the English Department at McDaniel College in Westminster, Md., and became interested in the detective novel in 1974. He was the author of eleven books and twice won Edgar Awards from the Mystery Writers of America, and helped create the Westminster Detective Library, which has as its mission to catalog and publish on-line all the short detective fiction published in the U.S. before 1891. He was the Baker Street Irregulars' Distinguished Speaker during the birthday festivities in 2006 (offering "Thoughts about the Beginning of the Detective Story in America").

The Internet is alive with news/commentary/rumor about a fifth season of the BBC's "Sherlock" television series, and Karen Murdock has reported a three-minute trailer at YouTube <www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKR62lCxK0k>; it is one of many such trailers created by hopeful fans.

HM Prison Dartmoor is well-known to Sherlockians, and will be familiar to all who have read "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; many people know that it was built to house French prisoners captured in the war with Napoleon, but not as many know that it also held American prisoners captured during the War of 1812 and not released until 1815 after some were killed in what was called (in the U.S.) the Dartmoor Massacre. A contemporary broadside about the event <www.tinyurl.com/ys23u6mt> was at auction this month, with a vivid description of what happened, estimated at \$2,000-\$3,000; it sold for \$4,250 (including the buyer's premium).

Dec 21 #2 Stephen Sondheim died on Nov. 26. He began his entertainment career as the lyricist for "West Side Story" (1957), and his many awards included a Tony for best musical for "A Funny Thing Happened to Me on the Way to the Forum" (the first Broadway show for which he wrote both words and music) in 1964, an Edgar from the Mystery Writers of America in 1974 for the film "The Last of Sheila", the Pulitzer Prize for drama in 1985, and an Oscar in 1991 (for best music and original song) for the film "Dick Tracy". He was a Kennedy Center honoree in 1993, and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019; and wrote the song "I Never Do Anything Twice" sung by Régine as the brothel madame in the film "The Seven-Per-Cent Solution" (1976) <www.youtube.com/watch?v=96MvzUWUDIY>.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki was a guest on MSNBC-TV's "Morning Joe" on Dec. 3 <www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p6MOgvst4>; at 5:21 you can hear her say "No you know what Sherlock?"

Copyright on the Sherlock Holmes stories in the U.S. runs for 95 years after the date of publication, so only two of the stories will be protected in 2022 ("The Veiled Lodger" and "Shoscombe Old Place"), and they will enter the public domain in 2023.

Michelle Birkby's *All Roads Lead to Whitechapel* (New York: Felony & Mayhem, 2019; 265 pp., \$26.00) is the new title for the American edition of her *The House at Baker Street* (2016); it's the first "Baker Street Inquiry" written by Mrs. Hudson, who with the assistance of Mary Watson, Billy, and Wiggins, pursues a case that wasn't (but should have been) of interest to Holmes. The story's well told, and the characters ring true.

Her *No One Notices the Boys* (2021; 295 pp., \$26.00) is the title of the American edition of *The Women of Baker Street* (2019), and it's an excellent sequel, with Mrs. Hudson and Mary once again involved in a complicated mystery as they battle a fiendish criminal.

Peter McIntyre reports that Dr. Doyle (the three-year-old brown gelding) came in 7th (20% lengths behind the winner) at Gulfstream Park on Dec. 8, continuing to disappoint bettors.

Cliff Goldfarb has reported an interesting discussion of "The Hound of the Baskervilles" at the Lit Century podcast at <www.link.chtbl.com/42JG949S>; hosts Sandra Newman and Catherine Nichols and special guests discuss one book for each year of the 20th century.

Steve Mason has announced the creation of a new Sherlockian society that surely will find many members in this Age of the Pandemic. More information about the Legion of Zoom will be found at <www.tinyurl.com/2p8zv245>.

Stuart Palmer was a prolific author and screenwriter, as well as a member of the Baker Street Irregulars, and was best known for a series of inventive novels and short stories about his detective Hildegarde Withers. *Hildegarde Withers: Final Riddles?* (Cincinnati: Crippen & Landru, 2021; 235 pp., \$22.00) is a collection of reprints of some of the stories, two Sherlockian pastiches from 1944, and a warm tribute to Sherlock Holmes and Conan Doyle first published in the Baker Street Journal in 1948. Their website <www.crippenandlandru.com> is well worth exploring.

Dec 21 #3 "Asia and Europe Feel the Pinch as Chinese Tourists Stay Home" was the headline on a story in the N.Y. Times (Dec. 6) spotted by Karen Murdock; Paul Lehame, supervisor of the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London, said about 1,000 people visited per day at its peak, and at least half of them were from China, but after the Museum reopened on May 17, it has attracted only 10 percent of its usual numbers. And about a third of the merchandise and souvenirs sold at the web-site of the Museum is being shipped to China.

Carl L. Heifetz died on Nov. 19. He had a long career in infectious disease research and after his retirement founded Micro Doc, a microbiology consultant firm. He was an enthusiastic Sherlockian, and was an officer of the Pleasant Places of Florida for many years; he also wrote a collection of essays *Sherlock Holmes Through the Microscope* (2018) and two volumes of pastiches.

The Agra Treasurers' annual "Holmes, Doyle, and Friends" conference will be held in person at the Airport Clarion Inn in Dayton, Ohio, on Mar. 11-12; more information is available at <www.agratreasurers.net>.

The complete run of single issues of The Strand Magazine (with all 58 of the Sherlock Holmes stories that appeared in the magazine) offered at Heritage Auctions this month sold for \$45,000 (including the buyer's premium), and there were nice prices paid for other Sherlockian items in the auction <www.tinyurl.com/46dbf8hb>.

Andrew Gulli's "The Strand Magazine" continues to publish colorful annual Sherlock Holmes calendars <www.tinyurl.com/2p8km7j3>, and there's a wide variety of Sherlockiana at its on-line shop <www.tinyurl.com/2p8cthc5>.

Holmes Picks a Winner, by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley, is the latest in the "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series (Wilton, 226 pp., available on Kindle for \$2.99); it's the finale in a three-volume arc that has Holmes, Watson, Lucy, Jack, Becky, and Flynn thwarting a dire plot at Royal Ascot; there's more about the series at <www.sherlockandlucy.com>.

Patrick Horgan died on Oct. 6. He began his acting career on British television in 1954 and went on to perform also on stage and screen. He had many Sherlockian credits, appearing as Captain Gregg in the musical "Baker Street" (1965), as Sir Edward Leighton and then as Sherlock Holmes in the Royal Shakespeare Company revival of Gillette's "Sherlock Holmes" (1974), as Sherlock Holmes in Conan Doyle's "The Speckled Band" (1973 and 1990), as William Gillette in Ken Ludwig's play "Dramatic License" (1983), and as Sherlock Holmes in a 30-second commercial on American television (1990). He also recorded an abridged version of "A Study in Scarlet" for a record (1977), and the entire Canon for the Library of Congress' "Talking Books for the Blind" and his memoirs "The Deception of Sherlock Holmes" (available as audiobooks from Decklin's Domain) <www.decklinsdomain.com>.

The Jan.-Feb. issue of Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine offers its annual tribute to Sherlock Holmes: a Sherlockian cover; Steve Hockensmith's Am-lingmeyer Brothers story "Bad News"; Dean Jobb's "Stranger Than Fiction" column with a tip of the hat to Conan Doyle; Steve Steinbock's reviews of new Sherlockian books; Terrence Faherty's parody of "The Musgrave Ritual"; editor Janet Hutchings' "A 2022 Birthday Party for Sherlock Holmes?"; and Josh Pachter's Ellery Queen pastiche "Their Last Bow".

Dec 21 #4 The national Aeronautics and Space Administration has reported www.tinyurl.com/2p8j494s that SHERLOC has discovered organic material on Mars. SHERLOC (an acronym for the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals instrument on NASA's Perseverance rover) found organics both inside a rock and in dust on other rocks; it won't be until samples are returned to Earth that scientists will be able to determine whether the organic molecules have biological or non-biological origins.

Laurie R. King is kindly celebrating the holiday by making a free download of the Mary Russell short story "Mary's Christmas" available to her fans at www.laurierking.com/books/mary-russells-war/overview.

Les Moskowitz died on Dec. 16. He was a consulting actuary and an energetic user of computers. Les also was a long-time member of the Six Napoleons, Watson's Tin Box, the Red Circle, and other Sherlockian societies, and for many years presided over the Hounds of the Internet mailing list, where his messages were "scribbled by a drunken-looking groom, ill-kempt and side-whiskered, with an inflamed face and disreputable clothes."

John Alan Maxwell illustrated "The Speckled Band" in *The Golden Book* (Dec. 1930); some decidedly non-Sherlockian artwork inscribed to the mentalist Joseph Dunninger was at auction this month www.tinyurl.com/2p8vt3wp, estimated at \$300-\$600; it sold for \$180.

Further to the report of a "Sherlock Holmes Afternoon Tea" at the Holmes Hotel in Marylebone (Oct 21 #5), My London has published an enthusiastic review of the festivities www.tinyurl.com/2p8wvjf.

Doug Reside, curator of the Billy Rose Theatre Division at the New York Public Library, has blogged about "Sherlock Holmes on Stage"; the NYPL has some real treasures in its collection www.tinyurl.com/2p9dkt4f.

Reported: "The Captain of the Pole-Star" included in *The Valancourt Book of Victorian Christmas Ghost Stories*, edited by Tara Moore (Richmond: Valancourt Books, 2016; 292 pp., \$30.00).

Last March the Internet Archive launched the Internet Archive Scholar, a data-base of millions of open-access papers www.scholar.archive.org. A search for ["sherlock holmes"] yields 9,510 hits (if you don't use quotation marks you get 10,336 hits); there are 5,799 hits for ["conan doyle"].

The Sherlock Holmes Club of Hungary offers a Sherlockian calendar for 2022 www.sherlockian-sherlock.com/sherlock-holmes-calendar-2022.php; the artwork's by József Sváb, and it's a free download.

There was a time when Hollywood stars who declined to appear in television commercials in the U.S. were happy to do so on foreign television, knowing that American audience were unlikely to see them. That's no longer true, thanks to the Internet, which also has made it possible to see some of the older commercials, such as the one that starred Kirk Douglas in Sherlockian costume, promoting Maxim Coffee in Japan in 1979. It's readily available now, at www.tinyurl.com/3vcdcxks. Douglas made more (non-Sherlockian) commercials for Maxim, and Yuichi Hirayama has reported that you can see them at www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt5zBdYa6ss.

Dec 21 #5 New generations of Sherlockians may not know that John Lennon (yes, that John Lennon) wrote a Sherlockian pastiche "The Singular Experience of Miss Ann Duffield"; William Burton McCormick's interesting essay about the pastiche was posted at the SleuthSayers blog on Nov. 17 <www.tinyurl.com/2p8jm94m>, kindly reported by Les Klinger.

Former prosecutor Stephen Lee will deliver a webinar on "Sherlock Holmes and the Art of Evidence" on Jan. 12 at 12:00 pm CST for the Chicago Chapter of the Federal Bar Association; it's free, and there's a registration button at <www.fedbarchicago.org/event/sherlock-holmes-2022>. If there's a conflict because of travel to the birthday festivities in New York, the webinar will be recorded and available on-line.

Anne Rice died on Dec. 11. A prolific and best-selling author, she used both her own name and pseudonyms, and was best known for her "The Vampire Chronicles" series of novels. She dedicated her novel *The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned* (1989) "to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle for his great mummy stories 'Lot No. 249' and 'The Ring of Thoth'".

"See Louis Wain's Exuberant Cat Art at the Hospital Where He Spent His Later Years" is the headline on a story at the Smithsonian magazine web-site on Dec. 23. Wain was famous as "the man who drew cats," one of which was his postcard rendition of a delightfully Sherlockian cat dressed as William Gillette dressed as Sherlock Holmes (Sep 21 #3). Benedict Cumberbatch stars as Wain in the new film "The Electrical Life of Louis Wain", and the article includes a link to a virtual tour of the exhibition at the Bethlem Museum of the Mind.

The Library of Congress Crime Classics series was launched in 2020, with the goal of reprinting "some of the finest American crime writing from the 1860s to the 1960s," selected and annotated by Leslie S. Klinger, who was interviewed recently by Andrew F. Gulli for *The Strand Magazine*; you can read the interview at <www.tinyurl.com/3amh9kr7>.

The "Sherlock Holmes and Lucy James" series (written by Anna Elliott and Charles Veley), includes short stories as well as novels, all available on Kindle, and four volumes of short stories now have been published as trade paperbacks <www.preview.mailerlite.com/1lu4r4/1848574774645626240/t6h4>.

James Lovegrove's *The Beast of the Stapletons* (New York: Titan, 2021; 404 pp., \$19.99) brings Holmes and Watson back to Baskerville Hall, five years after they rescued Sir Henry from the Hound, to solve another murder, and face the possibility that Stapleton still lives and plans revenge; there are plenty of suspects, twists, and turns.

National Geographic celebrated this year's 70th anniversary of the creation of Dartmoor National Park with some spectacular photographs posted at their web-site on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/bdcs8x3z>.

It's time to learn a new word: "retcon". According to Merriam-Webster, it was added to their dictionary in October and is a shortened form for "retroactive continuity" ("a literary device in which the form or content of a previously established narrative is changed"). Their on-line discussion of the new word is (appropriately) illustrated with Sherlockian artwork by Sidney Paget <www.tinyurl.com/yjt66hxx>, and the word was used in an opinion column in the *Washington Post* on Dec. 23 <www.tinyurl.com/2p82mocr>.

Dec 21 #6 Les Klinger has reported an interesting article about a "cottage industry" with echoes in "The Creeping Man" in the fall 2021 issue of *Hektoen International: A Journal of Medical Humanities*; it's available at the journal's web-site <www.tinyurl.com/4sjms555>. Searches for [conan doyle] and [sherlock holmes] will yield more articles in past issues of the journal.

The Internet has been full of colorful season's greetings from Sherlockians and Sherlockian societies, and one of the best is from the Société Sherlock Holmes de France <www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgUnNK2GY-o>.

Vladimir Tatosov died on Dec. 24. He began acting on stage in St. Petersburg and went on to a long career in Russian film and television, and was Baron Von Herling in the Livanov/Solomin television series "The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson" (1987).

Theatrics: "Sherlock Holmes and the Hooded Lance" (by Pat Whymark and Julian Harries) is touring in Britain through Jan. 13; more information will be found at <www.commongroundtc.co.uk>.

Pat Whymark's new comedy "Sherlock Holmes Meets Count Dracula" is touring in Britain through Jan. 23 <www.commongroundtc.co.uk/xmas-show-2021-22>.

Wayne R. Scott's "Sherlock Holmes and the Hound of the Baskervilles" has been scheduled at the LifeHouse Theater in Redlands, Calif., on Jan. 15-30 <www.lifehousetheater.com>.

Bart Lovin's "The Novel Adventures of Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear" will be performed at the Hardin County Schools Performing Arts Center in Elizabethtown, Ky., Jan. 28-31 <www.thepac.net>.

Ken Ludwig's "Baskerville" will be performed at the Elgin Art Showcase in Elgin, Ill., Jan. 28-Feb. 12 <www.elgin-theatre.org>; also at the Stage-Center Theatre in Bryan, Texas, Aug. 4-20 <www.stagecenter.net>.

Brit Ward's "Sherlock Holmes and the Sinister Trio" will be performed at the Connie Gotsch Little Theater at San Juan College in Farmington, N.M., Feb. 18-27 <www.theater-ensemble-arts.square.site>

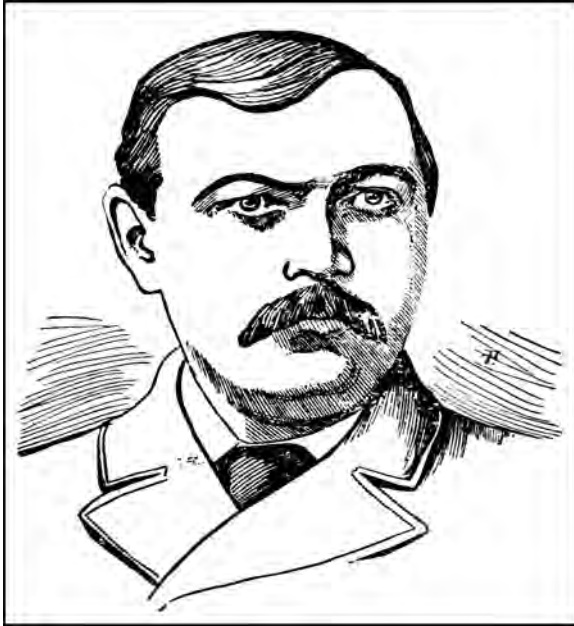
Brian Guehring's "Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular" is due at Kernersville Elementary School in Kernersville, N.C., Feb. 25-Mar. 5 <www.kltheatre.com>.

I've long described this newsletter as "six or more pages of whatever gossip I find appropriate, much of it quite trivial, but most of it Sherlockian or Doylean." If you would like to run a word-search on a large file with all of the text since March 1985 (that's when I entered the computer age) can now do just that, thanks to Steve Mason, who updates his compilation each month and makes it available at the web-site of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star <www.tinyurl.com/ybxh2y2m>.

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



LISTS
&
OTHER RECORDS



When I burgle my son's money box as my own was burgled 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.



THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM

RE-CREATION IN READING, PENNSYLVANIA

*Denny Dobry**

Editors' note: This is the third installment — the others are in the 2019 and 2020 editions of the *Baker Street Almanac* — of what we hope will become a complete inventory of Denny Dobry's famous re-creation of 221B. He welcomes visitors and can be reached at dendobry@ptd.net.

Key:

Page = Page number in Doubleday's *The Complete Sherlock Holmes* where a reference to the listed article is found

Ded. = Deduced, for items that must have existed, but are not in the written words of the story.

Image # = Image number of artifact in the pages of pictures following this table

Artifact Description	Page	Image #
THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE		
When Watson was introduced to Wilson, Holmes asked Wilson to repeat his story. Wilson pulled out "a dirty and wrinkled newspaper."	177, 178	REDH01
Holmes identified Wilson as being a Mason by his "arc-and-compass breastpin."	177	REDH02

* Denny Dobry is "A Single Large Airy Sitting-Room" in the BSI. Copyright 2022 Denny Dobry.

THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM

Holmes deduced that Wilson had been in China by the “Chinese coin hanging from your watch-chain.”	177	REDH03
Wilson: “I have a small pawnbroker’s business at Coburg Square” A pawn shop receipt from Wilson’s Shop.	Ded.	REDH04
Duncan Ross described Wilson’s task: “Is to copy the Encyclopaedia Britannica.”	181	REDH05
	181	REDH06
To further convince Wilson that the Red-Headed League was a legitimate entity, he would have presented Wilson with a certificate of membership.	Ded.	REDH07
Wilson described his progress to Holmes and Watson: “... and I had written about Abbots and Archery and Armour and Architecture and Attica”	182	REDH08
Wilson described “a little square of card-board hammered” on the door of his Red-Headed League work office.	182	REDH09
When Wilson went to the forwarding address for Duncan Ross , aka William Morris, he found: “that address ... was a manufactory of artificial knee-caps.” A label from one of their products.	Ded.	REDH10
When Watson asked Holmes what he was going to do, Holmes responded, “To smoke. It is quite a three pipe problem.” Only three types of pipes used by Holmes are mentioned in the Canon: “his old briar-root pipe” (SIGN), “the long cherry wood” pipe (COPP), and his “black clay” pipe (REDH). A Calabash is <i>never</i> mentioned!	184	REDH11
Holmes: “Sarasate plays at the St. James Hall this afternoon.” Holmes took a break before concluding the case that evening.	184	REDH12
	184	REDH13
Holmes: “And, I say Doctor, there may be some little danger, so kindly put your army revolver in your pocket.” Most researchers concur that Watson’s service revolver was an Adams Mark III, which was the official British issue from 1872 to August 1880.	185	REDH14
“Holmes, buttoning up his pea-jacket and taking his heavy riding crop from the rack.” Holmes prepared for his evening’s excursion to the City and Suburban Bank.	186	REDH15
“Holmes fell upon his knees upon the floor and, with the lantern and a magnifying lens, began to examine minutely the cracks between the stones.”	187	REDH16
Holmes: “Mr. Merryweather, we must put that screen over that dark lantern.”	188	REDH17
Clay (aka Spalding): “I beg that you will not touch me with your filthy hands,” remarked our prisoner as the handcuffs clattered upon his wrists.	189	REDH18

THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM

A CASE OF IDENTITY		
To make his point, Holmes uses the Dundas separation case where the husband “had drifted into the habit of winding up every meal by taking out his false teeth and hurling them at his wife.”	191	IDEN01
Holmes “held out his snuffbox of old gold, with a great amethyst in the center of the lid.” (A gift from the King of Bohemia.)	191	IDEN02
Watson described Mary Sutherland as “a large woman.”	192	IDEN03
Mary’s Uncle Ned left her shares of New Zealand Stock.	193	IDEN04
“They used to send father tickets [to the Gasfitters’ Ball] when he was alive. And then afterwards they remembered us”	193	IDEN05
Ms. Sutherland in describing Hosmer Angel: “he wore tinted glasses against the glare.”	194	IDEN06
Ms. Sutherland told Holmes: “I advertised for him in last Saturday’s Chronicle. Here is the slip and here are four letters from him.”	196	IDEN07
	196	IDEN08
Holmes “took down from the rack the old and oily clay pipe”	196, 198	IDEN09
Holmes in describing Mary: “observing the dint of a pince-nez at either side of her nose”	197	IDEN10
Watson describes what he sees upon returning to Baker Street: “A formidable array of bottles and test tubes, with the pungent cleanly smell of hydrochloric acid”	198	IDEN11
Holmes describing to Watson the letters from Windibank to him and Mary Sutherland: “In each case, not only are the “e’s” slurred and the “r’s” tailless”	199	IDEN12
Holmes threatened Windibank with his hunting crop.	201	IDEN13
Holmes received a letter from Westhouse & Marbank that confirmed Windibank’s identity from Mary Sutherland’s description of Hosmer Angel.	201	IDEN14
Letter from the Midland Grand Hotel informing Mary Sutherland that she is responsible for paying the Hotel’s invoice.	Ded.	IDEN15

THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM

THE BOSCOMBE VALLEY MYSTERY		
Watson: “the maid brought in a telegram. It was from Sherlock Holmes”	202	BOSC01
Holmes’s “close-fitting cloth cap.” (A deerstalker?)	202	BOSC02
Lestrade’s telegram to Holmes asking for assistance.	Ded.	BOSC03
Newspaper story in the Herefordshire Gazette.	205	BOSC04
Holmes: “And here is my pocket Petrarch”	207	BOSC05
Lestrade’s calling card.	Ded.	BOSC06
Watson: “He drew out a lens and lay down upon his waterproof”	212	BOSC07
Holmes: “This is a map of the Colony of Victoria. I wired to Bristol for it last night.”	214	BOSC08
	214	BOSC09
Holmes’s note summoning John Turner.	215	BOSC10
John Turner’s confession as recorded by Holmes.	215	BOSC11
THE FIVE ORANGE PIPS		
Watson: “while I at the other was deep in one of Clark Russell’s fine sea-stories”	218	FIVE01
Openshaw, “ raising his golden pince-nez to his eyes”: “I owe you an apology”	218	FIVE02
Openshaw: “He [Joseph Openshaw] was a patentee of the Openshaw unbreakable tire”	219	FIVE03
Openshaw: “he [Elias Openshaw] fought in Jackson’s army, and afterwards under Hood.”	219	FIVE04
Openshaw: “ One day — it was in March, 1883 — a letter with a foreign stamp lay upon the table ... out there jumped five little dried orange pips”	220	FIVE05
	220	FIVE06
Openshaw: “I met him [Elias] coming down ... a small brass box, like a cashbox, in the other [hand].”	220-21	FIVE07
	220-21	FIVE08
“Put the papers on the sundial.”	222	FIVE09
Openshaw: “I received a telegram from the major”	222	FIVE10
Watson: “The young man [John Openshaw] took from his waistcoat a crumpled envelope, and ... shook out ... five little dried orange pips.”	222, 227	FIVE11
“He [John Openshaw] rummaged in his coat pocket, and, drawing out a piece of discoloured, blue-tinted paper”	223	FIVE12
Holmes: “Kindly hand me down the letter K of the American Encyclopaedia”	225	FIVE13

THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM

Holmes: “In this way you see K.K.K. ceases to be the initials of an individual and becomes the badge of a society.”	226	FIVE14
Holmes: “so hand me over my violin”	227	FIVE15
Newspaper account: “Tragedy Near Waterloo Bridge.”	227	FIVE16
	227	FIVE17
Watson: “On the inside of the flap he wrote ‘S.H. for J.O.’ Then he sealed it and addressed it to ‘Captain James Calhoun, Bark Lone Star, Savannah, Georgia.’”	228	FIVE18
	228	FIVE19
Holmes: “I wired to Gravesend”	229	FIVE20
Holmes: “and learned that she had passed some time ago”	229	FIVE21
Holmes: “By the time that their sailing-ship reaches Savannah the mail-boat will have carried this letter, and the cable will have informed the police of Savannah that these gentlemen are badly wanted”	229	FIVE22

ning Chronic April 27, 1890

REDH01

THE HOTEL, on the ...
HOTEL HURLINGTON in DOVER BAY.
SAURDAY to MONDAY, £2 2s.
 Including rail and hotel accommodation.
COUPONS may be obtained through Messrs. ...
INCLUSIVE TERMS: One week from £3 10s.
PASTOURS ...
TO THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE: On account of ...
ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL, FOLKSTONE.
FOLKSTONE ROYAL PAVILION HOTEL.
AMGATE—The GRANVILLE, leading Hotel.

Red Headed League

This is to certify that **REDH07**
Jabez Wilson.....

This is totally satisfied the requirements of the Red Headed League as laid down on account of the bequest of the late Ezekiah Hopkins of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

The said Jabez Wilson, as a member of the Red Headed League, is entitled to the rights and privileges as stated in the instructions of the Will in support of the propagation and spread of red headed men, as well as for their maintenance.

Signed this date 4. August 1890 Anna Domini
Duncan Ross
Agent, Red Headed League

WILSON'S PAWNBROKING SERVICE
 3 Coburg Square, London, W.1
 Jabez Wilson, Pawnbroker & Jeweller.

This **£** **OCTOBER 1890 148**
 By *Jabez Wilson*
Book
 CAMBRIDGE SALE-ROOM ATTACHED.

REDH04



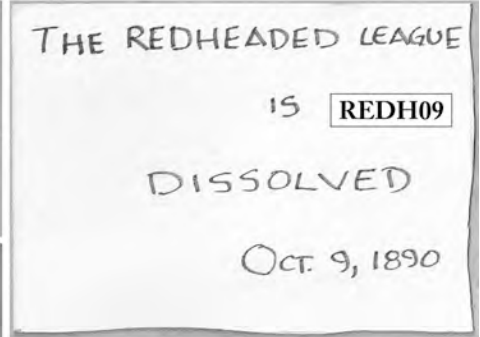
ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA.
 DICTIONARY
 OF
 ARTS, SCIENCES, AND GENERAL LITERATURE.
 NINTH EDITION.
 (AMERICAN EDITION)
 VOLUME III.
 PHILADELPHIA:
 J. M. STODDART & CO.
 1878.

REDH05

REDH06



THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM



THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM





*You are Cordially
Invited to Attend*

The Gasfitters' Ball

*The Grand Hotel
at Trafalgar Square*

Saturday, September 24, 1887
8.00 P.M. to 11.00 P.M.

IDEN05


 London, Saturday, October 15, 1887

IDEN07

MISSING PERSON
 Missing on the morning of the fourteenth, a gentleman named **Herman Angel**, about five feet seven inches in height, strongly built, rather complexion, black hair, a little bald in the centre, bushy, black side-whiskers and mustaches tinted glasses, slight infirmity of speech. Was dressed, when last seen, in black frock coat faced with silk, black waistcoat, gold Albert chain, and grey Harris tweed trousers, with brown gaiters over elastic-sided boots. Known to have been employed in Leadenhall Street. Anyone bringing such information on Mr. Angel will be rewarded. Please contact Mr. Sutherland, No. 31 Lyon Place, Cambridge.

IDEN08

[Faded, illegible text from a document or letter, possibly a notice or advertisement.]

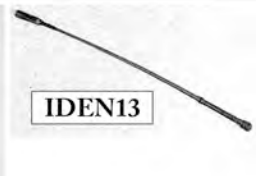
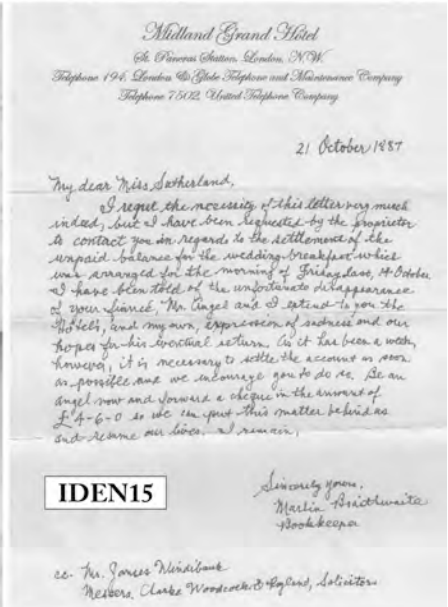
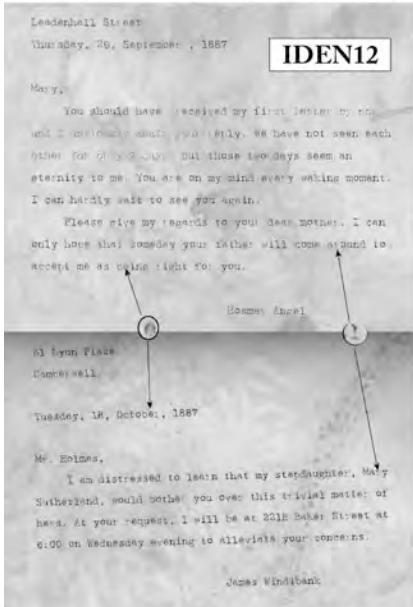
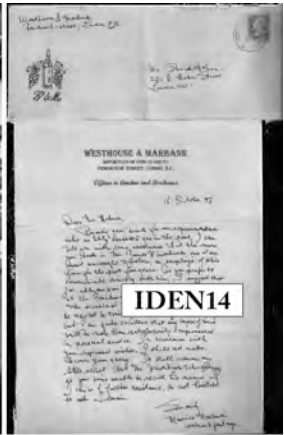
NEW ZEALAND CONSOLIDATED STOCK - \$4 per Unit
 The Directors of the Company of New Zealand Consolidated Stock, do hereby certify that the following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the share of the Company, in pursuance of the Act in that behalf made, and of the amount of the share of each of them respectively.

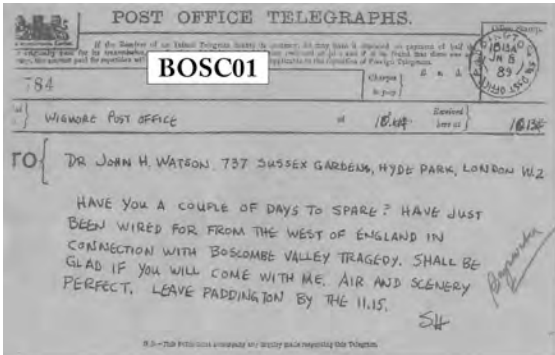
RECEIVED this 27th Day of Nov 1887
 Miss Mary Sutherland
 £ s. d.
 100 0 0

IDEN04

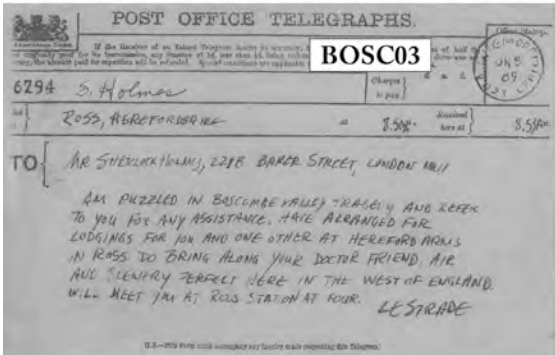


THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM





BOSC05



BOSC06



G. Lestrade
Inspector

Scotland Yard



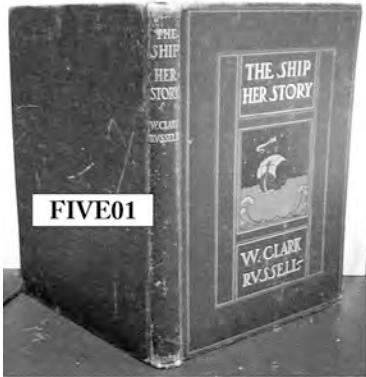
BOSC07



BOSC04



BOSC02



FIVE01



FIVE06



FIVE04

General John Bell Hood C.S.A.

**The Openshaw
Unbreakable Bicycle Tyre**

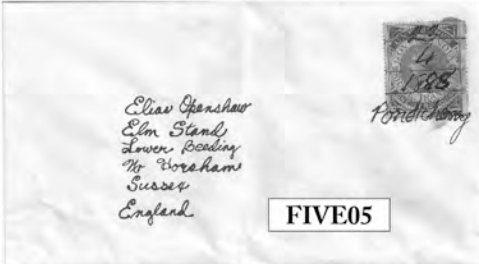
The Openshaw Unbreakable Bicycle Tyre is the new standard of excellence in the art of modern manufacturing. Endorsed by the very best British cyclists in the most grueling tests of endurance, this tyre has surpassed all others for reliability, strength, and safety. After years' use in controlled tests, no puncture occurred. Ladies in particular have expressed their relief and thanks for this invention. The secret lies in our use of the best imported Indian rubber, laminated with the finest English steel bolts inside the tyre. The result a tyre which resists puncture and yet provides a velvet ride. At 5/6 per tyre, even cyclists of modest means can afford to equip themselves with this revolutionary product, since not to do so would necessitate the purchase of several cheaper yet inferior tyres which would require patching or replacement. Ask for the Openshaw Unbreakable Bicycle Tyre by name. Do not settle for less or be duped into purchasing some other tyre which purports to be "just as good as the Openshaw."

Joseph Openshaw, Inventor and Manufacturer
Openshaw Tyre Company, 1 Gordon Street,
Factory located in Coventry

FIVE03



FIVE07



FIVE05

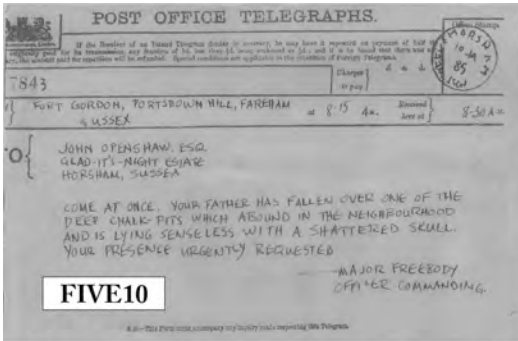


FIVE08



FIVE02

THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM



"The Embankment" on the North Side of the Thames near Waterloo Bridge

March 1869

4th Hudson came.
Same old platform
7th Set the pips on
McCauley, Paramore,
and John Swain, of
St. Augustine
9th McCauley cleared.
10th John Swain cleared.
12th Visited Paramore
All well.

THE ARTIFACTS IN THE 221B BAKER STREET SITTING-ROOM

TRAGEDY NEAR WATERLOO BRIDGE

London, Sept. 30

Between nine and ten last night Police-Constable Cook, of the H Division, on duty near Waterloo Bridge, heard a cry for help and a splash in the water. The night, however, was extremely dark and stormy, so that, in spite of the help of several passers-by, it was quite impossible to effect a rescue. The alarm, however, was given, and, by the aid of the water police, the body was eventually recovered. It proved to be that of a young gentleman whose name, as it appears from an envelope which was found in his pocket, was John Openshaw, and whose residence is near Hortham. It is conjectured that he may have been hurrying down to catch the last train from Waterloo Station, and that in his haste and the extreme darkness he missed his path and walked over the edge of one of the small landing places for river steamboats. The body exhibited no traces of violence, and there can be no doubt that the deceased had been the victim of an unfortunate accident, which should have the effect of strengthening the authorities to the utmost in the future at the landing-stages.

FIVE17



NAME	ALBERT JONES	RESIDENCE	744
STREET	ST. MARK'S	CITY	WINDSOR
PROFESSION

FIVE20

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

FIVE21

TO: Mr. James Calhoun, 221B Baker Street, London W.1

FROM: ...

...

Captain James Calhoun
Barge 'Lone Star'
Savannah, Georgia

FIVE19

FORM FOR AMERICAN MESSAGES ONLY

TO: JEREMIAH HOLMES, 5112 DANCE ST, WASHINGTON

FROM: ...

PLEASE DETAIN NATIONAL MESSAGES AND ...

FIVE22

From the Chair

By Thomas A. Horrocks, BSI

As we gradually emerge from the *annus horribilis* of Covid, things are beginning to look up on many fronts. As far as the BSI Trust is concerned, there are several significant activities on the horizon. On October 2, 2021, the BSI Trust will inaugurate an annual lecture series, whose purpose is to promote and support the activities of the Trust. The first annual BSI Trust Lecture will be delivered via webinar by Roberta Pearson, Professor of Film and Television Studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham. The topic of Dr. Pearson's presentation will be announced soon. Please save the date. Further details on the lecture will be circulated via News from the BSI email, and on the BSI and BSI Trust websites.



In the last newsletter I mentioned the magnificent donation of books by Costa Rossakis (at left), appraised at roughly \$75,000, that the BSI Trust will sell to support the BSI archives at the Lilly Library. The BSI Trust has consigned the books with Heritage Auctions, which will sell the books at its Rare Books auction on December 9-10 in Dallas. Bidding

information will be provided on the Heritage Auction website at www.ha.com and on the BSI Trust website sometime in November.

Around the time of the BSI Trust lecture, the Lilly Library, home to the BSI Archives, will reopen its doors to researchers after being closed for major renovations. I want to thank Erika Dowell of the Lilly for her renovations update in this issue of the newsletter. Once the Lilly opens its new doors, the BSI Trust will announce new procedures for sending materials to the archives. In the meantime, those who want to donate material to the BSI Archives should continue to follow the usual practice. For those in the U.S. donating materials to the archives, please send them to Dan Polvere at 828 Racine Street, Bellingham, WA 98229, and those

living outside the U.S., please send materials to Bob Coghill at 310-200 Nelson's Crescent, New Westminster, BC V3L OH4 CANADA.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned two BSI Trust initiatives to promote and support the BSI Archives. One is the BSI Trust lecture series, which I discussed at the beginning of this column. The other, a fund to support researchers who require travel to the Lilly Library in order to consult the archives, will be inaugurated in 2022 when the Lilly is back up and running and is able to service researchers. Additional details on this new program will be available in a future newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that the Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 issues of the *For Sake of the Trust* newsletter will be reproduced in the 2020 issue of the *Baker Street Almanac*, edited by Ross Davies. I want to thank Ross for his willingness to circulate these and future issues of the newsletter to a wider audience of readers.

Finally, I want to thank Peter Blau, Bob Coghill, and our editor, Michael Pollak, for their articles in this issue of *For the Sake of the Trust*.

Warm wishes for your safety and good health.



“What Can I Do With All Those Duplicates?”

By Peter E. Blau, BSI

Actually, the first question to consider might well be, “How did I wind up with all those duplicates?” The answer is that anyone who collects energetically for any length of time will find that duplicates seem to accumulate -- quietly, but persistently.

No matter how good a collector's memory is, eventually you will buy a book that you already own, something you've found on a bookshop's shelves and can't remember reading, or even seeing, before. And when you get home, there it is, already on your shelves. There often is the decision to upgrade what you have, perhaps when you can replace a well-used copy of a book with one in better condition, in a dust jacket. There are charity book sales, where one sometimes finds books priced so cheaply that they shouldn't be left behind; there's always a need, after all, for modest prizes for those who win society quizzes.

Estate sales often feature a box of books that includes something missing from your collection, along with a number of others you already have, but you can't pick and choose, and the books aren't expensive, and you wind up buying the entire box. Then there are all those nice people who send you presents, and should never be told, "Thanks, but I already have that."

You will hear that a collector friend is downsizing, or that heirs are wondering what to do when a spouse or parent has died. I learned years ago from the late John Bennett Shaw that one should always say, "Don't throw it out . . . send it to me." That's the best way to ensure that ephemera that would not be of interest to a dealer are not discarded.

And so it goes. Like coat hangers in your closet, duplicates accumulate. The boxes of duplicates accumulate. And eventually you're told, "YOU NEED TO DO SOMETHING WITH ALL THOSE BOXES!"

That raises a new question: "What can I do with all those duplicates?"



Courtesy of Sotheby's (R20)

The answer, of course, is that you should donate them to the BSI Trust, which welcomes your duplicates and sells them to raise money to support the BSI Archives. The Trust is always interested in BSI-related material that belongs in the Archives, but of course it also is interested in generating funds for the Archives. It is grand that Denny Dobry has volunteered to do just that, bringing all sorts of Sherlockian material to the birthday festivities in New York, and to society meetings, offering it all for sale at modest prices.

Donating one's duplicates to the BSI Trust also is a splendid opportunity to share with others, especially with others who are finding their way into the world of collecting, and this, certainly, is just as important as supporting the BSI Archives

I'm happy to report that I have indeed done something with all those boxes. Denny kindly came to visit and carried them all away. All those duplicates eventually will find new homes on someone else's shelves. One should note that the Trust is certified as a nonprofit organization, and

that donations of books can be recorded as charitable deductions at income-tax time.

It will be wonderful when the current pandemic subsides and we can go to meetings again, but in the meantime, Denny also offers a want-list service: If there's something you're trying to find for your collection, tell him. He may have it, and if he doesn't, he can let you know when it does turn up. Remember, it's all for the sake of the trust.

(Editor's note: Collectors who would like to contact Denny – to send him a want list, to request the list of inventory available for sale, or to make a donation of books and other Sherlockiana – can do so at <dendobry@ptd.net>. Arrangements can be made to have your donation picked up by Denny's Parnassus on Wheels from areas that are within a one-day round trip from Reading, PA. The one-day restriction has been known to be extended for special collections. Other donations can be mailed to Denny Dobry, 5003 Stony Run Drive, Reading, PA 19606.)



From the Editor

By Michael Pollak, BSI



Laurie and I finally got out of the neighborhood in April, traveling a thousand miles into Texas for my son's wedding. My tomatoes and beans are growing nicely. Spring is my favorite season, and – gloomy London autumns notwithstanding – it is also apparently the season of choice for Watson and Holmes, judging by its vivid appearances in the Canon.

Here is a little quiz for our readers: Match each springtime quotation to the story in which it appears. (Answers further down in the newsletter.)

1. One day in early spring he had so far relaxed as to go for a walk with me in the Park, where the first faint shoots of green were breaking out upon the elms, and the sticky spear-heads of the chestnuts were just beginning to burst into their five-fold leaves.

2. It was a perfect day, with a bright sun and a few fleecy clouds in the heavens. The trees and way-side hedges were just throwing out their first green shoots, and the air was full of the pleasant smell of the moist earth. To me at least there was a strange contrast between the sweet promise of the spring and this sinister quest upon which we were engaged.

3. It was an ideal spring day, a light blue sky, flecked with little fleecy white clouds drifting across from west to east. The sun was shining very brightly, and yet there was an exhilarating nip in the air, which set an edge to a man's energy.

4. It was a large and bright dwelling, rather a villa than a cottage, with a considerable garden which was already, in that Cornish air, well filled with spring flowers.

5. It was a lovely trip, the dainty green of the spring below, the virgin white of the winter above; but it was clear to me that never for one instant did Holmes forget the shadow which lay across him.



Of course, spring is also the season of spring cleaning, and an ideal time to relieve your domicile of Sherlockian material which, if given to the Archive, will be magically transformed from clutter into historical records and auction material.

Please give to the Archive.



Added to the Archives

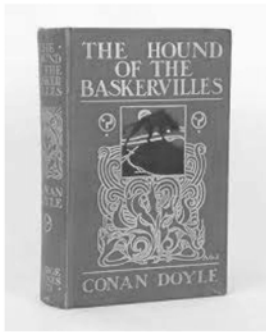
By Bob Coghill, BSI

Two significant things greatly reduced the quantity of the material that was sent to the Lilly Library in 2020.

The first was the closing of the border. As our material is securely stored at Safe Storage Solutions in Blaine, Wash., and I live in New Westminster, British Columbia, that created an access problem, which kept getting extended month after month.

Then in April 2020, I heard from Tom, asking me not to send anything to the Lilly until further notice, as the library was closed temporarily and not

receiving any shipments. So that at least took the pressure off not being able to get to the boxes.



Below is a summary of the material that was sent in 2020 “before the world went all awry.”

Bartlett Simms, M.D., 180 pages, correspondence of Bartlett Simms.

Joseph J. Eckrich, 15 pages, correspondence.

Christopher Morley, “Sherlock Holmes’s Prayer,” 4 pages, boxed with description from the auction.

Julian Wolff, The Baker Street Irregulars, one sheet boxed.

James Keddie, Scrapbook, 43+ pages. Purchased at the Posnansky auction; likely James Keddie’s scrapbook.

Edgar W. Smith, honorary membership card for Edgar W. Smith in the Sons of the Copper Beeches.

Julian Wolff, 120 pages, a collection of materials presented to Julian Wolff. Primarily from Bliss Austin.

James Montgomery, 86 pages, the Crown Diamond papers; includes clippings and correspondence between James Montgomery, Edgar W. Smith, Anthony Howlett and Adrian Conan Doyle. Boxed with file inside.



BSI Trust donors of books and miscellaneous Sherlockian paraphernalia:

2021

Paul Singleton, 2021 Birthday Weekend, list of presentations, toasts, skits, readings, poems at the Gillette Memorial Luncheon, BSI dinner and BSI cocktail party

2020

David Haugen, 2 boxes of books
Margaret Prescott, 2 boxes of books and Sherlockiana
Estate of John Pffor, 16 boxes of books and other Sherlockiana
Glen Miranker, 2 boxes of books and other Sherlockiana
Carla Coupe, 15 books
Andrew Fusco, 20 books
Frank Mentzel, 280 books and 50 miscellaneous Sherlockian items
Hugh Harrington, 8 boxes of books, 8 celebrity Sherlockian signatures,
bust of Holmes (by Edgar Smith)
Michael Hoffman, BSI Estate, 160 books, 152 BSJs
Terry Hunt, 5 books and Gillette poster
Jacqueline and Brent Morris, 30 books and miscellaneous Sherlockiana
Betti Barrows, 40 Baker Street Journals
Julius Spada, 20 books

2019

Allan DeGray, 250 books
Joseph T. Page Jr., 5 books
Peter Blau, 500 books
Michael Dirda, 50 books
Jeff Decker, 40 books
Otto Penzler, 40 books
Ira Matetsky, 20 books
Ben Vizoskie, 30 books
Paul Hartnett, 50 comics/books
Anastasia Klimchynskaya, 75 BSJs plus other Sherlockian paraphernalia
Ann Marlowe, 250 books

2018

Steven Rothman, 10 boxes
Phyllis Jones, 70 boxes
Jay Hyde, 25 boxes and miscellaneous paraphernalia
Leah Guinn, 10 boxes
Les Klinger, 3 boxes
Peter Blau, 30 books
Robert Katz, 2 boxes
Ray Betzner, 2 boxes
Andrew Solberg, Sherlockian games and stuffed animals
James Saunders, 4 boxes of books, original framed drawings and
miscellaneous paraphernalia

2017

Jeff Homan, 5 boxes, est. value \$250
Barbara Lupin, 5 boxes, est. value \$250
Steve Harding, 10 boxes, est. value \$500

James Saunders, items with est. value of \$1,000
Lynn Whittall, 10 boxes
Philip K. Jones, 10 boxes
Denny Dobry

2016

Debbie Clark, est. value \$250



Moving Into the Renovated Lilly Library

By Erika Dowell

Associate Director and Curator of Modern Books & Manuscripts

In summertime a college town sees a lot of people moving: from the dorm to a summer sublet, from a shared house to a first job. The Lilly Library staff and collections are moving this summer, too! We might even have some unneeded furniture, but we won't be leaving our couches on the curb.



Contractors installed our beautiful new bronze front doors a few days ago. *[Photo shows a detail of the entry doors, custom designed with "lily" motif based on J. K. Lilly's bookplate, April 2021.]* New furniture is being delivered and constructed throughout the library this month. Soon we will have a training session on all our new classroom technology. All these steps make the return to the building feel more real.

Renovation construction will be complete on April 30. The month of May will be devoted to the delivery of new exhibition cases, installation of the Reading Room murals, and the start of the collections move.

On August 2 our galleries will open to the public, followed by the opening of our Reading Room and research services on August 16. We will work

with students and local researchers at first but will start accepting out-of-town researchers by October if not earlier. For now, all our virtual services are shut down so that we can concentrate on the move.

In March I led staff tours of the renovated library and people are looking forward to the move back with a mix of excitement and trepidation. We are excited about our new teaching spaces and integrated technology, but also excited to be back living with the books and manuscripts close at hand. Trepidation is centered on the pandemic (of course) but also on the fact that our reopening seems to be coming up very fast. There is much left to do, but we have help from IU Libraries' colleagues and outside moving contractors.



*New lecture hall/classroom carved out of the former machine room,
February 2021.*

We will be working flat out to get ready for August. But when those doors open to the public for the first time, I know we will be filled with the joy and excitement of a new academic year in a newly renovated building in a world coming alive from more than a year of isolation. We look forward to seeing all our friends, including all the BSI researchers who have been patiently waiting for access to the archives.



Answers to the quiz

1. The Yellow Face
2. The Adventure of the Speckled Band
3. The Adventure of the Copper Beeches
4. The Adventure of the Devil's Foot
5. The Final Problem



From the Chair

By Thomas A. Horrocks, BSI

On October 2, 2021, the BSI Trust inaugurated its first annual lecture with a virtual presentation on “The Adventure of the Mutable Detective” by Roberta Pearson, professor of film and television studies in the School of Cultures, Languages, and Area Studies at the University of Nottingham.



Almost 350 actors have played Sherlock Holmes on the screen since the silent film era. Each actor brings his (and sometimes her) unique interpretation to the role. But as Dr. Pearson pointed out in her fine lecture, it’s not only the actors that account for the differences in the representation of the Master over the decades of his screen existence. She discussed the multiple factors such as genre and production

circumstances that have resulted in the Mutable Detective. I want to express my thanks to her for inaugurating our annual lecture series, the purpose of which is to promote and support the activities of the BSI Trust. For those of you who missed the lecture, it will soon be available for viewing on the BSI Trust website.

The BSI Trust Lecture program included remarks by Erika Dowell, associate director and curator of modern books and manuscripts at the Lilly Library, home of the BSI Archives. Ms. Dowell presented an update on the Lilly, illustrated with images of the newly renovated library. I want to thank Erika for her article on the Lilly in this newsletter. With the completion of the major renovation, the Lilly is now open for business and those wishing to consult the BSI Archives can do so.

With the reopening of the Lilly, the BSI Trust is instituting new procedures for sending materials to the archives. Materials for the archives will now be sent directly to the Lilly Library. The rationale for this new procedure is to protect archival collections from additional handling and travel, as well as eliminating storage costs. In our next newsletter (Spring 2022), I will share with readers updated collection guidelines for archival

materials, which will indicate which types of materials are appropriate for the BSI Archives. In the meantime, before sending items to the Lilly, please contact me at <TrustChair@bakerstreetjournal.com> if you have materials you think belong in the archives.

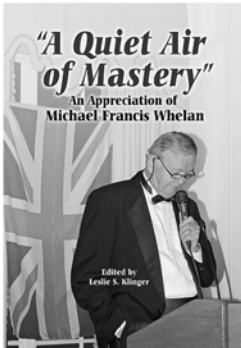
I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Bob Coghill for his years of service to the BSI Trust. His pre-cataloging of archival materials has been a tremendous help to librarians at Harvard and at the Lilly who were and are responsible for these important records. I also want to thank Dan Polvere for his valuable contribution concerning the storage of these materials in the state of Washington.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the magnificent donation of books by Costa Rossakis, appraised at approximately \$75,000, that the BSI Trust will sell to support the BSI archives at the Lilly Library. The BSI Trust has consigned the books with Heritage Auctions, which will sell the books at its Rare Books auction on December 9-10 in Dallas. The BSI Trust web page about the sale <<http://www.bsitrust.org/2021/11/auction-2021.html>> has links to the Heritage Auction website where one can view—and bid on—the items.

Speaking of book sales, Denny Dobry hosted an open house in Reading, Pennsylvania, in which visitors could buy Sherlockian books, proceeds of which help support the BSI Trust, and view Denny's remarkable recreation of the 221b Baker Street sitting room. See Denny's article in this newsletter. Denny deserves our gratitude for all of the work he's done selling books on behalf of the BSI Trust. Anyone who has books they want to contribute for sale, please contact Denny at <dendobry@ptd.net>.

As you will see in Michael Pollak's article below, this is his last issue as editor of this newsletter. I want to thank Mike for reviving the newsletter after a multi-year hiatus and for his stellar work as editor. Thank you, Mike. As Mike indicates in his article, Ray Betzner will assume the duties as editor beginning with the Spring 2022 issue. We are delighted that Ray has agreed to take on the editorship.

Finally, like many Sherlockians, I was stunned at the news of the death of Mike Whelan. I was invested in 2013 under Mike's long reign as Wiggins, an event I will never forget. But more than this, Mike became a dear friend and mentor. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to contribute to the published tribute to Mike, "*A Quiet Air of Mastery*": *An Appreciation of Michael Francis Whelan*, published in 2020. I will forever cherish the words he wrote in my copy of the book: "Working with you has been such



a pure pleasure and an education for me to boot." I can truly say the same thing for Mike. For me, working alongside Mike was pure pleasure as well as an education. As I had written in "A *Quiet Air of Mastery*," "I found it inconceivable to ever consider turning him down when asked to volunteer my own time. As far as I was concerned, when the big guy asked you to do your part for the BSI, saying 'no' was not an option." I will miss Mike's warm friendship, strong leadership, and generous support.



From the Editor

By Michael Pollak, BSI



This is my last issue of the newsletter. I want to thank Ray Betzner, who will be taking over for the Spring issue; Erika Dowell, who has taken time out, amid her awesome responsibilities in helping get the Lilly Library back into shape after the double whammy of renovation and Covid, to keep us informed about the library's progress; Tom Horrocks, a steady hand as chairman and guide; and Randall Stock, without whose technical support I simply could not have done this. I also want to

thank the many contributors who have enlivened these pages and made this job fun.

And a special thanks to the late Wiggins, Mike Whelan, who in addition to his myriad other services to the BSI, including the investiture of yours truly, was instrumental in the successful move of the Archive to Indianapolis from Cambridge. I can't think of a better tribute to Mike than a contribution in his memory to the Archive.

In the Spring issue, I included a small quiz about springtime quotes in the Canon. This time, the passages are all about the fall. Please match the quote with the story. Answers are farther down.

1. *It was a wild morning in October, and I observed as I was dressing how the last remaining leaves were being whirled from the solitary plane tree which graces the yard behind our house.*

2. *It was the end of November, and Holmes and I sat, upon a raw and foggy night, on either side of a blazing fire in our sitting-room in Baker Street.*

3. *It was in the latter days of September, and the equinoctial gales had set in with exceptional violence. All day the wind had screamed and the rain had beaten against the windows, so that even here in the heart of great, hand-made London we were forced to raise our minds for the instant from the routine of life, and to recognize the presence of those great elemental forces which shriek at mankind through the bars of his civilization, like untamed beasts in a cage.*

4. *It was a wild, tempestuous night towards the close of November. Holmes and I sat together in silence all the evening, he engaged with a powerful lens deciphering the remains of the original inscription upon a palimpsest, I deep in a recent treatise on surgery.*

5. *It had been a close, rainy day in October. "Unhealthy weather, Watson," said my friend. "But the evening has brought a breeze with it. What do you say to a ramble through London?"*

6. *I had remained indoors all day, for the weather had taken a sudden turn to rain, with high autumnal winds, and the jezail bullet which I had brought back in one of my limbs as a relic of my Afghan campaign, throbbed with dull persistency."*

7. *In the third week of November, in the year 1895, a dense yellow fog settled down upon London. From the Monday to the Thursday I doubt whether it was ever possible from our windows in Baker Street to see the loom of the opposite houses.*



Lilly Library and BSI Archives Reopen

By Erika Dowell

Associate Director and Curator of Modern Books & Manuscripts

On August 16, 2021, the Lilly Library reopened its doors to the campus and the world after an approximately 18-month renovation. The reopening coincided with a return to campus and in-person instruction for Indiana University's students, faculty and staff.

The Bloomington campus welcomed its largest number (8,097) of first-year students ever! Last year the campus was eerily empty, and it is good to see the place brimming with life again. And though many pandemic mitigation measures are still in effect, our library operations have returned to something close to normal.



*The Main Gallery from the front entryway.
Audubon's "Birds of America" is on display.*

Researchers are back in the Reading Room, a room now adorned with beautiful murals by artist Ralph Gilbert. Researchers can enjoy all new lighting and furniture, including height-adjustable chairs with wheels.

We ask that researchers make an appointment at least two weeks in advance, and masks are required while in the building according to county and university policy.



The Reading Room of the Lilly Library.

The two-week head start allows us to make sure we can find the materials you want to use. Our renovated library has more space for people, but less space for collections, so many books and manuscripts are off-site and can require extra effort to locate right now.

The library is also scheduling online consultations and fulfilling digitization orders if you are not able to travel to Bloomington. Start the process with our Ask a Question form at <https://libraries.indiana.edu/lilly-library/ask>.



The American Room.

We are now able to accept new materials to add to the BSI archive. In fact, we have received two small additions already this fall. You may have heard that there is a new process for sending materials to the archive. Start with Tom Horrocks at TrustChair@bakerstreetjournal.com.

If you have something you'd like to donate, let him know. If Tom thinks the donation is a good fit, he will put you in touch with me. Then we will work out how to get the materials to the Lilly Library.

We are so happy to be back at work in our lovely building. Our exhibition galleries are especially beautiful now with refinished wood paneling and all new lighting and exhibition cases. I hope to see some of you here in the coming year, whether you are taking up a postponed research project or just planning a visit to see our refreshed spaces.



2021 Book Fair/Open House

By Denny Dobry, BSI

On August 21, 2021, forty fully-vaccinated Sherlockians from Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Washington, DC, Virginia, Ohio, Connecticut, Missouri and Texas descended upon the home of Joann and Denny Dobry in Reading, Pennsylvania.

The occasion was the first multi-scion function to be held since the start of the pandemic. The attraction was an opportunity to tour the 221B Baker Street Sitting Room re-creation assembled by Denny Dobry, and a Book Fair featuring Sherlockiana donated to the Baker Street Irregulars Trust and discounted titles published by the Baker Street Irregulars Press. The attendees from across the country were anxious to mix with other Holmes devotees after the long absence of face-to-face Sherlockian gatherings.

The items available for sale from the BSI Trust donations' inventory included many editions of the Canon, Sherlockian Scholarship, non-Sherlockian titles by Doyle, pastiches, parodies and Sherlockian statuettes and posters. Also available were non-Sherlockian mysteries, Christopher Morley titles, P. G. Wodehouse titles and Vincent Starrett titles.

Denny's wife, Joann, and his daughter, Nikki, served lunch to the gathered throng. The event was a financial success for the BSI Trust and Press and the Sherlockian social event of the year.



Answers to the quiz

1. The Problem of Thor Bridge
2. *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
3. The Five Orange Pips
4. The Adventure of the Golden Pince-Nez
5. The Resident Patient
6. The Adventure of the Noble Bachelor
7. The Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans

Support the BSI Trust!

Thank you for donating to support of the Baker Street Irregulars Trust. Every tax-deductible dollar helps to collect, maintain and disseminate our Irregular history. By making a tax-deductible contribution, you can help ensure that BSI history will be available to our historians, researchers and the Sherlockian community. Please donate now by filling out the form below and mailing it to:

Leslie S. Klinger, BSI, c/o Kopple, Klinger & Elbaz LLP, 10866 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1500, Los Angeles, CA 90024-4357

You may also donate using a credit card or PayPal via the BSI Trust website at <http://www.bsitrust.org/2015/01/donations.html>.

Please select your gift:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000

Other

Donation frequency:

One Time Two Years Three Years Five Years

BSI Trust Endowment General Fund

Donation Enclosed Please Bill Me

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

Email Address: _____

If the donation is in honor or memory of someone, please indicate the appropriate name.

SHERLOCKIAN RECIPES

Editors' note: Chefs and other creative gastronomes have long been moved by the Sherlockian Canon. This year we have a couple of excellent examples. Peggy Perdue shares a recipe for an English classic that Holmes and Watson might well have savored, and Terry Hunt, inspired by their world, offers his own new creation.¹ We hope to do this sort of thing again in future almanacs. Submissions are welcome, and should be sent to Terry at sherlockstuff113@gmail.com.



COLONEL WARBURTON'S MADNESS: A RECIPE FOR AN UNTOLD TALE

*Peggy Perdue**

The Canon is full of untold tales to inspire both pastiche writers and patissiers. In “The Adventure of the Engineer’s Thumb” Watson briefly mentions “Colonel Warburton’s Madness” as the only other case that he had himself brought to Holmes’s attention. There’s not much to go on in the bare three words that identify the case, but we can imagine that it

¹ There is also Aleš M. Kolodrubec’s Christmas pudding, on which he reports — alas, without a recipe! — in “Sherlock in Bohemia 2021: Canonical News from the Czech Republic,” elsewhere in this book.

* Peggy Perdue, BSI (“Violet Westbury”) is Senior Services Specialist in the Special Collections Department of the Toronto Public Library. Follow her attempt to create a recipe for every story in the Canon at sherlockforpudding.blogspot.com/.



involves a military man, probably English, who has gone mad. For a recipe to celebrate this story, a variation on Eton Mess seems indicated. This dessert is a quintessentially English concoction, and the word “mess” can stand in not only for the place where officers eat, but also for the Colonel’s disordered mind.

Regular Eton Mess is a wholesome mixture of strawberries and cream. For this variation, we’ll combine absinthe — a strong liquor sometimes associated with insanity — with blackberries and cracked pieces of meringue. There is a method in this Madness; absinthe’s liquorice flavor pairs well with dark berries, and in the presentation, trippy swirls of creamy green dotted with purple fruit promise a deliciously deranged dessert.

Meringue pieces

3 large egg whites
¾ cup (180 g) white sugar
¼ teaspoon cream of tartar

Whip egg whites with cream of tartar until well blended, then gradually add white sugar and beat until stiff peaks form. Pipe or drop dollops of the mixture onto parchment paper and bake at a low temperature of 200 degrees F (93C) for about two hours. Watch to make sure they don't get brown.

Absinthe whipped cream

2 cups (450 ml) heavy cream
1 tablespoon powdered sugar
2 tablespoons absinthe (substitute Pernod if absinthe is illegal where you live)
Food coloring, green (optional)

Begin whipping the cream until soft peaks form. Then sprinkle powdered sugar, absinthe, and coloring over the cream and continue beating until medium peaks form.

Macerated berries

½ pint blackberries, or a combination of blueberries, black figs, etc.
3 tablespoons absinthe
1 tablespoon sugar

While you're making the meringues and whipped cream, lightly crush the berries and allow to macerate in the absinthe and sugar for 2-3 hours.

Whole berries

½ pint blackberries
(In all, one pint of berries is needed for the recipe — half are macerated and half are left whole.)

Assembly

Break the meringues into pieces. Put the whipped cream in a piping bag if you want to do fancy swirls, or you can just spoon it in. Alternate dollops of cream, pieces of meringue, macerated fruit, and whole berries in a medium glass bowl. Drizzle in some of the macerating liquid as you go. Keep a few nice pieces of meringue and fruit to decorate the top.



No alcohol version: Replace the absinthe in the whipped cream with one teaspoon vanilla. Omit the absinthe in the macerated berries.

Extra alcohol version: What to do with your leftover absinthe? Terry Hunt suggests trying the “Swiss Family Manhattan” that Christ Cella concocted for Christopher Morley — a rye Manhattan with a few dashes of absinthe instead of bitters.

OATMEAL

*Terry Hunt**

“Her cuisine is a little limited, but she has as good an idea of breakfast as a Scotswoman,” Holmes declared of Mrs. Hudson in “The Naval Treaty.” And nothing could be more essentially Scottish for breakfast than porridge, a.k.a. oatmeal. While it may seem that there is little to say about this simple food, exactly what the oatmeal that Mrs. Hudson may have served Holmes and Watson was, and how she would have prepared it, offer ample subjects for discussion.



The Oats

Most Americans and Canadians think of *rolled oats* such as Quaker Oats when they mention oatmeal (photo, top of plate). This method of processing oats was invented in the United States in 1877. The Quaker Oats brand was

* Harrison “Terry” Hunt, BSI (“The Something Hunt”) is a contributing editor to the *Baker Street Almanac*. He took up cooking and baking in retirement, and is pleased to have been named Long Island *Newsday’s* Cook of the Week. He has a special interest in trying out historical recipes; his most unusual dish so far is sheep’s head soup.

created in 1882, and judging from a quick look at London newspapers was heavily marketed to England starting in 1896. These are not the type of oats Mrs. Hudson would have used.

A clue to the oats she'd have preferred is found in the instructions for making oatmeal porridge in *Chambers's Cookery for Young Housewives*, edited by Annie M. Griggs (London and Edinburgh: W.&R. Chambers, Ltd., 1901): "The best oatmeal for porridge is that which is of medium coarseness Continue boiling and stirring for about ten minutes This is genuine Scottish porridge . . ." This is not talking about rolled oats, which are coarse and take only five minutes to cook; it is describing *Scottish oatmeal* (photo, left side). Scottish oatmeal — which is available from Bob's Red Mill and specialty shops like the Scottish Gourmet USA and the Scottish Grocer — is a medium-grind meal that has a totally different mouth feel and taste than rolled oats. Instructions for cooking follow.

Another possibility for part of Sherlock's breakfast (and Victorians often ate substantial, multi-course morning meals) is *steel cut oats*, also known as *pinhead oats* or *Irish oatmeal* (photo, right side). These are harder and denser than the oats listed above, and take longer to cook (instructions below). McCann's is the most popular brand in the U.S.; Bob's Red Mill also sells them, and is widely used in Canada.

Cooking Gear

The essential items are a two- or three-quart saucepan with lid; a measuring cup for liquids; a half-cup dry measure; and, most importantly, a *spurtle*.

A spurtle — also called a theevil or gruel-tree, according to *The Scots Kitchen* by F. Marian McNeill (London and Glasgow: Blackie & Son Ltd., 1929) — is a turned wooden stirring stick traditionally used in Scotland for making porridge (it also works well for stirring polenta and grits). They're available online and are not expensive: Get one. But be sure to shop for a conical Scottish spurtle or porridge spurtle, and not get one of the flat things being marketed as spurtles these days; they're just wooden spoons and spatulas, and won't do the job as well.





Instructions

Scottish Oatmeal: Use 1½ cups of water for every ½ cup of oatmeal.

Bring the water to a boil in an uncovered saucepan — I use a 2-quart pan. Take the pan off the heat for several seconds until the water stops bubbling briskly, turn the heat to medium (4 on a gas range) and return the pan. Slowly pour the measured oatmeal into the pan using your left hand, while stirring it clockwise with the spurtle — as *The Scots Kitchen* puts it, “briskly the while with the right, sunwise, or the right-hand turn for luck.” When all of the oatmeal is mixed in, take the pan off the heat again, turn the heat to a simmer (2 on the gas) and return the pan, uncovered, for ten minutes. Look for lumps, which you should crush against the side of the pan with the spurtle and mix in. Stir the oatmeal regularly to make it smooth and keep it from forming a skin or sticking to the bottom of the pan, and after a few minutes mix in a good pinch of salt. (This is the Scottish practice; “Never cook porridge without salt,” *The Scots Kitchen* commands.) After ten minutes, take it off the heat, let it sit covered for a couple of minutes, and serve. This “genuine Scotch porridge,” *Chambers’s Cookery* informs us, “is eaten when partially cool, with sweet milk.” *The Scots Kitchen* prefers the porridge hotter, and adds “Children often like a layer of sugar, honey, syrup or treacle ... on top,” advice which works for grownups as well.

Steel Cut Oats: Use 1½ cups of water for every ½ cup of oats.

The instructions are essentially the same as the above, except that the pot will have to simmer for 25 minutes or so, and per *The Scots Kitchen* the pinch of salt should be added after simmering ten minutes.

Ms. McNeill instructs that the pot should be covered while the pinhead oats are simmering. This is not necessary, but if you want to follow her directions, be sure to use a three-quart pan and stir the oats often to keep them from foaming over.

A final note: for a twist, I make my Scottish oatmeal using half sweet cider and half water, with cinnamon sprinkled in while cooking ... highly recommended!

THIRD PILLAR FROM THE LEFT

MUSIC AND SHERLOCK HOLMES IN 2021

*Jens Byskov Jensen**

At the annual dinner of the Baker Street Irregulars, on Friday, January 8, 2021 (which was a virtual event due to Covid-19), tradition was preserved with the time-honored musical interlude by pianist Henry Boote, BSI. This year, Boote played the “Barcarole” from *The Tales of Hoffmann* by Jacques Offenbach.

We stand upon the terrace for Mary Erickson, who passed over the Reichenbach on Saturday, May 29, 2021. Mary graduated from the University of Evansville, IN. For many years, she worked as a Horse Identifier with the Chicago Racing Board. Together with her close friend, track vet Dr. Jane Richardson, Mary was active in the Chicago Sherlockian scene, particularly in the South Downers. Mary served as this society’s Altamont for several years and occasionally treated the group to vocal solos. With Jane, she arranged the annual Canonical Convocation and Caper in Door County, WI, for more than 25 years, starting in the mid-1980s. In retirement, Mary moved to Mount Vernon, Indiana, where she enjoyed singing alto in the Wolfgang Orchestra and Chorus.

On September 6, 2021, a new musical — “The Whimsical World of Sherlock Holmes” — premiered at Theater Row in New York City, showcased by the Broadway Bound Theatre Festival, with music and lyrics by Anthony and Marny Makridakis, starring Daniel Artuso as Sherlock Holmes and Tyler Riley as John Watson. Tiffany Rae Knight, BSI kindly reports:

Taken from the phrase “Life is full of Whimsical happenings, Watson,” the musical takes a comedic approach geared towards a general audience on a world where Conan Doyle’s characters rebel against their assigned roles. While it may take a sharp turn from Canon, it’s light hearted, and the music is fun. The playwright and composer come from a children’s theater background, and the show would be a great introduction among younger audiences to a somewhat sillier Sherlock. A world where Holmes wants to be on stage, Watson a Baker and Mary Morstan the sleuth. The characters make their way back to their assigned roles, but not before making the already belaboured Doyle only more at Holmes’ mercy.

* Jens Byskov Jensen is a violinist by profession and “The Blanched Soldier” in the BSI.

On September 25, 2021, at the annual dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Klubben, held in Copenhagen, Denmark, members chimed in as tradition prescribes, singing “The Road to Baker Street” — a Danish version with lyrics by Palle Schantz Lauridsen to the original tune of “The Road to Mandalay.” As usual, the song was accompanied by Palle on jazz guitar and Michael Skov Lambek on amplified bass ukulele. Originally, “The Road to Mandalay” was composed by Oley Speaks (1874-1948) setting music to the 1890 poem “Mandalay” by Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936). The song was published in 1907 for voice and piano. Since then, it has been recorded by a number of artists, most notably Frankie Laine, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra. Old Blue Eyes lent his usual jazzy feel to the tune, which inspired the Danish vocal quartet, The Four Jacks, to their popular version in Danish.

The American composer and lyricist, Stephen Sondheim, passed away on November 2, 2021. Sondheim was among the most influential figures in 20th century musicals. He wrote the lyrics for such classics as “West Side Story” (1957) and “Gypsy” (1959). He received numerous prestigious awards, such as eight Tony Awards, an Academy Award, eight Grammy Awards, a Pulitzer Prize, a Laurence Olivier Award, and a 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom. To Sherlockians, one of his most notable achievements was penning “The Madame’s Song” for the movie “The Seven Percent Solution” (1976). The song was later recorded as “I Never Do Anything Twice” on the “Side By Side By Sondheim” cast recording, featuring a musical revue of Sondheim tunes from both Broadway and film.

Every fall for the past 40 years, the Pratt Library has been hosting a “Saturday with Sherlock Holmes” event in conjunction with three Baltimore area Sherlockian societies. On November 6, this tradition was upheld with Sherlockians gathering at the Pratt. Here, Alan Rettig held a presentation on the gramophone — its history as well as its use in “The Mazarin Stone.” One of the main questions, which Alan attempted to answer, was if it was indeed possible to create the illusion that Holmes played the Hoffmann “Barcarole” on his Stradivarius in the next room while using a gramophone. Leaving this cliffhanger where it is, I will direct your attention to the website of the Red Circle of Washington, where a video of the presentation is available.

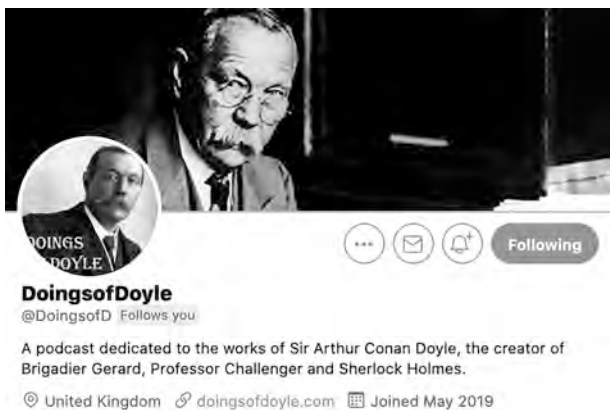
Pianist Vera Mazzotta and violinist Michele Bartolucci have created a musical journey titled “Wilma Neruda — La Violinista che conobbe Sherlock Holmes: A Musical Journey around Sherlock Holmes and the Violinist Wilma Norman Neruda in Search of the Little Thing of Chopin’s.” Music by Offenbach, Mendelssohn, Raff, Neruda, Paganini, Paisiello, Ernst and Chopin has been recorded and released on DVD in a delightful setting. On

November 30, 2021, the music was released on Spotify. Both musicians are members of the Italian Sherlockian society, Uno Studio in Holmes.

Between Thanksgiving and the New Year, Joshua T. Harvey was busy arranging music for a special Sherlockian occasion. Harvey is music director and instructor of musical theater at Southeast Missouri State University. He is the archivist for the Patrick Gowers music scores from the Granada Television series featuring Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes. Harvey arranged four pieces to be played at an online Zoom conference titled “The Pub at the Dangling Prussian,” which was hosted by Brad Keefauver on January 14, 2002. The first piece, “Only Adlers in the Building,” combines the “Laura Lyons Theme” from the Lenfilm Soviet television series starring Vasily Livanov as Sherlock Holmes and the theme from HULU’s “Only Murders in the Building” by Siddharta Khosla. The style is reminiscent of pianist Vince Guaraldi (of Peanuts television specials fame). “Sweet Elsie Cubitt” is largely an improvisation on Patrick Gowers’ music for the Granada episode “The Dancing Men,” making good use of the Hammond organ in a style somewhere between Jimmy Smith and Corey Henry. “Ronaldo’s Hideaway” is based on the theme by Paul Durand for the television series featuring Ronald Howard as Sherlock Holmes. This rendition bears clear inspiration from Chick Corea, but Harvey also mentions Michel Camillo and perhaps a bit of Buena Vista Social Club as the inspiration. The final piece, “Midnight Moriarties,” quotes the Moriarty theme from the BBC Sherlock television series (the bass line to be exact), the Lenfilm series (opening synth melody) and the Gowers Moriarty theme from Granada series (the Mellotron flutes in the middle of the piano solo). These four gems of music are available on the Youtube channel of Joshua T. Harvey.

In 2021, your author composed “The Baker Street Blues.” It is based on a Bird blues, which means that the chord progression was often used by Charlie Parker on a blues theme. When I visit New York, I have made it a tradition to pay my respects to Bird at his former apartment on 151 Avenue B on Tompkins Square Park in the East Village.

Thank you for your attention. If you believe, something should be mentioned in this column, please feel free to share your thoughts at jens@byskovjensen.com.



DOINGS OF DOYLE IN 2021

*Mark Jones**

D*oings of Doyle* is a podcast dedicated to the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The show is hosted from the UK by Paul M. Chapman and myself. We started broadcasting in November 2019. In each episode, we 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, we ran our first interview show to showcase the work of Doylean scholars and explore different aspects of Conan Doyle's life. The podcast can be accessed from the show's website, www.doingsofdoyle.com, and from all the major podcasting platforms including Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, and Amazon Alexa. In 2021, we produced a dozen new episodes:

- Episode 10 — 'A Straggler of '15' (1891) and *Waterloo* (1894) — Conan Doyle's one-act drama and its short story predecessor. Topics include the Battle of Waterloo, the role of Hougoumont, George Bernard Shaw, Irving, and the real Henry Brewster (January 24, 2021).
- Episode 11 — 'The Adventure of the Devil's Foot' (1910) — The podcast ventures into the Canon for the first time. Cornwall, John Donne, Crimes in the Congo, real life versions of *radix pedis diaboli*, and Leon Sterndale (February 28, 2021).
- Episode 12 — Conan Doyle and Napoleon, with Cliff Goldfarb — We talk to the author of *The Great Shadow: Arthur Conan Doyle, Brigadier Gerard, and*

* Mark Jones is the co-founder and co-host of *Doings of Doyle*, and of The Literary Agents. Copyright 2022 Mark Jones.

- Napoleon* about the Brigadier, William B. Wollen, the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection, and the Toronto Public Library, Churchill, and Wilde (March 13, 2021).
- Episode 13 — *The Refugees: A Tale of Two Continent* (1893) — Conan Doyle's historical novel about the fate of persecuted Huguenots during the reign of Louis XIV. The historical novel, historical sources, Alexandre Dumas, Greysolon du Lhut, and Mayne Reid (April 21, 2021).
 - Episode 14 — 'The Terror of Blue John Gap' (1910) — A prehistoric horror lurks in the wilds of Derbyshire. Verne, the Blue John mines, palaeontology, *The Lair of the White Worm*, Bulwer Lytton's *The Coming Race*, and journeys to the Earth's core (May 30, 2021).
 - Episode 15 — 'How the Brigadier Held the King' and 'How the King Held the Brigadier' (1895) — The thickest head and stoutest heart in Napoleon's army. Marbot and other influences, the Peninsular War, the rank of Brigadier in the French army, comedy, Dartmoor, and boxing (June 29, 2021).
 - Episode 16 — Conan Doyle and George Edalji, with Shrabani Basu — We are joined by the author of *The Mystery of the Parsee Lawyer* to talk about race and prejudice in rural England, Conan Doyle's rivalry with the police, and campaigns for justice (July 20, 2021).
 - Episode 17 — 'Uncle Jeremy's Household' (1887) — An Anglo-Indian Gothic tale with some proto-Sherlockian elements. *The Moonstone*, Bryan Charles Waller, Philip Meadows Taylor and Thuggee, early Holmes and Watson, and the 'Indian Mutiny' (August 30, 2021).
 - Episode 18 — 'The Adventure of the Resident Patient' (1893) — A visit to Baker Street and Brook Street. Conan Doyle in Southsea, Jack Hawkins, Adam Worth and Blessington, Charles Thomas Marvin and Russophobia, and catalepsy (September 27, 2021).
 - Episode 19 — 'The Silver Mirror' (1908) — An accountant experiences a psychic encounter with the past. The evolution of ghost stories, psychic research, Dr John Dee and mirrors, Charles Altamont Doyle and Holyrood, and the murder of Rizzio (October 31, 2021).
 - Episode 20 — 'Jelland's Voyage' (1892) — A heist goes wrong in 1860s Japan. William Kinnimond Burton, Willie Burton in other Doylean works, Conan Doyle's clubland, Yokohama, Japonisme and the fin de siècle, and Lafcadio Hearn (November 28, 2021).
 - Episode 21 — Conan Doyle and the Cottingley Fairies, with Merrick Burrow — We talk to the curator of the exhibition *The Cottingley Fairies: A Study in Deception*. Fraud and photography, Conan Doyle's battle with the Rationalist Association, belief and spiritualism (December 21, 2021).

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND LAW 2021

*Ira Brad Matetsky**

January 21, 2021: Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove must quantify the attorneys' fees payable to the plaintiff's lawyer in a case under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The school district asks the court to reduce the fee award because some of the plaintiff's claims proved unsuccessful. The court is reluctant to do so. "So long as an attorney is pursuing good-faith arguments on behalf of her client, it is not practical to use the critical gaze of hindsight as a yardstick for attorneys' fees. As Arthur Conan Doyle once said, it is easy to be wise after the event."¹

February 9, 2021: A federal appeals court addresses a challenge to an agency's refusal to disclose whether certain records exist, based on the agency's concern that providing even that much information might reveal details that the agency is permitted to withhold. In his opinion for the court, Judge A. Raymond Randolph agrees that "[t]he absence of particular evidence may sometimes provide clues as important as the presence of such evidence. In literature, a common way of expressing this truth, although not always accurately, is to refer to the dog that did not bark."² In a footnote, the court states that "[t]he idiom is derived from Arthur Conan Doyle's *Silver Blaze*" and recites the familiar quotation from that story.³

February 18, 2021: The question before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit is whether plaintiffs have stated valid claims based on allegations that their GM cars have defective dashboards. Judge John Nalbandian, writing for the court, concludes that they have not. He observes that "[m]uch like Sir Conan Doyle's [*sic*] case of the dog that did not bark, this dispute centers on what we can infer from shrapnel that did not spray."⁴

February 22, 2021: The U.S. Supreme Court hears argument in an original-jurisdiction case in which Florida accuses Georgia of damaging Florida's ecosystem, including the state's oyster beds, by appropriating too much water from interstate rivers. During the argument, Justice Clarence Thomas remarks that "Florida's brief, if I were to entitle it, it would be something along the

* Ira Brad Matetsky is a lawyer and is "The Final Problem" in the Baker Street Irregulars.

¹ *L.M. v. Henry County Board of Education*, No. 3:18-cv-00037, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12215, at *19-20 (E.D. Ky. Jan. 22, 2021) (quoting "The Problem of Thor Bridge").

² *Leopold v. Central Intelligence Agency*, 987 F.3d 163, 167 (D.C. Cir. 2021).

³ *Id.* at n.3.

⁴ *Smith v. General Motors LLC*, 988 F.3d 873, 875 (4th Cir. 2021).

lines of “The Case of the Disappearing Water.”⁵ Although Sherlock Holmes is not mentioned by name, at least one reporter takes this as a reference to the writings of Arthur Conan Doyle.⁶ The argument contains additional cultural references: Chief Justice John Roberts analogizes a multiple-causation scenario in the case to Agatha Christie’s *Murder on the Orient Express*,⁷ while Florida’s counsel, Gregory Garre, says that increased salinity in the water system “caused this invasion of predators that our witnesses described was like a science fiction movie.”⁸ A few months later, Justice Amy Coney Barrett cites none of these allusions in her opinion for a unanimous Court dismissing Florida’s claims.⁹

February 22, 2021: In an unpleasant criminal case, the court discusses online conversations that took place between the defendant and a police officer pretending to be a minor. “As the conversations began, [defendant] Stoune identified himself as Mycroft James Holmes. But Emily questioned whether this was Stoune’s real name, indicating that a simple Internet search revealed that Mycroft Holmes is a fictional character — the elder brother of detective Sherlock Holmes. Through some crafty detective work of his own, Sergeant Gadzick was able to uncover Stoune’s true identity, which was not disputed at trial.”¹⁰

March 15, 2021: The High Court of Karnataka, India addresses a trademark dispute involving a claim of confusing similarity. Justice P. Krishna Bhat explains that in reviewing such an issue, the court should assess whether a likelihood of confusion would exist in “the mind of the quintessential common man,” who “is neither possessed with the wisdom of Solomon nor the trained eyes of Sherlock Holmes.”¹¹

April 23, 2021: A bankruptcy court must determine whether the transferee of an allegedly fraudulent transfer was on notice of the fraud. Prior court decisions have questioned the standard that should govern this inquiry,

⁵ Transcript of oral argument at 41, *Florida v. Georgia*, No. 142, Orig. (argued Feb. 22, 2021).

⁶ Mark Sherman, *Second High Court Hearing for Florida-Georgia Water War* (Feb. 22, 2021), available at apnews.com/article/georgia-agatha-christie-florida-gulf-of-mexico-arthur-conan-doyle-8d8bd965cbbc3542fc526ee2d1b6a284. The author thanks Peter E. Blau for bringing this article as well as two of the entries below to his attention.

⁷ Transcript, note 5 above, at 5.

⁸ *Id.* at 17.

⁹ *Florida v. Georgia*, 141 S. Ct. 2697 (2021).

¹⁰ *United States v. Stoune*, No. 3:18-cv-204, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 32197, at *3 (M.D. Fla. Feb. 22, 2021) (quoting *United States v. Stoune*, 694 F. App’x 688, 689-90 (11th Cir. 2017)), *cert. of appealability denied*, No. 21-10796-E, 2021 U.S. App. LEXIS 16908 (11th Cir. June 7, 2021).

¹¹ *Kumar v. Kandelkwal*, Misc. First Appeal, Case No. 790/2021, ¶ 12 (Karnataka HC Mar. 15, 2021).

expressing concern over “the requirement that a transferee be held to an unrealistic inquiry and imputed knowledge standard, and the requirement that the transferee determine a matter that may involve a legal conclusion.” Bankruptcy Judge William J. Lafferty III agrees that “we should avoid a rule that, in order to avoid liability for what are eventually determined to be fraudulent transfers, transferees must be a combination of Sherlock Holmes and Professor Kingsfield.”¹²

July 6, 2021: A panel of the Supreme Court of India orally rejects a criminal appeal against a murder conviction. Justice R.F. Nariman criticizes one of arguing counsel’s contentions, asserting that “it’s like Sherlock Holmes telling Dr. Watson, ‘you see but you do not observe.’”¹³

September 20, 2021: Judge Joseph Anderson Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the District of South Carolina denies a federal prisoner’s motion seeking a reduction of his sentence under the First Step Act. The court holds that the defendant’s serious criminal conduct (including a murder) and prison disciplinary record warrant denial of the motion. The court discounts the 32 classes that defendant took while in prison, stating that “[w]hile this is an impressive number, closer examination reveals that some of the courses for which the defendant has received credit required little effort and were of minimal rehabilitative value.” It is unclear whether this criticism applies to defendant’s class on “Classic Lit — Sherlock Holmes.”¹⁴

October 21, 2021: The Ohio Supreme Court splits 4-3 in resolving a criminal appeal involving an *ex post facto* issue. In her dissenting opinion, Justice Melody Stewart emphasizes her disagreement with the majority by opining that “[w]e do not need Sherlock Holmes to crack this case.”¹⁵

November 2, 2021: At a keynote address to the tenth anniversary dinner of the *Kings Inn Law Review*, Justice Gerard Hogan of the Supreme Court of Ireland “touche[s] on a broad range of topics ... ranging from the superannuation benefits of an Austrian academic to Sherlock Holmes.”¹⁶

¹² *Kasolas v. Nicolson (In re Fox Ortega Enters.)*, 631 B.R. 425, 462 (Bankr. N.D. Cal. Apr. 23, 2021).

¹³ Quoted in Press Trust of India, *SC Upholds Conviction in Murder Case, Quotes Sherlock Holmes*, available at opoyi.com/sc-upholds-conviction-in-murder-case-quotes-sherlock-holmes. The Sherlockian quotation, whose relevance to the issue being argued is not entirely clear from the published report, is from “A Scandal in Bohemia.”

¹⁴ *United States v. Priester*, No. CR 3:07-1014, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 178638, at *11 (D.S.D. Sept. 20, 2021).

¹⁵ *State v. Hubbard*, 2021-Ohio-3170, ¶ 70, 2021 Ohio LEXIS 2091, *56 (Oct. 21, 2021) (Stewart, J., dissenting).

¹⁶ Editor-in-Chief Report on Mr. Justice Hogan’s Address, www.kingsinns.ie/news-events/item/

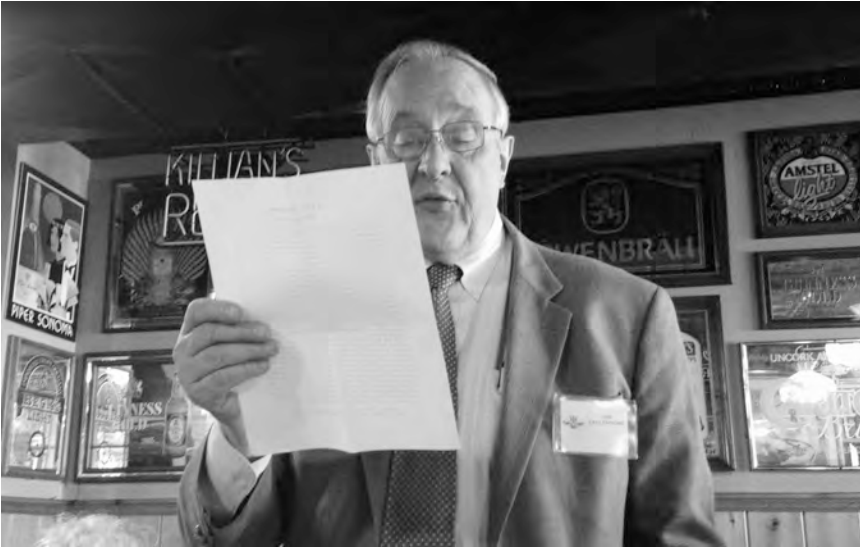
December 21, 2021: In an article published in the *Journal of Law and Medical Ethics*, Dr. Lakshmi Krishnan reports on the late-nineteenth-century case of Cornelius Herz, who successfully asserted that he was too ill to be extradited from England to face criminal charges in France, despite the French authorities' contention that he was faking his illness.¹⁷ In discussing how malingering cases were handled during this era, Krishnan extensively discusses Sherlock Holmes' behavior in "The Adventure of the Dying Detective." Krishnan observes that "[p]ublished twenty years after 'The Final Problem,' where the Baker Street sleuth fakes his own death, 'The Dying Detective' bares the ligaments between clinical diagnosis, criminal detection, and malingering." She concludes that this story "is an unusual Sherlock Holmes adventure. ... It is one of the few where the solution turns on a medical diagnosis, even though diagnostic epistemologies are backed into Holmes' methods via Conan Doyle's medical training and homage to his professors (i.e. Joseph Bell). At the same time, it represents a malingering apotheosis.... 'The Dying Detective' seems almost inevitable when considering the epidemic of feigning in the rest of the Holmes canon."¹⁸

December 31, 2021: At the end of 2021, four stories from *The Case-Book of Sherlock Holmes* complete their 95-year copyright terms and enter the public domain in the United States. The four are "The Adventure of the Three Gables," "The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier," "The Adventure of the Lion's Man," and "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman," all of which were first published in the U.S. in the fall of 1926 in *Liberty* magazine. Also first published in 1926, and therefore also entering the U.S. public domain at year-end 2021, is Conan Doyle's third Professor Challenger novel, *The Land of Mist*. Two canonical stories — "The Adventure of the Veiled Lodger" and "The Adventure of Shoscombe Old Place" — were first published in 1927 and remain under U.S. copyright protection for one more year, until December 31, 2022.

2021/11/volume-x/.

¹⁷ Lakshmi Krishnan, *Person Under Investigation: Detecting Malingering and a Diagnostics of Suspicion in Fin-de-Siècle Britain*, 49 *J. L. Med. & Ethics* 343 (Fall 2021), available at www.cambridge.org/core/serVICES/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/65D3A1E1D3AD344B6E26CDD8C8678548/S107311052100053Xa.pdf/person-under-investigation-detecting-malingering-and-a-diagnostics-of-suspicion-in-fin-de-siecle-britain.pdf.

¹⁸ *Id.* at 345-46 (footnotes omitted).



Jon Lellenberg speaking formally (above), and (on page 321) chatting informally.
Photographs courtesy of, and copyright, Linda and Harrison Hunt.

JON LELLENBERG

“... as eccentric as all his other accomplishments.”

*Donald Pollock**

Editors' note: Instead of their regular *Past Sherlockians* feature (don't worry — we expect it to return next year), Linda and Harrison Hunt have arranged for this special salute to Jon Lellenberg. They explain: “This overview of Jon Lellenberg's many and varied Sherlockian accomplishments originally appeared in the 2022 issue of *The Saturday Review of Literature*. Don Pollock — a former editor of *The Baker Street Journal* and *Baker Street Miscellanea*, and a fellow member with Mr. Lellenberg of The Five Orange Pips — was friends with Jon for years and is uniquely qualified to write about his legacy. We are indebted to Don ... for allowing us to include this slightly edited version in *The Baker Street Almanac*.”

* Donald Pollock, a longtime professor of anthropology at the University of Buffalo, is the author of numerous works of Sherlockian scholarship and serves on the editorial board of the *The Saturday Review of Literature*. Copyright 2022 Donald Pollock.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to discuss Jon's contributions to our particular madness, and will focus on three areas in which he made significant — in some cases unparalleled — contributions to Sherlockian and Doylean fields: pastiche and parody; BSI history; and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. I have not treated Jon's contributions to the Higher Criticism more generally, though it is worth noting that he was a master of that genre as well; indeed, one of his first Sherlockian publications was an article, "A Novel Treatise," in the *BSJ* in 1973, a piece of classic Higher Criticism on "The Naval Treaty," and any interested reader can find many other examples in the *BSJ* and elsewhere.

It's easy to forget, some 50 years later, that Jon started his Sherlockian scholarly career as a specialist on parody and pastiche. His first monograph was a compilation and reprint of *Shylock Holmes: His Posthumous Memoirs*, by John Kendrick Bangs, from his Dispatch Box Press in 1973. And his next publication from that youthful press, and in fact the one that first brought him to my attention, was his bibliography, *A Checklist of Early Sherlockian Parody and Pastiche, 1892-1914*, privately printed for distribution to his friends and colleagues in 1974. My father, who knew Jon before I did, sent me a copy shortly after it was published; I wrote to Jon to suggest one or two additions, and our correspondence started.

Jon's interest in Sherlockian parody and pastiche was not limited to those early exemplars, but embraced the whole history of the genre. I believe the second time we met in person was when he came to Chicago, about 1976, for an annual publishers convention where he tromped from publisher to publisher in McCormick Place, the vast Chicago Convention Center, to find examples of forthcoming Sherlockian parody and pastiche, a practice I know he kept up for several years. Indeed, it was this expertise that led us to invite Jon to serve as a "Contributing Editor" to our new journal *Baker Street Miscellanea* — in our first issue Jon introduced T. P. Stafford's "The Misadventures of Sheerluck Gnomes," which had not been reprinted since it first appeared in 1898. Jon recommended Arthur H. Folwell's "The Adventure of the Gusty Night" for our second issue, though he did not write an introduction for it, but he did review *The Adventures of Picklock Holes* by R.C. Lehman, which had just been published by The Aspen Press. Jon joined *BSM* formally in our second year as a contributing editor, the title being a rather thin carrot to encourage regular contributions.

Ultimately Jon shifted his *BSM* parody and pastiche contributions to book reviewing, writing 80 reviews for the first 50 issues of *BSM* alone, most of them reviews of pastiche and parody, along with half a dozen columns that reported on new and forthcoming Sherlockiana, again much of it parody and pastiche.

Perhaps Jon's most well-known and unique contribution to the genre was his research on what he called *Nova 57 Minor*, the pastiche "The Man Who Was Wanted," which the Doyle sons Denis and Adrian claimed to be the work of their father until a retired architect, Arthur Whitaker, was able to prove that he was the author and had sold it to Conan Doyle for ten guineas in 1910. Jon published an essay on the subject through his Dispatch Box Press in 1978, which we reprinted in *BSM* in 1985, and he compiled a monograph length book with the same title, which Jack Tracy issued in 1990.

This interest in Sherlockian parody and pastiche led him to develop his close relationship with Dame Jean Conan Doyle, notably in his capacity as her U.S. agent, and in particular as something of a gatekeeper for new pastiches that needed Dame Jean's authorization for publication. Jon's later reputation as a barrier to new publications and other iterations, which emerged largely out of the "Free Sherlock" suit and popular movement, was ironic and undeserved: For years Dame Jean was loath to approve any new pastiches, arguing that writers should invent their own characters rather than use her father's, and Jon managed to persuade her to soften that position, especially after the publication of *The Seven-Per-Cent Solution* sparked a boom in interest in Sherlock Holmes and inspired a flood of Sherlockian publications, both pastiche and scholarly. In fact, Jon co-edited at least seven volumes of Sherlockian pastiche and parody by well-known authors, and he commissioned other Sherlockian work, including Caleb Carr's *The Italian Secretary* and the more recent novels by Anthony Horowitz. Jon's commitment to ensuring that Dame Jean benefitted appropriately from her father's work was widely approved of by the Sherlockian world, and Jon was able to assemble a group of Sherlockians to advise her on a variety of issues, from the legal to the literary.

A significant tangential product of Jon's work on behalf of Dame Jean Conan Doyle centered on Arthur Conan Doyle's manuscripts. Jon became concerned with these documents since, as I recall the issue, Cameron Hollyer had distributed copies of *Angels of Darkness*, an unpublished Conan Doyle play manuscript in the Toronto Public Library, without what Jon took to be appropriate authorization. Conan Doyle manuscripts, whole or in part, were scattered in institutional and private collections around the world. Jon and Mike Whelan agreed to launch a BSI book series that would include these manuscripts with additional material: the BSI would have a popular book series to its credit, and the Conan Doyle estate would have some protection of the manuscripts. Jon was appointed to be the first editor of the BSI manuscript series, and he suggested that *Angels of Darkness* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (chapter XI) be the first volumes issued. The success of the series



must be credited to the excellent editors and contributors, of course, but the whole project was in large measure the product of Jon's inspiration.

It was always a characteristic of Jon that when a subject interested him he pursued it deeply and enthusiastically. His Sherlockian work led, perhaps inevitably for Jon, to an interest in Arthur Conan Doyle, which was somewhat heterodox in the 1980s, when *The Game* still required that Sherlockians disavow any interest in the Literary Agent.

Jon's ACD work took two forms that should be highlighted here. First, he understood that the Sherlock Holmes Canon — the stories

themselves — were worthy subjects for serious scholarly attention. Second, and closely related to this, he promoted the notion that Arthur Conan Doyle was also a subject worthy of serious interest, not merely for his Sherlock Holmes stories, but also for the extensive and wide range of other writings that Doyle produced. In that regard, Jon recognized that Doyle biography was deficient in many ways, and so he invited a number of specialists to analyze the existing Doyle studies with an eye to identifying gaps, outstanding issues, major controversies, etc. The collection he edited, *The Quest for Sir Arthur Conan Doyle: Thirteen Biographers in Search of a Life* (1987), was perhaps the first university press publication on the subject, and is a notable addition to the general study of biography.

Jon's push to have Doyle and the Sherlock Holmes Canon taken as subjects of serious scholarly work also led to *BSM* embracing that approach as a new and productive dimension of our editorial interests. It was distinctive enough to be referred to as the "New Criticism" in an *Atlantic* magazine article about Sherlockiana, to contrast it with the "Higher Criticism" with its tongue-in-cheek, sometimes silly quality. Others were inspired by Jon's crusade: Christopher Roden created the ACD Society and its journal; Al Roden

(no relation) began to study Arthur Conan Doyle's career as a physician, and published a notable volume on the subject with Jack Keys; Jon recently was involved in the creation of The Literary Agents, a scion society of the BSI specifically intended to focus on Doyle; and it is arguable that the ability of scholars like Ashley Polasek to create a serious scholarly journal such as *The Conan Doyle Review*, owes much to Jon's efforts to elevate Arthur Conan Doyle to that level of respectability.

Jon's most notable contributions to Doylean studies would certainly include the two volumes of unpublished ACD work that he co-edited with Daniel Stashower: *The Narrative of John Smith* (2011), Doyle's first novel, the manuscript of which had been lost and never before published; and *Dangerous Work: Diary of an Arctic Adventure* (2012), Doyle's journal of his work as a surgeon on a whaling ship in 1880. We would also want to add his edited volume *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters* (2007), which won an Edgar Award, and which he again edited and annotated with Dan Stashower. While the importance of these volumes has been highlighted before, it is worth noting here an equally significant sign: Jon's serious work on Arthur Conan Doyle was published by university presses, The British Museum, and Penguin — if the medium is the message, publication by such distinguished and important presses is a notable measure of Jon's success in moving Doyle into the canon of major authors, fully worthy of international scholarly attention.

An additional dimension of Jon's efforts to elevate Arthur Conan Doyle and his work to the status of legitimate scholarly subjects was his active support for and encouragement of scholars who ventured into this realm, often tentatively. Back in the 1980s Jon was in contact with a number of academics who were beginning to explore serious literary issues in the Canon, and he persuaded several of them to publish their work in *Baker Street Miscellanea*. He was excited when a professor at Boston University organized a panel on Doyle and Sherlock Holmes at an MLA conference in the late 1980s, a kind of watershed moment. In recent years Jon was actively promoting the work of younger, newer scholars such as Tom Ue and Michael Saler, helping to cross the traditional divide between the amateur, tongue-in-cheek Higher Criticism and serious academic scholarship.

Michael Saler is a good segue into the third area in which I want to highlight some of Jon's notable contributions: the history of the BSI. Saler has written interesting work on the phenomenon of fans creating fantasy worlds that they pursue with a serious tongue planted in-cheek, and the Baker Street Irregulars, whether as informal small groups or as the larger formal organization, are an excellent example of this odd practice. Jon was drawn to pursue the history of the BSI by his realization that many older Sherlockians

who had been around at the Founding in the 1930s were dying, and that in many cases their material records of those early days were also being disposed of by family members who did not regard a box of letters from Christopher Morley or Vincent Starrett as having any value.

Nonetheless, merely recognizing the loss of such founding figures and memories is not the same as doing something about it. I do not know when Jon first hit on the idea of producing an “archival” history of the BSI, but I assume that Tom Stix, then the new head of the BSI, embraced the proposal, and Jon jumped in with his characteristic energy and creativity to produce the first volume of BSI history in 1989, editing with John Nieminski “*Dear Starrett — /Dear Briggs —*”. *BSI Archival Series No. 1: A Compendium of Correspondence between Vincent Starrett and Gray Chandler Briggs, 1930-1934* (New York: Fordham University Press 1989). He followed this with his four landmark studies of Irregulars history through the 1940s: *Irregular Memories of the 'Thirties: An Archival History of the Baker Street Irregulars' First Decade, 1930-1940* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1990); *Irregular Records of the Early 'Forties: An Archival History of the Baker Street Irregulars January 1941-March 1944* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1991); *Irregular Proceedings of the Mid-'Forties: An Archival History of the Baker Street Irregulars Autumn 1943-June 1947* (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 1995); and *Irregular Crises of the Late 'Forties: An Archival History of the Baker Street Irregulars Summer 1947-December 1950* (New York: The Baker Street Irregulars, 1999). Jon later added two smaller volumes of miscellaneous source material, and continued his invaluable explorations into BSI history on his “BSI Archival History” website and in the pages of the current *Saturday Review of Literature*.

Finally, I want to mention Jon’s novel, *Baker Street Irregular*, in the context of his work on BSI history. Although the story is fiction, many of the characters, the scenes, the settings, and the historical details are factual. Jon underscored this point with his follow-up volume *Sources and Methods* in 2015, highlighting the essentially non-fiction framework of the novel. I have always imagined that Jon had so much material, and so thorough an understanding and appreciation of the BSI in those days, that a novelized account was a useful way to synthesize and convey that information.

I do not think it is too much to suggest that his contributions to any one of these areas would have gained Jon a high level of respect in the Sherlockian world. That he was at the pinnacle of all three is a remarkable achievement unlikely to be repeated.

SHERLOCKIAN NUMISMATICA 2021

*Greg D. Ruby**

The year 2021 saw no countries issuing legal tender coins featuring Sherlock Holmes or other canonical features. However, we do have a number of items to discuss. Let's get started!

CHALLENGE COINS

For those not familiar with the concept of a challenge coin, it works like this. Traditionally, groups issue these coins to their members as proof of belonging to the group and to increase morale within that group. When members of such a group gather together, usually in a drinking establishment, a member will display their coin and challenge the others to produce theirs. This is called a coin check. Those that cannot produce their challenge coin will then have to buy a round of drinks for the challenger and all that produced their coins. If all of the challenged members can present their coins, then the challenger has to buy the round of drinks. However, these traditions can vary from group to group.



First, we have a trio of challenge coins purportedly issued by Walt Disney World Security featuring Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy, respectively, in detective garb and poses (Donald is at least wearing a deerstalker cap and Inverness cape). The common reverse (or back) of the coins features a deerstalker cap and magnifying glass, along with the legend "The Game Is Afoot."

* Greg Ruby is the founder and leader of The Fourth Garrideb (*the* group for Sherlockian coin collectors) and "Bulldog Pin with Ruby Eyes" in the Baker Street Irregulars. For more information about the historic founding, current activities, and future plans of The Fourth Garrideb, visit its website at FourthGarrideb.com. And for even more, read Greg D. Ruby, *Sherlockian Numismatica 2020*, in the 2021 edition of the *Baker Street Almanac*.



Next, we have a challenge coin / bottle opener for Walt Disney World Security in the shape of a badge for an inspector. Mickey Mouse is on the obverse and is wearing the deerstalker cap / Inverness cape combination.



We have next a combination of a challenge coin and a poker chip featuring the tag team of Mickey Mouse and Goofy as Holmes and Watson in period garb, once again for Walt Disney World Security Investigations. We are of the opinion that none of the pieces here are actually issued by the Disney organization but have been issued by enterprising entrepreneurs who produce fantasy pieces for collectors.



Lastly, there is a challenge coin issued by the Homicide Unit of the Camden County (New Jersey) Prosecutor's Office. The obverse of the coin has a silhouette of Holmes in front of multi-story office building with a clock tower.

OTHER ITEMS

For the seventh consecutive year, Franck Medina, a French graphic and recording artist, has produced a fantasy banknote for the kingdom of Great Britain. These colorful notes feature a portrait of Holmes on the front and have images of a gigantic hound, dancing men figures, poison, and a hangman's noose on the back. The date 2021 appears above Holmes' portrait to differentiate from the previously issued notes.



These are the new issues that 2021 brought us. Who knows what 2022 has in store for us? If you are aware of any new numismatic items with canonical themes, please drop the author a quick note at Greg@FourthGarrideb.com. We are also continuing to rediscover many items that were made in the recent (and not so recent) past, so check out the website of The Fourth Garrideb from time to time.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE ABBEY GRANGE

by A. Conan Doyle

A NEW ANNOTATED EDITION



The cover of The Sunday [San Francisco] Call Magazine, May 21, 1905.

By Reginald Russom

THE ADVENTURE OF THE ABBEY GRANGE

A NEW ANNOTATED EDITION

*Arthur Conan Doyle,¹ with notes by Peter E. Blau,² Shana Carter,³ Greg Darak,⁴
Ross E. Davies,⁵ Steven Doyle,⁶ Harrison Hunt,⁷ Robert Katz,⁸ Michael Kean,⁹
Leslie S. Klinger,¹⁰ Nick Martorelli,¹¹ Steve Mason,¹² Ira Brad Matetsky,¹³
Michael McSwiggin,¹⁴ Scott Monty,¹⁵ Rob Nunn,¹⁶ Monica Schmidt,¹⁷ Will Walsh,¹⁸
Burt Wolder,¹⁹ Beverly Wolov,²⁰ and Christopher Zordan²¹*

¹ Sir Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle wrote “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange,” fifty-nine other Sherlock Holmes stories, and many other things.

² Peter E. Blau served in the U.S. Navy, is a geologist and journalist, and is the subject of *Peter E. Blau: A Festschrift*, published by BSI Press.

³ Shana Carter, ASH is also a member of the Crew of the Barque Lone Star, Five Miles from Anywhere, the Shaka Sherlockians, and the Legion of Zoom, and is an international civil servant.

⁴ Greg Darak co-runs The Men on the Tor and is also a member (in chronological order) of The Three Garridebs, the BSI, The Speckled Band, The Cornish Horrors, and ASH.

⁵ Ross E. Davies is an editor of *The Baker Street Almanac*.

⁶ Steven Doyle is the publisher of *The Baker Street Journal* and the co-publisher of Wessex Press. He leads the Illustrious Clients of Indianapolis, 140 Varieties of Tobacco Ash, and SPODE.

⁷ Harrison Hunt has particular interests in Christopher Morley, the history of the BSI, and the medical and surgical practices of Dr. Watson’s day.

⁸ Robert S. Katz, a retired physician, serves as “Cartwright” of the BSI and Co-Publisher of BSI Press.

⁹ Michael Kean, a retired publishing executive, is Wiggins of The Baker Street Irregulars.

¹⁰ Leslie S. Klinger edited and annotated *The New Annotated Sherlock Holmes* and *The Sherlock Holmes Reference Library*. He chairs the BSI Distinguished Speaker Lecture.

¹¹ Nick Martorelli is the Headmaster of the Priory Scholars of New York City, works in book publishing, and owns too many Superman t-shirts.

¹² Steve Mason is the head of the Crew of the Barque *Lone Star*; Chair of the Communications Committee for the Beacon Society; and a co-creator of the *Baker Street Elementary* comic strip.

¹³ Ira Brad Matetsky is “The Final Problem” (BSI), “The Lawyer Whose Name Was Given in the Paper” (ASH), and the Canonical Annotations Editor of this *Almanac*.

¹⁴ Michael McSwiggin, BSI is a practicing pharmacist in Cincinnati.

¹⁵ Scott Monty co-hosts the “I Hear of Sherlock Everywhere” and “Trifles” podcasts, coordinates “The Stranger’s Room,” and is a strategy, communications, and leadership advisor.

¹⁶ Rob Nunn is a fifth-grade teacher in Edwardsville, Illinois and the Program Chair for The Beacon Society. He is newly invested in the BSI under the fitting investiture of “Elementary.”

¹⁷ Monica Schmidt is president of The Younger Stamfords and a licensed mental health counselor.

¹⁸ William Walsh works in Manhattan as an environmental attorney, is an officer of The Three Garridebs, and co-edited the BSI’s professional series book, *Canon Law*.

¹⁹ Burt Wolder co-hosts the “I hear of Sherlock Everywhere” and “Trifles” podcasts. He is a marketing and communications consultant.

²⁰ Beverly Wolov has an M.A. in the History of Decorative Arts from the Smithsonian/Corcoran College of Art and Design, with a background in fashion history.

²¹ Christopher Zordan is a chemist working in pharmaceuticals and an officer of the Priory Scholars of New York.

INTRODUCTION

Leslie S. Klinger, BSI ("The Abbey Grange")

I've been intrigued by "The Abbey Grange" for a long time. My first article for the *Baker Street Journal*, appearing in 1994,²² considered Holmes's deductions about the glasses of port and the sediment evident there. I argued then that Holmes reached the right conclusions but for the demonstrably wrong reasons.

I wonder if the same can't be said about Holmes's magisterial "trial" of Captain Jack Croker, at the conclusion of which his anointed "British jury," John H. Watson, acquitted Croker of the murder of Sir Eustace Brackenstall. I am persuaded that Holmes was right — Croker was no murderer — but for the wrong reasons. Rather, I have reluctantly come to believe that Lady Mary Brackenstall herself was the murderess, her weapon the simpleton sailor whose heart she enflamed with her lurid (but probably specious) tale of domestic abuse. Sir Eustace may well have been a lout, but it was Lady Mary who benefited from his demise, as she transformed from eager Australian adventuress to wealthy widow. I fear that Captain Croker's hope for love in that quarter would soon have been quashed, as the grieving beauty moved on to even greener pastures. Holmes was certainly no judge of women, and Watson too easily dazzled, but we can readily imagine that Holmes might well be called in to investigate another bereavement of Lady Brackenstall in the not-too-distant future.

THE ADVENTURE OF THE ABBEY GRANGE

By A. Conan Doyle

It was on a bitterly cold night and frosty morning, towards the end of the winter of '97,²³ that I was awakened by a tugging at my shoulder. It was Holmes. The candle in his hand shone upon his eager, stooping face, and told me at a glance that something was amiss.²⁴

These authors retain copyright in their work here: Blau, Carter, Hunt, Kean, Klinger, Mason, and Monty.

²² Leslie S. Klinger, "Some Canonical Observations on Wine," *Baker Street Journal*, 44, No. 2 (June 1994), 109-13.

²³ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 271, n. 1; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1158 n. 2; OSH: Return, p. 400.

²⁴ LESLIE S. KLINGER: The manuscript of "The Abbey Grange" is owned by the Bibliotheca Bodmeriana, Coligny/Geneva. Both the manuscript and the *Collier's Weekly* appearance have the opening line as: "It was a bitterly cold and frosty morning towards the end of '97," which would place the story in December 1897, as compared to "the end of the winter of '97," which most chronologists take to mean January 1897. Although generally the manuscript may be regarded as more likely to accurately reflect Dr. Watson's original notes, he was writing up this tale in 1904, nearly seven years

“Come, Watson, come!” he cried. “The game is afoot.²⁵ Not a word! Into your clothes and come!”

Ten minutes later we were both in a cab, and rattling through the silent streets on our way to Charing Cross Station. The first faint winter’s dawn was beginning to appear, and we could dimly see the occasional figure of an early workman as he passed us, blurred and indistinct in the opalescent London reek. Holmes nestled in silence into his heavy coat, and I was glad to do the same, for the air was most bitter, and neither of us had broken our fast.

It was not until we had consumed some hot tea²⁶ at the station²⁷ and taken our places in the Kentish²⁸ train that we were sufficiently thawed, he to speak and I to listen. Holmes drew a note from his pocket, and read aloud:

later. Extrinsic evidence therefore may be considered in fixing the date. Watson’s earlier description of a “bitterly cold night and frosty morning” in London matches recorded temperatures in London for both January 1897 and December 1897, which both experienced days with temperatures as low as minus-20 degrees Celsius (below zero Fahrenheit). Outside London, according to various sources, England was experiencing blizzards in January 1897, especially in the area between Aberdeen and Kent. One might expect that if it were January 1897, Watson would have noted these severe weather conditions on arriving at Chislehurst Station. That his record says nothing of a major snowstorm, either before or during the pair’s visit to Kent, must lead to us to the conclusion that this was not January 1897 but rather December of that year.

²⁵ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 271, n. 2; LSK, 2 New Ann, p. 1158, n.3; OSH: Return, p. 400.

²⁶ MICHAEL KEAN: Tea is considered by many to be the quintessential English beverage. However, because of its high cost when it was first introduced in the early 1600s, only the wealthy could afford to enjoy it. By the Victorian era, tea was a commonly consumed beverage at breakfast, as well as later in the day. The term “tea,” however, refers to the light, late-afternoon repast, usually served between 4:00 and 5:00 pm, consisting of bread, butter, jam, or cakes and other sweets served along with the beverage. “High tea” is a more substantial, single-course meal, often including hot items.

Tea is mentioned on seventeen different occasions in the Canon, and is consumed by Holmes and Watson in seven different stories, at various times of the day. The pair are described as having breakfast at Baker Street twenty-five times, though tea is not explicitly mentioned very often at that meal. In fact, in “The Naval Treaty,” Mrs. Hudson provides both tea and *coffee* for Holmes, Watson, and Percy Phelps. Thus, when the detective and his biographer have tea, it is more typically in the late afternoon. The quick cup of hot tea consumed at the train station at the *beginning* of “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange” is a unique occurrence, as is the “cuppa” that Holmes and Watson share at the *conclusion* of “The Creeping Man.”

²⁷ BURT WOLDER: Holmes and Watson frequently took refreshment at railway stations. They have a hasty luncheon at the buffet at Waterloo upon their return to London after interviewing Percy Phelps in “The Naval Treaty.” Having eluded Professor Moriarty at the Canterbury terminus they consider lunching there, or later at the Newhaven station, in “The Final Problem.” Station buffets were important to British travelers, especially for those on local lines such as the one covering the forty-mile distance between London and Kent in “The Abbey Grange.” Dining cars of George Pullman’s design were introduced in England on November 1, 1879 by the Great Northern Railway Company on its trains between Leeds and London, a distance of some 200 miles, and were generally reserved for longer routes.

²⁸ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 271, n. 3; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1159, n. 4; OSH: Return, p. 400.

Abbey Grange,²⁹ Marsham, Kent,³⁰ 3:30 A.M.

MY DEAR MR. HOLMES:

I should be very glad of your immediate assistance in what promises to be a most remarkable case. It is something quite in your line. Except for releasing the lady I will see that everything is kept exactly as I have found it, but I beg you not to lose an instant, as it is difficult to leave Sir Eustace there.

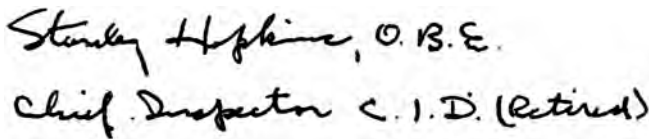
Yours,
STANLEY HOPKINS.³¹

“Hopkins has called me in seven times,³² and on each occasion his summons has been entirely justified,” said Holmes.³³ “I fancy that every one of

²⁹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 271, n. 4; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1159, n. 5; OSH: Return, p. 400.

³⁰ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 272, n. 8. ROSS E. DAVIES: What did the Abbey Grange look like? A limited-edition *Baker Street Almanac* postcard portrays a promising possibility. The cards were mailed to folks who placed early orders for the *Almanac*.

³¹ HARRISON HUNT: Christopher Morley had an affinity for Stanley Hopkins. Playing on the knowledge that Sherlock Holmes liked this detective, and that Hopkins was much younger than The Master, Morley adopted the persona of “my good friend Chief Inspector (Retired) Stanley Hopkins” for a series of letters he claimed to have received and then shared with Edgar W. Smith. Beginning in the early 1940s, Morley used Hopkins’s missives from “The Bilboes,” his home in Yoxley, Kent, to discuss matters Sherlockian, which even included occasional visits to Holmes in Surrey. (A bilboes was an iron bar with shackles for a prisoner’s ankles: perhaps Hopkins felt his retirement villa was something of a money pit.) The first of these was published in 1942 in Smith’s *Letters from Baker Street*. Morley’s cover letter begins, “I hadn’t heard from old Stanley Hopkins for a long time,” and the piece ends with Hopkins’s signature, reproduced here through the courtesy of Christopher Morley’s literary executor, Joch Woodruff:



Stanley Hopkins, O.B.E.
Chief Inspector C.I.D. (Retired)

Correspondence from Stanley Hopkins was an early mainstay of Morley’s “Clinical Notes from a Resident Patient,” first in Edgar W. Smith’s 1944 book *Profiles by Gaslight* and subsequently in the initial issues of *The Baker Street Journal*. As reported in Steven Rothman’s indispensable *The Standard Doyle Company: Christopher Morley on Sherlock Holmes* (p. 250), Morley did not actually compose the columns; rather, Smith patched them together from Morley’s many letters to him. Messages from Hopkins appeared in the debut issue of the *BSJ* in January 1946 and continued regularly for two years, after which they were discontinued in favor of words from another of Morley’s personas, Jane Nightwork. Hopkins’s final letter appeared in the 1957 *BSJ Christmas Annual*.

The Morley family’s connection with Inspector Hopkins continued with Christopher Morley’s youngest child, Blythe Morley, who wrote three mysteries under the pen name Stanley Hopkins, Jr.: two books, *Murder by Inches* (1943) and *The Parchment Key* (1944), and a short story, “The Lady Holding a Green Apple” (1947).

³² LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1159, n. 6.

³³ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 271, n. 5; WBG, p. 2:491, n. 1.

his cases has found its way into your collection,³⁴ and I must admit, Watson, that you have some power of selection, which atones for much which I deplore in your narratives.³⁵ Your fatal habit of looking at everything from the point of view of a story instead of as a scientific exercise has ruined what might have been an instructive and even classical series of demonstrations. You slur over work of the utmost finesse and delicacy, in order to dwell upon sensational details which may excite, but cannot possibly instruct, the reader.”

“Why do you not write them yourself?” I said, with some bitterness.

“I will, my dear Watson, I will.³⁶ At present I am, as you know, fairly busy, but I propose to devote my declining years to the composition of a textbook, which shall focus the whole art of detection into one volume.³⁷”

³⁴ OSH: Return, p. 400.

³⁵ NICK MARTORELLI: But does he? Consider the numerous other cases that Watson often mentions, those many opening paragraphs where he tries to sell the reader on a case that “no collection would be complete” without. Are we to believe, for example, that “The Reigate Squires” is more vital a case than the colossal schemes of Baron Maupertuis, referenced in that same story? But rather, might this comment from Holmes instead reveal deep understanding of and praise for Watson’s writing? The power of selection that he praises created a Canon that is closer to a “textbook of friendship” than “the whole art of deduction.” Perhaps, at some point in their partnership, Holmes deduced that it was this chronicle of his friendship, rather than his professional accomplishments, that would be his true legacy.

³⁶ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 272, n. 6; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1160 n. 7; WBG, p. 2:492, n. 2.

³⁷ OSH: Return, p. 400. GREG DARAK: Sherlock Holmes was considered to be a cold, calculating, reasoning machine. It’s odd, then, that he should be so changeable about what he planned to do when he retired. At various times, he talked of living in the quiet fashion that was most congenial to him, concentrating on his chemical researches (“The Final Problem”), disappearing to the little farm of his dreams (“The Creeping Man”), and devoting himself to writing a book on the whole art of detection (“The Abbey Grange”). Not only are all of these plans different, they seem strange coming from a man who once said, “my mind is like a racing engine, tearing itself to pieces because it is not connected up with the work for which it is built” (“Wisteria Lodge”). Could such a man retire to a quiet life of any of these possibilities, or to yet a fourth choice, bee-keeping? Is it possible that he mentioned different choices when he talked of retiring because he never seriously thought of retirement at all, and that his supposed retirement was a cover for further secret activity? We know Holmes kept a home on the Sussex Downs, but he rarely saw even his closest friend while supposedly in residence there. We also know that at the government’s call he left the Sussex Downs for two solid years of undercover work. Is it possible that a man who craved mental exercise was living in quiet retirement all the rest of the time? Isn’t it more likely that the Sussex Downs was where Holmes lived between secret government assignments? Watson, who was not good at keeping secrets and would have been kept in the dark until the time of “His Last Bow,” does give us one bit of information that could indicate that was the case. At the beginning of “The Problem of Thor Bridge” (published in 1922), he assures the families whose secrets are hidden in the records in his tin box that they have no need to worry; those records “will be separated and destroyed now that my friend has time to turn his energies to the matter.” So although Holmes had supposedly been retired since 1903, it is not until 1922 that he has the “time to turn his energies to the matter.” It seems reasonable to think that he must have been busy with more than just bees for those nineteen years. Perhaps the secret archives of the British government — which at times, of course, was Holmes’s brother — could give us further information.

Our present research appears to be a case of murder.”

“You think this Sir Eustace is dead, then?”

“I should say so. Hopkins’s writing shows considerable agitation, and he is not an emotional man. Yes, I gather there has been violence, and that the body is left for our inspection. A mere suicide would not have caused him to send for me.³⁸ As to the release of the lady, it would appear that she has been locked in her room during the tragedy. We are moving in high life, Watson, crackling paper, ‘E.B.’ monogram, coat-of-arms,³⁹ picturesque address. I think that friend Hopkins will live up to his reputation, and that we shall have an interesting morning. The crime was committed before twelve last night.”

“How can you possibly tell?”

“By an inspection of the trains, and by reckoning the time. The local police had to be called in, they had to communicate with Scotland Yard, Hopkins had to go out, and he in turn had to send for me. All that makes a fair night’s work. Well, here we are at Chislehurst Station,⁴⁰ and we shall soon set our doubts at rest.”

A drive of a couple of miles through narrow country lanes brought us to a park gate,⁴¹ which was opened for us by an old lodge-keeper,⁴² whose haggard face bore the reflection of some great disaster. The avenue ran through a noble park, between lines of ancient elms,⁴³ and ended in a low, widespread house,⁴⁴ pillared in front after the fashion of Palladio.⁴⁵ The central part was evidently of a great age and shrouded in ivy, but the large windows showed that modern changes had been carried out, and one wing of the house appeared to be

³⁸ SCOTT MONTY: While suicide and attempted suicide were crimes in England until 1961, Holmes is correct that a suicide itself would not be a reason for the police to engage his services. Of the four attempted suicides in the Canon, Holmes was already engaged in the cases: Mrs. Elsie Cubit, who tried to take her life after her husband Hilton (Holmes’s client) was tragically killed (“The Dancing Men”); Arthur/Harry Pinner, who attempted to hang himself (“The Stockbrokers’ Clerk”); Josiah Amberley, when Holmes accused him of murder (“The Retired Colourman”); and the prevented suicide of Mrs. Ronder (“Your life is not your own,” he said. “Keep your hands off it.”) (“The Veiled Lodger”). And while there were numerous assumed or ruled-out suicides (eight, in fact: *A Study in Scarlet*, “The Five Orange Pips,” “The Beryl Coronet,” “The Man with the Twisted Lip,” “The Resident Patient,” “The Golden Pince-Nez,” “The Devil’s Foot,” and *The Valley of Fear*), there were three actual suicides: one, before the story began, associated with the history of the blue carbuncle (“The Blue Carbuncle”); one that was all but certain after Anna consumed cyanide (“The Golden Pince-Nez”); and Maria Gibson’s suicide-disguised-as-murder scheme (“Thor Bridge”).

³⁹ OSH: Return, p. 401.

⁴⁰ LSK, Ref: Return, p.272, n. 7.

⁴¹ WBG, p. 2:492, n. 3.

⁴² LSK, Ref: Return, p. 272, n. 9.

⁴³ OSH: Return, p. 401.

⁴⁴ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1161, n. 8.

⁴⁵ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 272, n. 10; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1161, n. 9; WBG, p. 2:493, n. 4; OSH: Return, p. 401.

entirely new. The youthful figure and alert, eager face of Inspector Stanley Hopkins confronted us in the open doorway.

"I'm very glad you have come, Mr. Holmes. And you, too, Dr. Watson. But, indeed, if I had my time over again, I should not have troubled you, for since the lady has come to herself, she has given so clear an account of the affair that there is not much left for us to do. You remember that Lewisham gang of burglars?"

"What, the three Randalls?"⁴⁶

"Exactly; the father and two sons. It's their work. I have not a doubt of it. They did a job at Sydenham⁴⁷ a fortnight ago and were seen and described. Rather cool to do another so soon and so near, but it is they, beyond all doubt. It's a hanging matter this time."⁴⁸

"Sir Eustace is dead, then?"

"Yes, his head was knocked in with his own poker."

"Sir Eustace Brackenstall,⁴⁹ the driver tells me."

"Exactly — one of the richest men in Kent — Lady Brackenstall is in the morning-room.⁵⁰ Poor lady, she has had a most dreadful experience. She seemed half dead when I saw her first. I think you had best see her and hear her account of the facts. Then we will examine the dining-room together."

Lady Brackenstall was no ordinary person. Seldom have I seen so graceful a figure, so womanly a presence, and so beautiful a face. She was a blonde, golden-haired, blue-eyed, and would no doubt have had the perfect complexion which goes with such colouring, had not her recent experience left her drawn and haggard. Her sufferings were physical as well as mental, for over one eye rose a hideous, plum-coloured swelling,⁵¹ which her maid, a tall, austere woman, was bathing assiduously with vinegar and water.⁵² The lady

⁴⁶ OSH: Return, p. 401. THE EDITORS: The fact that the Baker Street Irregulars have also had three Randalls — the late David A. Randall ("The Golden Pince-Nez") and Warren Randall ("Harold Stackhurst") and current member Randall Stock ("South African Securities") — is just a coincidence ... probably.

⁴⁷ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 273, n. 11.

⁴⁸ IRA MATETSKY: At this time, death by hanging was the mandatory sentence for murder, a crime that included intentional killing as well as any killing in the course of committing another felony. See Matetsky, "Homicide and Punishment: Murder in the Sherlockian Canon," in *Canon Law* (William A. Walsh and Donny Zaldin, eds., BSI Press 2019).

⁴⁹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 273, n. 12; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1161, n. 10.

⁵⁰ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 273, n. 13.

⁵¹ See note 113 by Robert Katz below.

⁵² HARRISON HUNT: Bathing with vinegar, usually diluted in warm water, is a traditional treatment for bruising. The vinegar is said to increase circulation in the area and thereby break up the clots forming the bruise. Nineteenth-century pharmacopeias such as *The Dispensatory of the United States* (1854) recognized that vinegar (acetum) was "employed [externally] ... in bruises and strains." The liquid was described as a "rubefacient" (something that dilates surface blood vessels and thereby

lay back exhausted upon a couch, but her quick, observant gaze, as we entered the room, and the alert expression of her beautiful features, showed that neither her wits nor her courage had been shaken by her terrible experience. She was enveloped in a loose dressing-gown of blue and silver, but a black sequin-covered dinner-dress was hung upon the couch beside her.⁵³

"I have told you all that happened, Mr. Hopkins," she said, wearily. "Could you not repeat it for me? Well, if you think it necessary, I will tell these gentlemen what occurred. Have they been in the dining-room yet?"

"I thought they had better hear your ladyship's story first."

"I shall be glad when you can arrange matters. It is horrible to me to think of him still lying there." She shuddered and buried her face in her hands. As she did so, the loose gown fell back from her forearms. Holmes uttered an exclamation.

"You have other injuries, madam! What is this?" Two vivid red spots stood out on one of the white, round limbs. She hastily covered it.

"It is nothing. It has no connection with this hideous business of last night."⁵⁴ If you and your friend will sit down, I will tell you all I can.

"I am the wife of Sir Eustace Brackenstall. I have been married about a year."⁵⁵ I suppose that it is no use my attempting to conceal that our marriage has not been a happy one. I fear that all our neighbours would tell you that,

reddens the skin) in Alfred Garrod's *The Essentials of Materia Medica and Therapeutics*, a text used by Arthur Conan Doyle in medical school. For more about this, see Harold Billings, "The Materia Medica of Sherlock Holmes," 56 *The Baker Street Journal* No. 3 (Autumn 2006), 37-46.

⁵³ BEVERLY WOLOV: A blue and silver dressing gown. Money. Taste. Class. Even more significant: the black sequined-covered dinner dress. The black is necessary to the story to hide obvious blood stains. To make a point that it was sequin-covered? Sequins signal that the dress was made in Paris, not only purchased there but most assuredly custom made. Perhaps they went to Paris for their honeymoon. That wouldn't be unusual. But to have acquired such a classic and classy dress demonstrates a level of fashion sophistication that belies Lady B's offhand remarks about the freedoms of growing up in Australia. She was brought up to be a lady. She had a nurse from the beginning, traveled properly chaperoned, and remained composed and self-contained even under the fire of Holmes' questions. She was most likely part of the nouveau riche that had money but no social status, hence the trip to England to see if she could make a proper "match." SHANA CARTER: This "black sequin-covered dinner-dress" is the only sequined or spangled garment found in the Canon (though there are references to "spangled" skies in *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *The Valley of Fear*). Assuming Lady Brackenstall is dressed *à la mode*, the sequins are probably attached to a net or sheer over-dress draped upon a black bodice and skirt. In 1897, evening sleeves, if long, were typically "of wrinkled transparent material." (C. Willett Cunnington, *English Women's Clothing in the Nineteenth Century*. New York: Dover Publications, 1990). However, the sleeves of this dress are presumably opaque, the better to conceal the wounds on the wearer's forearm. Although Lady Brackenstall has changed into "a loose dressing-gown of blue and silver" by the time of her first interview with Holmes and Watson, the story makes it clear that she was still wearing her dinner-dress during the previous night's tragedy, presumably to avoid any suggestion of impropriety.

⁵⁴ LSK, Ref: Return, p.273, n. 14; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1163, n. 11.

⁵⁵ WBG, p. 2:493, n. 5.

even if I were to attempt to deny it. Perhaps the fault may be partly mine.⁵⁶ I was brought up in the freer, less conventional atmosphere of South Australia,⁵⁷ and this English life, with its proprieties and its primness, is not congenial to me. But the main reason lies in the one fact, which is notorious to everyone, and that is that Sir Eustace was a confirmed drunkard.⁵⁸ To be with such a man for an hour is unpleasant. Can you imagine what it means for a sensitive and high-spirited woman to be tied to him for day and night? It is a sacrilege, a crime, a villainy to hold that such a marriage is binding. I say that these monstrous laws of yours⁵⁹ will bring a curse upon the land — Heaven⁶⁰ will not let such wickedness endure.” For an instant she sat up, her cheeks flushed, and her eyes blazing from under the terrible mark upon her brow. Then the strong, soothing hand of the austere maid drew her head down on to the cushion, and the wild anger died away into passionate sobbing. At last she continued:

“I will tell you about last night. You are aware, perhaps, that in this house all servants sleep in the modern wing. This central block is made up of the dwelling-rooms, with the kitchen behind and our bedroom above. My maid, Theresa, sleeps above my room. There is no one else, and no sound could alarm those who are in the farther wing. This must have been well-known to the robbers, or they would not have acted as they did.

“Sir Eustace retired about half-past ten. The servants had already gone to their quarters. Only my maid was up, and she had remained in her room at the top of the house until I needed her services. I sat until after eleven in this room, absorbed in a book. Then I walked round to see that all was right before I went upstairs. It was my custom to do this myself, for, as I have explained, Sir Eustace was not always to be trusted. I went into the kitchen, the butler’s pantry, the gun-room, the billiard-room, the drawing-room, and finally the

⁵⁶ MONICA SCHMIDT: Historically, society often blamed victims of abuse for instigating the abuse. Abuse is never the fault of the victim — perpetrators always have a choice regarding how they respond to situations. themendproject.com/am-i-the-victim-of-emotional-abuse/its-not-your-fault/.

⁵⁷ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 274, n. 15.

⁵⁸ MONICA SCHMIDT: An ongoing theme in the Canon is that an abusive spouse’s temperament is frequently blamed on the evils of alcohol. This was true of Jim Browner in “The Cardboard Box,” Captain Peter Carey in “Black Peter,” and Sir Eustace Brackenstall here. The societal judgment that heavy drinking or alcoholism is a sign of moral deficiency continues in the modern era, even though the disease model of addiction is now prevalent in the medical community.

⁵⁹ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1163, n. 12; OSH: Return, p. 401. MONICA SCHMIDT: In nineteenth-century Britain, a literal act of Parliament could be required to obtain a divorce. Even if a woman was wealthy enough to be granted a hearing and divorce, she could face the loss of her right to property, the likely loss of her children, and social ruin from which she might never recover. Thus, women often felt they had no choice but to continue their legal marital status no matter what cruelty befell them. See blogs.loc.gov/law/2018/02/marriage-and-divorce-19th-century-style/.

⁶⁰ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 274, n. 16; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 13.

dining-room. As I approached the window, which is covered with thick curtains, I suddenly felt the wind blow upon my face and realized that it was open. I flung the curtain aside and found myself face to face with a broad-shouldered elderly man,⁶¹ who had just stepped into the room. The window is a long French one,⁶² which really forms a door leading to the lawn. I held my bedroom candle lit in my hand, and, by its light, behind the first man I saw two others, who were in the act of entering. I stepped back, but the fellow was on me in an instant. He caught me first by the wrist and then by the throat. I opened my mouth to scream, but he struck me a savage blow with his fist over the eye, and felled me to the ground. I must have been unconscious for a few minutes, for when I came to myself, I found that they had torn down the bell-rope, and had secured me tightly to the oaken chair which stands at the head of the dining-room table. I was so firmly bound that I could not move, and a handkerchief round my mouth prevented me from uttering any sound. It was at this instant that my unfortunate husband entered the room. He had evidently heard some suspicious sounds, and he came prepared for such a scene as he found. He was dressed in his shirt⁶³ and trousers, with his favourite blackthorn⁶⁴ cudgel⁶⁵ in his hand. He rushed at the burglars,⁶⁶ but another — it was the elderly man⁶⁷ — stooped, picked the poker out of the grate and struck him a horrible blow as he passed. He fell with a groan⁶⁸ and never moved again. I fainted once more, but again it could only have been a very few minutes during which I was insensible. When I opened my eyes I found that they had collected the silver from the sideboard, and they had drawn a bottle of wine⁶⁹ which stood there. Each of them had a glass in his hand. I have already told you, have I not, that one was elderly, with a beard, and the others young, hairless lads. They might have been a father with his two sons. They talked together in whispers. Then they came over and made sure that I was still securely bound. Finally they withdrew, closing the window after them. It was quite a quarter of an hour before I got my mouth free. When I did so, my screams brought the maid to my assistance. The other servants were soon alarmed, and we sent for the local police, who instantly communicated with London. That is really all

⁶¹ OSH: Return, p. 401.

⁶² LSK, Ref: Return, p. 274, n. 17.

⁶³ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 275, n. 18; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1165, n. 14.

⁶⁴ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 275, n. 19.

⁶⁵ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1165, n. 15.

⁶⁶ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 275, n. 20; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1165, n. 16.

⁶⁷ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1165, n. 17.

⁶⁸ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 275, n. 21; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1165, n. 18.

⁶⁹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 275, n. 22.

I can tell you, gentlemen, and I trust that it will not be necessary for me to go over so painful a story again.”

“Any questions, Mr. Holmes?” asked Hopkins.

“I will not impose any further tax upon Lady Brackenstall’s patience and time,” said Holmes. “Before I go into the dining-room, I should like to hear your experience.” He looked at the maid.

“I saw the men before ever they came into the house,” said she. “As I sat by my bedroom window I saw three men in the moonlight⁷⁰ down by the lodge gate yonder, but I thought nothing of it at the time. It was more than an hour after that I heard my mistress scream, and down I ran, to find her, poor lamb, just as she says, and him on the floor, with his blood and brains over the room. It was enough to drive a woman out of her wits, tied there, and her very dress spotted with him, but she never wanted courage, did Miss Mary Fraser of Adelaide and Lady Brackenstall of Abbey Grange hasn’t learned new ways. You’ve questioned her long enough, you gentlemen, and now she is coming to her own room, just with her old Theresa, to get the rest that she badly needs.”

With a motherly tenderness the gaunt woman put her arm round her mistress and led her from the room.

“She has been with her all her life,” said Hopkins. “Nursed her as a baby, and came with her to England when they first left Australia, eighteen months ago. Theresa Wright⁷¹ is her name, and the kind of maid you don’t pick up nowadays. This way, Mr. Holmes, if you please!”

The keen interest had passed out of Holmes’s expressive face, and I knew that with the mystery all the charm of the case had departed. There still remained an arrest to be effected, but what were these commonplace rogues that he should soil his hands with them? An abstruse and learned specialist who finds that he has been called in for a case of measles would experience something of the annoyance which I read in my friend’s eyes. Yet the scene in the dining-room of the Abbey Grange was sufficiently strange to arrest his attention and to recall his waning interest.

It was a very large and high chamber, with carved oak ceiling, oaken panelling, and a fine array of deer’s heads and ancient weapons around the walls. At the further end from the door was the high French window of which we had heard. Three smaller windows on the right-hand side filled the apartment with cold winter sunshine. On the left was a large, deep fireplace, with a massive, overhanging oak mantelpiece. Beside the fireplace was

⁷⁰ WBG, p. 2:495, n. 6.

⁷¹ OSH: Return, p. 401.

a heavy oaken chair with arms and cross-bars at the bottom. In and out through the open woodwork was woven a crimson cord, which was secured at each side to the crosspiece below. In releasing the lady, the cord had been slipped off her, but the knots with which it had been secured still remained. These details only struck our attention afterwards, for our thoughts were entirely absorbed by the terrible object which lay spread upon the tiger-skin hearthrug in front of the fire.

It was the body of a tall, well-made man, about forty years of age. He lay upon his back, his face upturned, with his white teeth grinning through his short, black beard. His two clenched hands were raised above his head, and a heavy, blackthorn stick lay across them. His dark, handsome, aquiline features were convulsed into a spasm of vindictive hatred, which had set his dead face in a terribly fiendish expression. He had evidently been in his bed when the alarm had broken out, for he wore a foppish, embroidered nightshirt, and his bare feet projected from his trousers. His head was horribly injured, and the whole room bore witness to the savage ferocity of the blow which had struck him down. Beside him lay the heavy poker, bent into a curve by the concussion. Holmes examined both it and the indescribable wreck which it had wrought.

“He must be a powerful man, this elder Randall,” he remarked.

“Yes,” said Hopkins. “I have some record of the fellow, and he is a rough customer.”

“You should have no difficulty in getting him.”

“Not the slightest. We have been on the look-out for him, and there was some idea that he had got away to America. Now that we know that the gang are here, I don’t see how they can escape. We have the news at every seaport already, and a reward will be offered before evening. What beats me is how they could have done so mad a thing, knowing that the lady could describe them and that we could not fail to recognize the description.”

“Exactly. One would have expected that they would have silenced Lady Brackenstall as well.”

“They may not have realized,” I suggested, “that she had recovered from her faint.”

“That is likely enough. If she seemed to be senseless, they would not take her life. What about this poor fellow, Hopkins? I seem to have heard some queer stories about him.”

“He was a good-hearted man when he was sober, but a perfect fiend when he was drunk, or rather when he was half drunk, for he seldom really went the whole way. The fiend seemed to be in him at such times, and he was capable of anything. From what I hear, in spite of all his wealth and his

title, he very nearly came our way once or twice. There was a scandal about his drenching a dog with petroleum and setting it on fire — her ladyship's dog, to make the matter worse — and that was only hushed up with difficulty. Then he threw a decanter at that maid, Theresa Wright — there was trouble about that. On the whole, and between ourselves, it will be a brighter house without him. What are you looking at now?"

Holmes was down on his knees, examining with great attention the knots upon the red cord with which the lady had been secured. Then he carefully scrutinized the broken and frayed end where it had snapped off when the burglar had dragged it down.

"When this was pulled down, the bell in the kitchen must have rung loudly," he remarked.

"No one could hear it. The kitchen stands right at the back of the house."

"How did the burglar know no one would hear it? How dared he pull at a bell-rope in that reckless fashion?"

"Exactly, Mr. Holmes, exactly. You put the very question which I have asked myself again and again. There can be no doubt that this fellow must have known the house and its habits. He must have perfectly understood that the servants would all be in bed at that comparatively early hour, and that no one could possibly hear a bell ring in the kitchen. Therefore, he must have been in close league with one of the servants. Surely that is evident. But there are eight servants, and all of good character."

"Other things being equal," said Holmes, "one would suspect the one at whose head the master threw a decanter. And yet that would involve treachery towards the mistress to whom this woman seems devoted. Well, well, the point is a minor one, and when you have Randall you will probably find no difficulty in securing his accomplice. The lady's story certainly seems to be corroborated, if it needed corroboration, by every detail which we see before us." He walked to the French window and threw it open. "There are no signs here, but the ground is iron hard, and one would not expect them. I see that these candles⁷² on the mantelpiece have been lighted."

⁷² STEVE MASON: Before the advent of gas lamps, and ultimately the incandescent light bulb, candles were a necessity of Victorian daily life. This source of light was used for most ordinary activities throughout the era, from dining and playing cards to cooking. Every upper-class Victorian household used candles; the more elegant homes with drawing and dining rooms used candelabras placed in front of long and tall glass mirrors to brighten the room.

In the mid-1800s, three types of candles were popular: tallow, spermaceti, and beeswax. The cheapest of the three — used in the lower classes of society — were the tallow, which were made from animal fat. They had a very pungent, almost putrid smell, burned with a smoky flame, and produced less light.

“Yes, it was by their light and that of the lady’s bedroom candle, that the burglars saw their way about.”

“And what did they take?”

“Well, they did not take much — only half a dozen articles of plate⁷³ off the sideboard. Lady Brackenstall thinks that they were themselves so disturbed by the death of Sir Eustace that they did not ransack the house, as they would otherwise have done.”

“No doubt that is true, and yet they drank some wine, I understand.”

“To steady their own nerves.”

“Exactly. These three glasses upon the sideboard have been untouched, I suppose?”

“Yes, and the bottle stands as they left it.”

“Let us look at it. Halloa, halloa! What is this?”

The three glasses were grouped together, all of them tinged with wine, and one of them containing some dregs of beeswing.⁷⁴ The bottle stood near them, two-thirds full, and beside it lay a long, deeply stained cork. Its appearance and the dust upon the bottle showed that it was no common vintage which the murderers had enjoyed.⁷⁵

A change had come over Holmes’s manner. He had lost his listless expression, and again I saw an alert light of interest in his keen, deep-set eyes. He raised the cork and examined it minutely.

“How did they draw it?” he asked.

Hopkins pointed to a half-opened drawer. In it lay some table linen and a large corkscrew.

“Did Lady Brackenstall say that screw was used?”

“No, you remember that she was senseless at the moment when the bottle was opened.”

“Quite so. As a matter of fact, that screw was *not* used. This bottle was

Spermaceti wax, produced from an oil coming from a cavity in the head of the sperm whale, was the most durable of the three varieties, and held up even in warm summer months. It was the most expensive type of candle, and was exclusive to upper class families. Beeswax candles were used in everyday Victorian life, but their manufacture was tedious and time-consuming. Most beeswax candles came in natural yellow, but more expensive bleached-white candles were available. By the end of the nineteenth century, paraffin wax supplanted in popularity the other three candle varieties.

Obviously, the open flame of the candle could be dangerous, and Victorians were extremely fearful of fire, due to lack of firefighting capabilities and the many structures built with flammable materials. Thus, candles were kept out of reach of children, while guards or shields (using a water bath as a backup) were employed to help reduce accidental fires.

⁷³ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 277, n. 23; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1169, n. 19.

⁷⁴ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 278, n. 24; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1170, n. 20; WBG, p. 2:497, n. 7; OSH: Return, p. 401.

⁷⁵ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1171, n. 22.

opened by a pocket screw, probably contained in a knife, and not more than an inch and a half long.⁷⁶ If you examine the top of the cork, you will observe that the screw was driven in three times before the cork was extracted. It has never been transfixed. This long screw would have transfixed it and drawn it with a single pull. When you catch this fellow, you will find that he has one of these multiplex knives⁷⁷ in his possession.”

“Excellent!” said Hopkins.

“But these glasses do puzzle me, I confess. Lady Brackenstall actually *saw* the three men drinking, did she not?”

“Yes; she was clear about that.”

“Then there is an end of it. What more is to be said? And yet, you must admit, that the three glasses are very remarkable, Hopkins. What? You see nothing remarkable? Well, well, let it pass. Perhaps, when a man has special knowledge and special powers like my own, it rather encourages him to seek a complex explanation when a simpler one is at hand.⁷⁸ Of course, it must be a mere chance about the glasses. Well, good-morning, Hopkins. I don’t see that I can be of any use to you, and you appear to have your case very clear. You will let me know when Randall is arrested, and any further developments which may occur. I trust that I shall soon have to congratulate you upon a successful conclusion. Come, Watson, I fancy that we may employ ourselves more profitably at home.”

⁷⁶ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1171, illustration.

⁷⁷ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 278, n. 25. ROB NUNN: Although many different knives appear throughout the Canon, this is the only mention of a multiplex knife. “Multiplex” was a catch-all term (sometimes also called a “universal tool”) describing a pocketknife containing two or more tools (skd-online-collection.skdmuseum). We know that Captain Croker’s knife at least had a corkscrew. It may have also included a file, gimlet, screwdriver, button hook, eating utensils, and a variety of knife blades. (An example may be found at www.collectorsweekly.com/stories/160211-harrison-brothers-sheffield.)

The most common present-day example of a multiplex knife is the Swiss Army Knife, but multiplex knives were around long before the Swiss Army version was created in 1886. In fact, the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge houses a universal tool that dates back to third-century Rome (fitz-museum.cam.ac.uk/learning/look-think-do/roman-swiss-army-knife). This specific instrument was described in detail in *The Antiquaries Journal*, volume 56, no. 2 (1988), by a researcher with a familiar name, David Sherlock.

⁷⁸ ROSS E. DAVIES: Holmes is feigning allegiance to the principle of parsimony — that a simple solution to a problem is usually superior to a complicated solution to the same problem. The principle is often referred to as “Occam’s razor” because a fourteenth-century monk, William of Ockham, is one of the thinkers credited with coming up with it. “The Abbey Grange” — and the entire Sherlockian Canon (in which neither Ockham nor his razor is mentioned by name) — might be seen as an argument against the validity of Occam’s razor. Indeed, Arthur Conan Doyle seems to have had it in for old Ockham’s idea. As best I can tell, the only avowed follower of Ockham in Conan Doyle’s work, a contentious minor character identified only as “Stephen” in chapter 10 of *The White Company*, was as eager to solve a problem with a blunt instrument as with a sharp one: “This last argument, however, by no means commended itself to the pupil of Ockham, who plucked a great stick from the ground and signified his dissent by smiting the realist over the pate with it.”

During our return journey, I could see by Holmes's face that he was much puzzled by something which he had observed.⁷⁹ Every now and then, by an effort, he would throw off the impression, and talk as if the matter were clear, but then his doubts would settle down upon him again, and his knitted brows and abstracted eyes would show that his thoughts had gone back once more to the great dining-room of the Abbey Grange, in which this midnight tragedy had been enacted. At last, by a sudden impulse, just as our train was crawling out of a suburban station, he sprang on to the platform and pulled me out after him.

"Excuse me, my dear fellow," said he, as we watched the rear carriages of our train disappearing round a curve, "I am sorry to make you the victim of what may seem a mere whim, but on my life, Watson, I simply *can't* leave that case in this condition. Every instinct that I possess cries out against it. It's wrong — it's all wrong — I'll swear that it's wrong. And yet the lady's story was complete, the maid's corroboration was sufficient, the detail was fairly exact.⁸⁰ What have I to put up against that? Three wine-glasses, that is all. But if I had not taken things for granted, if I had examined everything with the care which I would have shown had we approached the case *de novo*⁸¹ and had no cut-and-dried story to warp my mind, would I not then have found something more definite to go upon? Of course I should. Sit down on this bench, Watson, until a train for Chislehurst arrives, and allow me to lay the evidence before you, imploring you in the first instance to dismiss from your mind the idea that anything which the maid or her mistress may have said must necessarily be true. The lady's charming personality must not be permitted to warp our judgment.

"Surely there are details in her story which, if we looked at it in cold blood, would excite our suspicion. These burglars made a considerable haul at Sydenham a fortnight ago. Some account of them and of their appearance was in the papers, and would naturally occur to anyone who wished to invent a story in which imaginary robbers should play a part. As a matter of fact,

⁷⁹ ROSS E. DAVIES: There is a limited-edition *Baker Street Almanac* jigsaw puzzle associated with this scene. Puzzles were mailed to folks who placed early orders for the *Almanac*.

⁸⁰ IRA MATETSKY: A federal judge once quoted this standard of "detail ... fairly exact" in discussing the minimum pleading requirements for a fraud claim. *Abc-Naco, Inc. v. Deruyter*, No. 99 C 1969, 1999 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 11025, at *9 (N.D. Ill. July 13, 1999). In a footnote, she observed that "[o]f course, the mystery-loving reader will know that Sherlock Holmes' standard was even more rigorous," and quotes this full passage beginning with "I simply can't leave the case in this condition" and ending with "[o]f course I should." *Id.* at n. 4.

⁸¹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 279, n. 26; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1174, n. 23; WBG, p. 2:498, n. 8; OSH: Return, p. 401. THE EDITORS: Readers of the Nero Wolfe Corpus will recall Rex Stout's use of this phrase in *The Father Hunt* (1968).

burglars who have done a good stroke of business are, as a rule, only too glad to enjoy the proceeds in peace and quiet without embarking on another perilous undertaking. Again, it is unusual for burglars to operate at so early an hour, it is unusual for burglars to strike a lady to prevent her screaming, since one would imagine that was the sure way to make her scream, it is unusual for them to commit murder when their numbers are sufficient to overpower one man, it is unusual for them to be content with a limited plunder when there is much more within their reach, and finally, I should say, that it was very unusual for such men to leave a bottle half empty.⁸² How do all these unusuals strike you, Watson?”

“Their cumulative effect is certainly considerable, and yet each of them is quite possible in itself. The most unusual thing of all, as it seems to me, is that the lady should be tied to the chair.”

“Well, I am not so clear about that, Watson, for it is evident that they must either kill her or else secure her in such a way that she could not give immediate notice of their escape. But at any rate I have shown, have I not, that there is a certain element of improbability about the lady’s story? And now, on the top of this, comes the incident of the wineglasses.”

“What about the wineglasses?”

“Can you see them in your mind’s eye?”

“I see them clearly.”

“We are told that three men drank from them. Does that strike you as likely?”

“Why not? There was wine in each glass.”

“Exactly, but there was beeswing only in one glass. You must have noticed that fact. What does that suggest to your mind?”

“The last glass filled would be most likely to contain beeswing.”

“Not at all. The bottle was full of it, and it is inconceivable that the first two glasses were clear and the third heavily charged with it. There are two possible explanations, and only two. One is that after the second glass was filled the bottle was violently agitated, and so the third glass received the beeswing. That does not appear probable. No, no, I am sure that I am right.”

“What, then, do you suppose?”

“That only two glasses were used, and that the dregs of both were poured into a third glass, so as to give the false impression that three people had been here. In that way all the beeswing would be in the last glass, would it not? Yes, I am convinced that this is so.⁸³ But if I have hit upon the true

⁸² LSK, Ref: Return, p. 279, n. 27; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1174, n. 24.

⁸³ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 280, n. 28.

explanation of this one small phenomenon, then in an instant the case rises from the commonplace to the exceedingly remarkable, for it can only mean that Lady Brackenstall and her maid have deliberately lied to us, that not one word of their story is to be believed, that they have some very strong reason for covering the real criminal, and that we must construct our case for ourselves without any help from them.⁸⁴ That is the mission which now lies before us, and here, Watson, is the Chislehurst⁸⁵ train.”

The household of the Abbey Grange were much surprised at our return, but Sherlock Holmes, finding that Stanley Hopkins had gone off to report to headquarters, took possession of the dining-room, locked the door upon the inside, and devoted himself for two hours to one of those minute and laborious investigations which form the solid basis on which his brilliant edifices of deduction were reared. Seated in a corner like an interested student who observes the demonstration of his professor, I followed every step of that remarkable research. The window, the curtains, the carpet, the chair, the rope — each in turn was minutely examined and duly pondered. The body of the unfortunate baronet⁸⁶ had been removed, but all else remained as we had seen it in the morning. Then, to my astonishment, Holmes climbed up on to the massive mantelpiece. Far above his head hung the few inches of red cord which were still attached to the wire. For a long time he gazed upward at it, and then in an attempt to get nearer to it he rested his knee upon a wooden bracket on the wall. This brought his hand within a few inches of the broken end of the rope, but it was not this so much as the bracket itself which seemed to engage his attention. Finally, he sprang down with an ejaculation of satisfaction.⁸⁷

“It’s all right, Watson,” said he. “We have got our case — one of the most remarkable in our collection. But, dear me, how slow-witted I have been, and how nearly I have committed the blunder of my lifetime! Now, I think that, with a few missing links, my chain is almost complete.”

“You have got your men?”

“Man, Watson, man. Only one, but a very formidable person. Strong as a lion — witness the blow which bent that poker. Six foot three in height, active as a squirrel,⁸⁸ dexterous with his fingers, finally, remarkably quick-

⁸⁴ IRA MATETSKY: I quoted the second half of this sentence in a legal brief once, in a passage denouncing a perjured witness’s credibility. It struck me then as now as apt, and I’m surprised I haven’t seen anyone else employ it for a similar purpose.

⁸⁵ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 280, n. 29; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1175, n. 25; OSH: Return, p. 402.

⁸⁶ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 281, n. 30; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1176, n. 26.

⁸⁷ THE EDITORS: Regarding this passage, see Scott Monty, “John Bennett Shaw and the Terrible, Hysterical, NSFW Essay,” www.ihearofsherlock.com/2016/08/john-bennett-shaw-and-terrible.html.

⁸⁸ CHRISTOPHER ZORDAN: “The Adventure of the Abbey Grange” is the only canonical story to

witted, for this whole ingenious story is of his concoction. Yes, Watson, we have come upon the handiwork of a very remarkable individual. And yet, in that bell-rope, he has given us a clue which should not have left us a doubt.”

“Where was the clue?”

“Well, if you were to pull down a bell-rope, Watson, where would you expect it to break? Surely at the spot where it is attached to the wire. Why should it break three inches from the top, as this one has done?”

“Because it is frayed there?”

“Exactly. This end, which we can examine, is frayed. He was cunning enough to do that with his knife. But the other end is not frayed. You could not observe that from here, but if you were on the mantelpiece you would see that it is cut clean off without any mark of fraying whatever. You can reconstruct what occurred. The man needed the rope. He would not tear it down for fear of giving the alarm by ringing the bell. What did he do? He sprang up on the mantelpiece, could not quite reach it, put his knee on the bracket — you will see the impression in the dust — and so got his knife to bear upon the cord. I could not reach the place by at least three inches — from which I infer that he is at least three inches a bigger man than I.⁸⁹ Look at that mark upon the seat of the oaken chair! What is it?”

“Blood.”

“Undoubtedly it is blood. This alone puts the lady’s story out of court. If she were seated on the chair when the crime was done, how comes that mark? No, no, she was placed in the chair *after* the death of her husband. I’ll wager that the black dress shows a corresponding mark to this. We have not yet met our Waterloo, Watson, but this is our Marengo, for it begins in defeat and ends in victory.⁹⁰ I should like now to have a few words with the nurse, Theresa. We must be wary for a while, if we are to get the information which we want.”

She was an interesting person, this stern Australian nurse — taciturn, suspicious, ungracious, it took some time before Holmes’s pleasant manner and frank acceptance of all that she said thawed her into a corresponding amiability. She did not attempt to conceal her hatred for her late employer.

“Yes, sir, it is true that he threw the decanter at me. I heard him call my mistress a name, and I told him that he would not dare to speak so if her

mention squirrels, but the comparison of Jack Croker to a squirrel is an apt one — an energetic climber. Holmes is almost certainly referring to the red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, which is indigenous to England and Europe. The red squirrel has a mixed history with humans; it appears regularly in heraldry, for example in the arms of The Earl of Granville, and the town of Saint-Brevin-les-Pins in France. However, there is also evidence that red squirrels were involved in the spread of leprosy in medieval Europe.

⁸⁹ ROSS E. DAVIES: With this “at least” Holmes implicitly assures us that he is no more than six feet tall.

⁹⁰ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 282, n. 31; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1178, n. 27; WBG, p. 2:501, n. 9.

brother had been there. Then it was that he threw it at me. He might have thrown a dozen if he had but left my bonny bird alone. He was forever ill-treating her, and she too proud to complain. She will not even tell me all that he has done to her. She never told me of those marks on her arm that you saw this morning, but I know very well that they come from a stab with a hatpin. The sly fiend⁹¹ — Heaven forgive me that I should speak of him so, now that he is dead!⁹² But a fiend he was, if ever one walked the earth. He was all honey when first we met him — only eighteen months ago, and we both feel as if it were eighteen years. She had only just arrived in London. Yes, it was her first voyage — she had never been from home before. He won her with his title and his money and his false London ways. If she made a mistake she has paid for it, if ever a woman did. What month did we meet him? Well, I tell you it was just after we arrived. We arrived in June, and it was July. They were married in January of last year. Yes, she is down in the morning-room again, and I have no doubt she will see you, but you must not ask too much of her, for she has gone through all that flesh and blood will stand.”

Lady Brackenstall was reclining on the same couch, but looked brighter than before. The maid had entered with us, and began once more to foment⁹³ the bruise upon her mistress’s brow.

“I hope,” said the lady, “that you have not come to cross-examine me again?”

“No,” Holmes answered, in his gentlest voice, “I will not cause you any unnecessary trouble, Lady Brackenstall, and my whole desire is to make things easy for you, for I am convinced that you are a much-trying woman. If you will treat me as a friend and trust me, you may find that I will justify your trust.”

“What do you want me to do?”

“To tell me the truth.”

“Mr. Holmes!”

⁹¹ OSH: Return, p. 402.

⁹² LSK, Ref: Return, p. 282, n. 32.

⁹³ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 282, n. 33; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1178, n. 28. HARRISON HUNT: To foment, in this sense, is an old term meaning to bathe a part of the body with warm and/or medicated liquids. As defined in Robley Dunglison’s *Dictionary of Medical Science* (1860), “fomentation [is] a sort of partial bathing, by the application of cloths which have been previously dipped in hot water, or in some medicated decoction. They act, chiefly, by virtue of their warmth and moisture.” Mrs. Beeton, in her 1861 *Book of Household Management*, declared that “fomentations are generally used to effect, in a part [of the body], the benefit produced ... by the bath; to which a sedative action is occasionally given by the use of roots, herbs, or other ingredients; the object being to relieve the [pain or problem] by exciting a greater flow of blood to the skin over the affected part.” This description dovetails perfectly with that of the use of vinegar and water on Lady Brackenstall’s bruise.

“No, no, Lady Brackenstall — it is no use. You may have heard of any little reputation which I possess. I will stake it all on the fact that your story is an absolute fabrication.”

Mistress and maid were both staring at Holmes with pale faces and frightened eyes.

“You are an impudent fellow!” cried Theresa. “Do you mean to say that my mistress has told a lie?”

Holmes rose from his chair.

“Have you nothing to tell me?”

“I have told you everything.”

“Think once more, Lady Brackenstall. Would it not be better to be frank?”

For an instant there was hesitation in her beautiful face. Then some new strong thought caused it to set like a mask.

“I have told you all I know.”

Holmes took his hat and shrugged his shoulders. “I am sorry,” he said, and without another word we left the room and the house. There was a pond in the park, and to this my friend led the way. It was frozen over, but a single hole was left for the convenience of a solitary swan. Holmes gazed at it, and then passed on to the lodge gate. There he scribbled a short note for Stanley Hopkins, and left it with the lodge-keeper.

“It may be a hit, or it may be a miss, but we are bound to do something for friend Hopkins, just to justify this second visit,” said he. “I will not quite take him into my confidence yet. I think our next scene of operations must be the shipping office of the Adelaide-Southampton line,⁹⁴ which stands at the end of Pall Mall,⁹⁵ if I remember right. There is a second line of steam-

⁹⁴ WILL WALSH: It appears that Watson altered some names to avoid Captain Croker’s prosecution. The Adelaide-Southampton Line did not exist. The Orient Steam Navigation Co. (the “Orient Line”) and the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. (the “P&O Line”) stand out as two of the major companies dominating the England-Australia run at the end of the nineteenth century. In 1888, the two companies reached an agreement under which they maintained a regular mail service between Australia and Great Britain, with vessels departing on their voyage every two weeks. The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 and the subsequent development of steamships reduced the transit time between Great Britain and Australia to 35 to 40 days.

The identification of Captain Croker’s ship presents several issues. The *SS Delphic* provides one possible vessel for the *Bass Rock*. Harland and Wolff built the *Delphic* for the White Star line, launching the vessel on January 5, 1897. The ship’s maiden voyage occurred in May 1897 and crossed the Atlantic four times before joining the White Star’s New Zealand route in October (with a stop in Australia). The Aberdeen Line offers two other possibilities with the *Salamis* and the *Moravian* constructed in 1899.

The Orient Line’s *Ophir* was a groundbreaking vessel. Launched in 1891, it was the first twin-screw steamer on the Australian run. The British Admiralty chartered the ship in late 1900, and it provided carried the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George V and Queen Mary) to Australia for the opening of the first Commonwealth Parliament in 1901.

⁹⁵ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 283, n. 34; WBG, p. 2:502, n. 10; OSH: Return, p. 402.

ers which connect South Australia with England, but we will draw the larger cover⁹⁶ first.”

Holmes’s card sent in to the manager ensured instant attention,⁹⁷ and he was not long in acquiring all the information which he needed. In June of ‘95, only one of their line had reached a home port. It was the *Rock of Gibraltar*,⁹⁸ their largest and best boat. A reference to the passenger list showed that Miss Fraser, of Adelaide, with her maid had made the voyage in her. The boat was now on her way to Australia, somewhere south of the Suez Canal. Her officers were the same as in ‘95, with one exception. The first officer,⁹⁹ Mr. Jack Croker,¹⁰⁰ had been made a captain and was to take charge of their new ship, the *Bass Rock*,¹⁰¹ sailing in two days’ time from Southampton. He lived at Sydenham, but he was likely to be in that morning for instructions, if we cared to wait for him.

No, Mr. Holmes had no desire to see him, but would be glad to know more about his record and character.

⁹⁶ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 283, n. 35; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1179, n. 29.

⁹⁷ STEVE MASON: Holmes and countless others in the Canon used calling cards as a way of introducing themselves when meeting someone for the first time. These calling cards, which can be traced back to fifteenth-century Chinese society, were also known as “visiting cards.” Calling cards began as simple unadorned cards, with only a person’s name printed, typed, or written on the front, but during the Victorian age, new printing methods allowed for more colorful and decorative designs. As the cards became more ornate, calligraphy, embossing, and even fringe on the edges of the cards could be added. Besides being used as an introduction, cards could be used as a “thank you” card, a card of “condolences,” or a way to advertise one’s extent in certain social circles (the “more prestigious” visitors’ cards would be left on top of a pile or on the hallway table). Short messages were written on the backs of cards, announcing the purpose of callers’ visits. Victorian etiquette even established protocols for transmitting and receiving the cards (for instance, introductions were rarely done before noon or early afternoon). Women’s cards were squarish in shape, approximately 2.5 x 3 inches, allowing for more designs, while men’s cards were smaller (approximately 1.5 x 2.5 inches). In many instances, men would include a club or fraternal organization they belonged to. For a period, turning the corner of a card would designate who the card might be forwarded to, or the reason for the visit, and could even represent a coded message for more lurid purposes. While the use of calling cards lost favor once servants no longer lived in the house to hand deliver to the master or mistress, and electronic means of calling on someone were introduced, they are still used in certain circumstances and situations, being replaced primarily by “business cards” or “military calling cards.”

⁹⁸ OSH: Return, p. 402.

⁹⁹ PETER E. BLAU: Sometimes called the first mate, the first officer is the second-in-command of the ship, the equivalent of the executive officer on a military vessel. In the U.S. Navy it is sometimes said that the captain is in command, but the executive officer is in charge, because it is the executive officer’s duty to make sure that everything and everyone on board works perfectly.

¹⁰⁰ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 283, n. 36; LSK, 2 New Ann., p.1180, n. 30; OSH: Return, p. 402.

¹⁰¹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 283, n. 37; WBG, p. 2:502, n. 11. WILL WALSH: Bass Rock is an island on the outer part of the Firth of Forth in Scotland. It is seven acres in size and has been the site of a castle, a chapel, and a prison. The Bass Rock plays a notable role in Scottish history, serving as a point of opposition for the Jacobites against William III and Mary II. In 1691, four Jacobite officers escaped from the prison, seized the island, and then held the island against the British crown for three years.

His record was magnificent. There was not an officer in the fleet to touch him. As to his character, he was reliable on duty, but a wild, desperate fellow off the deck of his ship — hot-headed, excitable, but loyal, honest, and kind-hearted. That was the pith of the information with which Holmes left the office of the Adelaide-Southampton company. Thence he drove to Scotland Yard, but, instead of entering, he sat in his cab with his brows drawn down, lost in profound thought. Finally he drove round to the Charing Cross telegraph office, sent off a message, and then, at last, we made for Baker Street once more.

“No, I couldn’t do it, Watson,” said he, as we reentered our room. “Once that warrant was made out, nothing on earth would save him. Once or twice in my career I feel that I have done more real harm by my discovery of the criminal than ever he had done by his crime. I have learned caution now, and I had rather play tricks with the law of England than with my own conscience. Let us know a little more before we act.”

Before evening, we had a visit from Inspector Stanley Hopkins. Things were not going very well with him.

“I believe that you are a wizard, Mr. Holmes. I really do sometimes think that you have powers that are not human. Now, how on earth could you know that the stolen silver was at the bottom of that pond?”

“I didn’t know it.”

“But you told me to examine it.”

“You got it, then?”

“Yes, I got it.”

“I am very glad if I have helped you.”¹⁰²

“But you haven’t helped me. You have made the affair far more difficult. What sort of burglars are they who steal silver and then throw it into the nearest pond?”

“It was certainly rather eccentric behaviour. I was merely going on the idea that if the silver had been taken by persons who did not want it — who merely took it for a blind, as it were — then they would naturally be anxious to get rid of it.”

“But why should such an idea cross your mind?”

“Well, I thought it was possible. When they came out through the French window, there was the pond with one tempting little hole in the ice, right in front of their noses. Could there be a better hiding-place?”

“Ah, a hiding-place — that is better!” cried Stanley Hopkins. “Yes, yes, I see it all now! It was early, there were folk upon the roads, they were afraid

¹⁰² LSK, Ref: Return, p. 284, n. 38.

of being seen with the silver, so they sank it in the pond, intending to return for it when the coast was clear. Excellent, Mr. Holmes — that is better than your idea of a blind.”

“Quite so, you have got an admirable theory. I have no doubt that my own ideas were quite wild, but you must admit that they have ended in discovering the silver.”

“Yes, sir — yes. It was all your doing. But I have had a bad setback.”

“A setback?”

“Yes, Mr. Holmes. The Randall gang were arrested in New York this morning.”

“Dear me, Hopkins! That is certainly rather against your theory that they committed a murder in Kent last night.”¹⁰³

“It is fatal, Mr. Holmes — absolutely fatal. Still, there are other gangs of three besides the Randalls, or it may be some new gang of which the police have never heard.”

“Quite so, it is perfectly possible. What, are you off?”

“Yes, Mr. Holmes, there is no rest for me until I have got to the bottom of the business. I suppose you have no hint to give me?”

“I have given you one.”

“Which?”

“Well, I suggested a blind.”

“But why, Mr. Holmes, why?”

“Ah, that’s the question, of course. But I commend the idea to your mind. You might possibly find that there was something in it. You won’t stop for dinner? Well, good-bye, and let us know how you get on.”

Dinner was over, and the table cleared before Holmes alluded to the matter again. He had lit his pipe and held his slippers to the cheerful blaze of the fire. Suddenly he looked at his watch.

“I expect developments, Watson.”

“When?”

“Now — within a few minutes. I dare say you thought I acted rather badly to Stanley Hopkins just now?”

“I trust your judgment.”

“A very sensible reply, Watson.”¹⁰⁴ You must look at it this way: what I

¹⁰³ THE EDITORS: This is an interesting instance of Holmesian understatement. Can the reader think of other examples?

¹⁰⁴ IRA MATETSKY: This passage is paralleled in the later case of “The Dying Detective,” in which Watson agrees that he will “by all means” send for the man Holmes wishes to see, and Holmes replies that these were “[t]he first three sensible words that you have uttered since you entered this room, Watson.” But in “The Dying Detective” Holmes was feigning madness, while here his self-assurance is entirely sincere.

know is unofficial, what he knows is official. I have the right to private judgment, but he has none. He must disclose all, or he is a traitor to his service. In a doubtful case I would not put him in so painful a position, and so I reserve my information until my own mind is clear upon the matter.”

“But when will that be?”

“The time has come. You will now be present at the last scene of a remarkable little drama.”

There was a sound upon the stairs, and our door was opened to admit as fine a specimen of manhood as ever passed through it. He was a very tall young man, golden-moustached, blue-eyed, with a skin which had been burned by tropical suns, and a springy step, which showed that the huge frame was as active as it was strong. He closed the door behind him, and then he stood with clenched hands and heaving breast, choking down some overmastering emotion.

“Sit down, Captain Croker. You got my telegram?”

Our visitor sank into an armchair and looked from one to the other of us with questioning eyes.

“I got your telegram, and I came at the hour you said. I heard that you had been down to the office. There was no getting away from you. Let’s hear the worst. What are you going to do with me? Arrest me? Speak out, man! You can’t sit there and play with me like a cat with a mouse.”

“Give him a cigar,” said Holmes.¹⁰⁵ “Bite on that, Captain Croker,¹⁰⁶ and don’t let your nerves run away with you. I should not sit here smoking with you if I thought that you were a common criminal, you may be sure of that. Be frank with me and we may do some good. Play tricks with me, and I’ll crush you.”

“What do you wish me to do?”

“To give me a true account of all that happened at the Abbey Grange last night — a *true* account, mind you, with nothing added and nothing taken off. I know so much already that if you go one inch off the straight, I’ll blow this police whistle from my window and the affair goes out of my hands forever.”

The sailor thought for a little. Then he struck his leg with his great sun-burned hand.

“I’ll chance it,” he cried. “I believe you are a man of your word, and a

¹⁰⁵ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 285, n. 39.

¹⁰⁶ STEVEN DOYLE: Being both a keen observer and well-acquainted with the use of tobacco, Holmes’s offer of a cigar, with the accompanying instruction to “bite” on it was a way to calm the agitated Captain Croker. Holmes knew that biting and chewing on an unlit cigar delivers a rapid release of nicotine, which enters the system in approximately ten seconds. Nicotine creates an immediate sense of relaxation, as well as a short-term reduction of stress and anxiety. See www.mentalhealth.org.uk/a-to-z/s/smoking-and-mental-health.

white man,¹⁰⁷ and I'll tell you the whole story. But one thing I will say first. So far as I am concerned, I regret nothing and I fear nothing, and I would do it all again and be proud of the job. Curse¹⁰⁸ the beast, if he had as many lives as a cat, he would owe them all to me! But it's the lady, Mary — Mary Fraser — for never will I call her by that accursed name. When I think of getting her into trouble, I who would give my life just to bring one smile to her dear face, it's that that turns my soul into water. And yet — and yet — what less could I do? I'll tell you my story, gentlemen, and then I'll ask you, as man to man, what less could I do?

"I must go back a bit. You seem to know everything, so I expect that you know that I met her when she was a passenger and I was first officer of the *Rock of Gibraltar*. From the first day I met her, she was the only woman to me. Every day of that voyage I loved her more, and many a time since have I kneeled down in the darkness of the night watch and kissed the deck of that ship because I knew her dear feet had trod it. She was never engaged to me. She treated me as fairly as ever a woman treated a man. I have no complaint to make. It was all love on my side, and all good comradeship and friendship on hers. When we parted she was a free woman, but I could never again be a free man.

"Next time I came back from sea, I heard of her marriage. Well, why shouldn't she marry whom she liked? Title and money — who could carry them better than she?¹⁰⁹ She was born for all that is beautiful and dainty. I didn't grieve over her marriage. I was not such a selfish hound as that. I just rejoiced that good luck had come her way, and that she had not thrown herself away on a penniless sailor.¹¹⁰ That's how I loved Mary Fraser.

"Well, I never thought to see her again, but last voyage I was promoted, and the new boat was not yet launched, so I had to wait for a couple of months with my people at Sydenham. One day out in a country lane I met Theresa Wright, her old maid. She told me about her, about him, about everything. I tell you, gentlemen, it nearly drove me mad. This drunken hound, that he should dare to raise his hand to her, whose boots he was not worthy to lick! I met Theresa again. Then I met Mary herself — and met her again. Then she would meet me no more. But the other day I had a notice that I was to start on my voyage within a week, and I determined that I would see her once before I left. Theresa was always my friend, for she loved Mary and hated this villain almost as much as I did. From her I learned the

¹⁰⁷ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1184, n. 31.

¹⁰⁸ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 286, n. 40; OSH: Return, p. 403.

¹⁰⁹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 286, n. 41.

¹¹⁰ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1185, n. 32.

ways of the house. Mary used to sit up reading in her own little room downstairs. I crept round there last night and scratched at the window. At first she would not open to me, but in her heart I know that now she loves me, and she could not leave me in the frosty night. She whispered to me to come round to the big front window, and I found it open before me, so as to let me into the dining-room. Again I heard from her own lips things that made my blood boil, and again I cursed this brute who mishandled the woman that I loved. Well, gentlemen, I was standing with her just inside the window, in all innocence, as Heaven is my judge, when he rushed like a madman into the room, called her the vilest name that a man could use to a woman,¹¹¹ and welted¹¹² her across the face with the stick he had in his hand. I had sprung for the poker, and it was a fair fight between us. See here, on my arm, where his first blow fell. Then it was my turn, and I went through him as if he had been a rotten pumpkin. Do you think I was sorry? Not I! It was his life or mine, but far more than that, it was his life or hers, for how could I leave her in the power of this madman? That was how I killed him. Was I wrong? Well, then, what would either of you gentlemen have done, if you had been in my position?

“She had screamed when he struck her, and that brought old Theresa down from the room above. There was a bottle of wine on the sideboard, and I opened it and poured a little between Mary’s lips, for she was half dead with shock.¹¹³ Then I took a drop myself.¹¹⁴ Theresa was as cool as ice, and

¹¹¹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 287, n. 42; LSK, p. 1186 n. 33. THE EDITORS: We will not be drawn into speculation about which “vile name” Lord Brackenstall used, but we reject the theory that it was “chronologist.”

¹¹² OSH: Return, p. 403.

¹¹³ ROBERT KATZ: Lay people’s use of the term “shock” is usually rather non-specific. In this instance, it appears to describe a loss of consciousness resulting from the assault on Lady Brackenstall. Yet, the important aspect of the case is described earlier. There was a large accumulation of blood (a hematoma) over one eye. In spite of Watson’s medical training, the precise location of the wound is not carefully delineated. However, it appears to be in close proximity to the eye and likely involves the periorbital region. The episode of “shock” could merely have been a temporary fainting episode from emotional stress as part of an assault (syncope), or perhaps an actual loss of consciousness from the effects of head trauma. More worrisome, however, is the extent of accumulation of blood in the immediate vicinity of the eye itself. This suggests the possibility of a fracture of bony structures in the periorbital area. Even more worrisome is the possibility of vascular injury from the trauma, with interruption of circulation to the retina or other areas of the eye. While care and attention was paid to the short-term loss of consciousness, the longer-term sequelae of such an injury are actually of greater significance. Trauma in this region can result in loss of vision, either partial or even complete. Damage to the eye itself (orbital trauma) would require greater intervention than an assiduous bath with vinegar and water. Yet, Theresa’s attempt at care was laudable as the vinegar might have sterilized the area and prevented development of soft-tissue infection. It is hoped that Lady Brackenstall’s injury involved only the more superficial soft tissues and that she made a full recovery with retention of vision. The author’s decision to locate the wound in this area may not be totally coincidental as Conan Doyle spent a brief part of

it was her plot as much as mine. We must make it appear that burglars had done the thing.¹¹⁵ Theresa kept on repeating our story to her mistress, while I swarmed up and cut the rope of the bell. Then I lashed her in her chair, and frayed out the end of the rope to make it look natural, else they would wonder how in the world a burglar could have got up there to cut it. Then I gathered up a few plates and pots of silver, to carry out the idea of the robbery, and there I left them, with orders to give the alarm when I had a quarter of an hour's start. I dropped the silver into the pond, and made off for Sydenham, feeling that for once in my life I had done a real good night's work. And that's the truth and the whole truth, Mr. Holmes, if it costs me my neck."

Holmes smoked for some time in silence. Then he crossed the room, and shook our visitor by the hand.

"That's what I think," said he. "I know that every word is true, for you have hardly said a word which I did not know. No one but an acrobat or a sailor could have got up to that bell-rope from the bracket, and no one but a sailor could have made the knots with which the cord was fastened to the chair. Only once had this lady been brought into contact with sailors, and that was on her voyage, and it was someone of her own class of life, since she was trying hard to shield him, and so showing that she loved him. You see how easy it was for me to lay my hands upon you when once I had started upon the right trail."

"I thought the police never could have seen through our dodge."

"And the police haven't, nor will they, to the best of my belief. Now, look here, Captain Croker, this is a very serious matter, though I am willing to admit that you acted under the most extreme provocation to which any man could be subjected. I am not sure that in defence of your own life your

his career as an ophthalmologist and likely studied orbital trauma. Watson himself might have had some training in surgical management in this region while at Netley. If Lady Brackenstall emerged from this incident with full sight in the affected eye, she was a fortunate woman indeed.

¹¹⁴ LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1186, n. 34.

¹¹⁵ GREG DARAK: It's not clear from this passage whether the trio of plotters had done something very wrong ethically, aside from killing Sir Eustace and lying to the police about it. It's presumable that one of them, at least, had seen newspaper reports of the Randall gang's previous robbery, with the robbers' description — otherwise, why would they create a group of three robbers, matching the Randalls? What seems wrong is that as far as we know, the Randalls were only burglars, but Mary Fraser's story could have had them convicted of murder (and facing mandatory death sentences). Had the Randalls been arrested, they would have been in very serious trouble. Luckily, being in New York gave them an unbreakable alibi, but if they hadn't been Of course, Mary could have said that the Randalls were not the people she saw if they had been brought to trial, but the fact of there being no comparable three-person father-and-two-sons gang to be found might have been enough for a jury to consider that she was too upset to remember their faces clearly, and to disregard her current non-identification. If the gang had been convicted, one has to wonder what Mary, Jack, and Theresa would have done then. The Randalls are not the only ones who are lucky they were in New York at the time.

action will not be pronounced legitimate.¹¹⁶ However, that is for a British jury to decide. Meanwhile I have so much sympathy for you that, if you choose to disappear in the next twenty-four hours, I will promise you that no one will hinder you.”

“And then it will all come out?”

“Certainly it will come out.”

The sailor flushed with anger.

“What sort of proposal is that to make a man? I know enough of law to understand that Mary would be had as accomplice. Do you think I would leave her alone to face the music while I slunk away? No, sir, let them do their worst upon me, but for heaven’s sake, Mr. Holmes, find some way of keeping my poor Mary out of the courts.”

Holmes for a second time held out his hand to the sailor.

“I was only testing you, and you ring true every time. Well, it is a great responsibility that I take upon myself, but I have given Hopkins an excellent hint and if he can’t avail himself of it I can do no more.¹¹⁷ See here, Captain Croker, we’ll do this in due form of law. You are the prisoner. Watson, you are a British jury, and I never met a man who was more eminently fitted to represent one. I am the judge. Now, gentleman of the jury,¹¹⁸ you have heard

¹¹⁶ IRA MATETSKY: The question whether Croker would have a defense to a charge of murder has often been considered, including in two fine articles that appeared in the scion journal of the Northern Musgraves Sherlock Holmes Society. See Jon L. Lellenberg, “Striking Close to Home,” *The Musgrave Papers*, 7:61-71 (1994); Matthew Booth, “The Abbey Grange,” *The Musgrave Papers* 13:100-06 (2000). Holmes’s decision that the killing in this case was justified at least in part by Lord Brackenstall’s abusive behavior has also been compared to Susan Glaspell’s more developed treatment of this theme in her one-act play “Trifles” (1916), later published in short story form as “A Jury of Her Peers” (1917), which is well worth seeing or reading.

¹¹⁷ GREG DARAK: D. Martin Dakin, in *A Sherlock Holmes Commentary*, wonders how Holmes could let Watson tell this story only seven years after it occurred, revealing facts that could leave Croker, Lady Brackenstall, and Theresa open to arrest — and even Holmes himself, as an accessory after the fact. No matter how much Watson tried to disguise the case for the public, surely Stanley Hopkins would recognize it. Dakin answers his question by suggesting that Lady Brackenstall and Captain Croker had died untimely deaths. There is another possibility, though. Stanley Hopkins was one of the brightest of the Scotland Yarders, one whom Holmes believed to be above the others such as Gregson and Lestrade, and who would seem to have had a bright future ahead of him. The young detective appears in a number of cases, and then is never heard of again. Is it possible that Watson and Holmes felt it safe to publish the disguised case because it was Stanley Hopkins who had died an untimely death? Whether it happened due to illness or in the course of duty, I think this is more likely than Dakin’s idea, as it requires only one early death instead of two, and as stated above, Hopkins did disappear completely after a good start to his career. IRA MATETSKY: To answer the question that occurred to me and may occur to others after reading the preceding paragraph, there is generally no statute of limitations on criminal prosecutions in England.

¹¹⁸ MICHAEL MCSWIGGIN: Holmes’ use of the phrase “*gentlemen of the jury*” was literal. Women in the United Kingdom would not be able to serve on juries until 1921 (“The Abbey Grange” takes place in 1897). Women became eligible for jury service after the passage of the Sex Disqualification

the evidence. Do you find the prisoner guilty or not guilty?”

“Not guilty, my lord,” said I.

“*Vox populi, vox Dei.*”¹¹⁹ You are acquitted, Captain Croker. So long as the law does not find some other victim you are safe from me.¹²⁰ Come back to this lady in a year, and may her future and yours justify us in the judgment which we have pronounced this night!”¹²¹

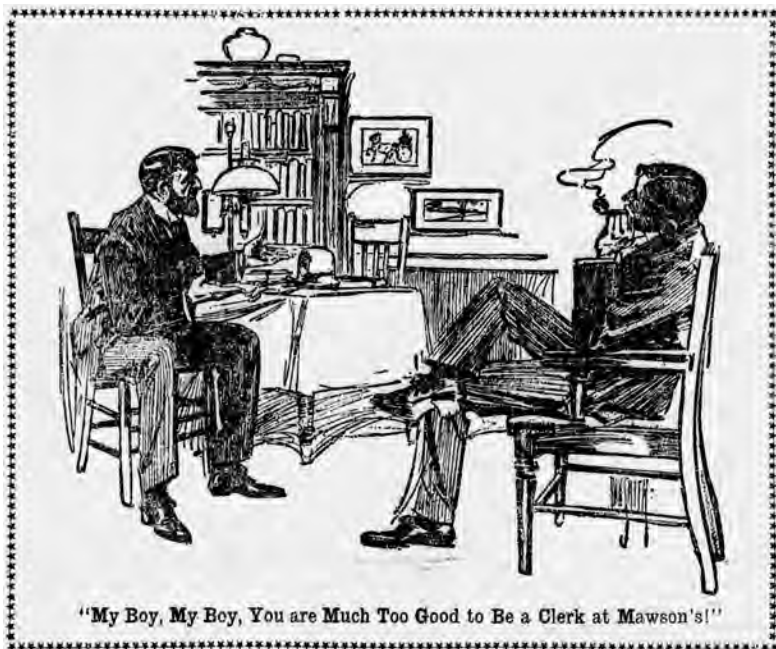


(Removal) Act of 1919, which was implemented in 1921. This act also enabled women to join professions and professional bodies and to be awarded degrees. See Shamena Anwar, Patrick Bayer & Randi Hjalmarsson, “The Impact of the First Women Jurors on Courtroom Decisions” (Royal Economic Society, 6 Feb. 2019); Kevin Crosby, “How Women Finally Got the Right to Jury Service” (The British Academy, 8 Feb. 2019).

¹¹⁹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 288, n. 43; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1188, n. 35; WBG, p. 507, n. 12; OSH: Return, p. 403.

¹²⁰ IRA MATETSKY: This is far from the only canonical adventure in which Sherlock Holmes identifies a criminal — if Croker is that — but does not share his information with the police. In particular, the “carve-out” from Holmes’s promise to let Croker go free parallels the final lines of “The Boscombe Valley Mystery,” in which Holmes requires the culpable party to sign a confession, but promises to use it only “at the last extremity to save young McCarthy. I promise you that I shall not use it unless it is absolutely needed.” See also note 136 to the annotated “The Priory School” in last year’s *Almanac*.

¹²¹ LSK, Ref: Return, p. 288, n. 44; LSK, 2 New Ann., p. 1188, n. 36; OSH: Return, p. 403.



AN INVITATION TO ANNOTATE

Ira Brad Matetsky

With this year's new annotated edition of "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange," this *Almanac* and its predecessor have now annotated one-twelfth of the Canon's 60 stories. 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 Cardboard Box" and "The Priory School" (in *The Baker Street Almanac* for 2020 and 2021). Copies of all these prior annotated editions can be found on the *Green Bag's* website, www.greenbag.org. We will continue annotating another story each year until *The Baker Street Almanac 2077*, at which point our successors can begin the cycle again.

The Baker Street Almanac for 2023 will feature a new annotated edition of "The Adventure of the Stockbroker's Clerk." Volunteer 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 to let us know, preferably by October 1, 2022.

"Annotate if convenient – if inconvenient, annotate all the same."

EPHEMERAL TREASURES, DURABLE MEMORIES

Ross E. Davies*

Last year we presented a small collection of holiday greetings received by the *Baker Street Almanac* and its editors. Readers seemed to enjoy it, perhaps as a mid-year reminder of an earlier season's special kind of warmth. So, we are doing it again. Here are a few of the charming holiday ephemera friendly Sherlockians shared with us last winter. (We do regret that once again we are constrained to print in grays all these lovely cards that are even lovelier, and in some cases even funnier, in their glorious original colorfulness. And so we must invite you to use your imagination.) Our reproductions of the cards follow this introduction in the following order:

1. *Merry Christmas* — from Alan Kay and Bonnie MacBird. This amazing duo is perhaps most famous for their various writings — including novels, screenplays, and software — but their interests and accomplishments extend in many other directions as well. One example: Bonnie is an accomplished artist. One example: The card on page 362.

2. *Joyeux Noël* and *December* — from Thierry Saint-Joanis. As in 2020 (and as ever), so again in 2021, Thierry is a fount of seasonal good cheer and joyeux clevernesses. Two of his Christmas messages appear on page 363, and a third seasonal message (from the Société Sherlock Holmes de France) is on page 364.

3. "... *This Flying Dragon* ..." — from Peter E. Blau. For many years, Peter has given away scholarly holiday greeting cards at a dinner hosted in New York City by the Baker Street Irregulars during the annual celebrations of Sherlock Holmes's birthday. In 2021, the dinner was hosted in the ether (that is, on Zoom) rather than in a Manhattan banquet hall, and so Peter distributed his cards via the ether (that is, via email) as well. Or at least mostly that way. He told us:

everyone who receives the virtual souvenir is welcome to print out a copy (the PDF was designed for that) ... and there will be a very limited print edition, to be mailed to the (very) few subscribers to the print edition of my monthly newsletter who don't have access to the Internet ...

What Peter refers to as "my monthly newsletter" is, of course, his *Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press* (which the *Baker Street Almanac* now faithfully reprints

* Ross Davies is a *Green Bag* editor.

nearly in its entirety every year). And this year we also faithfully reprint his ethereal holiday card, on pages 365-368.

4. *Mrs. Hudson's Christmas Punch: The Cornish Horror* — from Elaine and Jonathan McCafferty. Their holiday cards are invariably imbued with diabolical fun-lovingness. For this year's, we offer this explanatory note from the October 2, 1990 *New York Times*:

Q. Is there a plant substance called *Radix pedis diaboli* that produces deadly smoke when burned, as described in a Sherlock Homes story, "The Adventure of the Devil's Foot"?

A. "It has not yet found its way either into the pharmacopoeia or into the literature of toxicology," Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote, and that is still true, botanical experts say.

The Devil's Foot was supposed to be a West African plant with a root shaped like a foot, half human, half goatlike. Burning a reddish-brown snufflike powder from its root was said to cause madness and death.

However, neither Victoria John, associate director of information services at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, nor Lothian Lynas, a researcher at the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx, could find any published reference to such a plant.

"The closest name in the literature would be devil's shoestrings, a plant used to expel intestinal worms," said Ms. Lynas, "but nothing that would cause madness and death."

5. *"It arrived upon Christmas morning, in company with a good fat goose."* — from Burt and Kathi Wolder. This card is another in their series of well-executed photoshoppings of Sherlockian Paget illustrations into Wolderful photopastiches. Even without red ink, the reader will enjoy identifying and appreciating the extra decoration in this one.

And we close with a festive postcard.

6. *Happy Boxing Day ...* — from us, expressing some, but certainly not all, of our holiday wishes for our readers.

All the greetings reprinted here are copyright by the creators/senders. Thanks to all for permitting the *Baker Street Almanac* to share such nifty and Sherlockianly entertaining greetings with you.

MERRY



CHRISTMAS

EPIHEMERAL TREASURES, DURABLE MEMORIES



SOCIÉTÉ **SHERLOCK HOLMES** DE FRANCE

IRONMONGERS DAILY ECHO
AND FRANCO-MIDLAND BRANCHES ADVERTISER

Newsletter des membres de la Société Sherlock Holmes de France



“...THIS FLYING DRAGON...”

“The Compliments of the Season”
Peter E. Blau

Despite the world-wide popularity of Sherlock Holmes, there were and still are many readers who found and find Sir Arthur Conan Doyle not because of the Canon, but rather in the pages of his ground-breaking science-fiction novel *The Lost World*. The novel was published in *The Strand Magazine* in 1912, serialized in newspapers, and as a book.

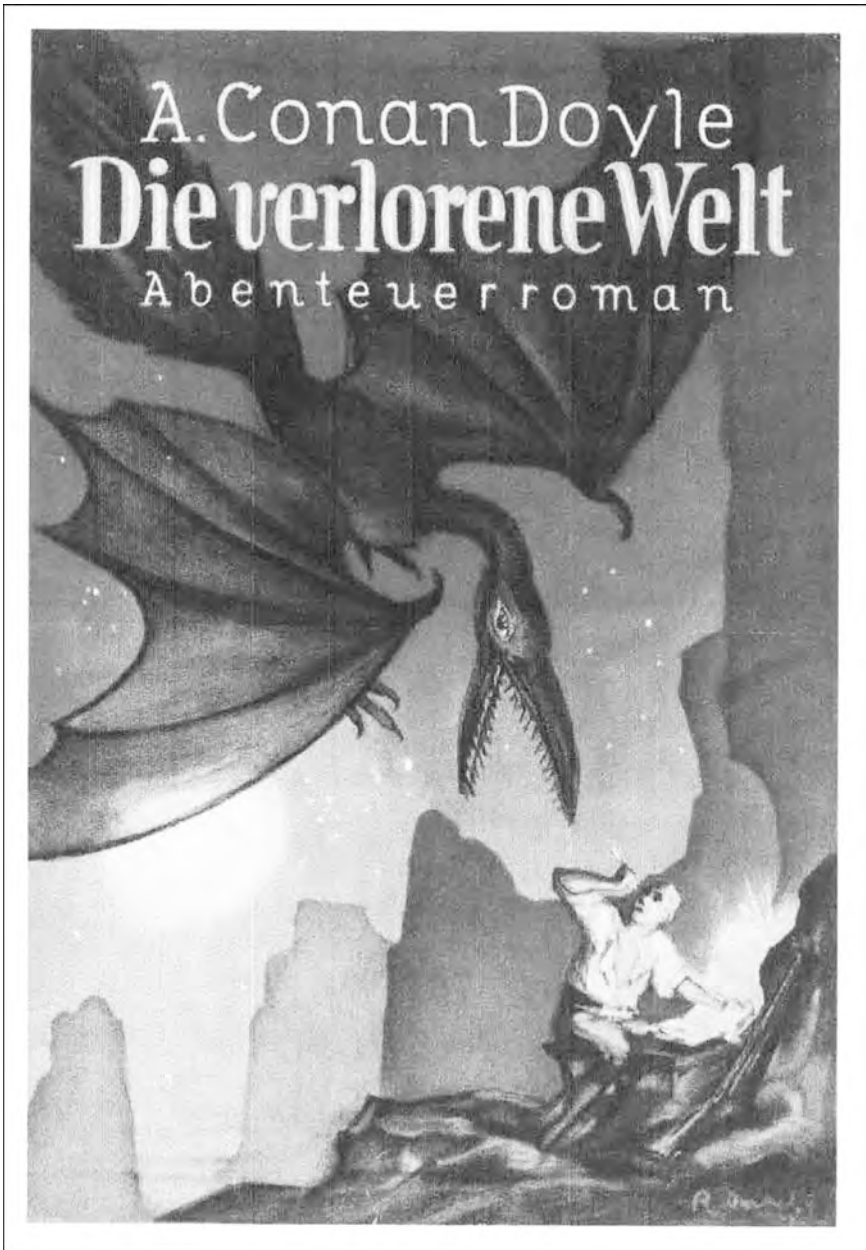
The story is a wonderful example of Conan Doyle's great skills as a story teller and as an author who could create memorable characters. Professor George Edward Challenger was one of his very best, and one can be sure that Conan Doyle thoroughly enjoyed impersonating Challenger in photographs that were published in *The Strand Magazine* and the first British edition.

The book was made into a movie in 1925, with wondrous (for its time) stop-motion dinosaurs, and Wallace Beery's splendid portrayal of Professor George Edward Challenger. It has been seen in other films, heard on the radio, enjoyed in more than one television series, presented on stage, and recorded by a division of MGM Records for an LP that was released in 1967 with a dramatized version that starred Basil Rathbone as Challenger.

The novel has been translated into many languages and has appeared with imaginative artwork and illustrations. A German translation was published by August Scherl in 1926 with spectacular dust-jacket art by Richard Duschek. The artwork also was used as a poster advertising the book.

Richard Duschek was a German artist and illustrator. He was born in 1884 in Neugarten, studied and worked in Berlin, and died in 1959 in Besigheim, where a street has been named in his honor.

And it is nice indeed to be able to present his view of *The Lost World* in full color, since the seasonal souvenirs that for decades have been prepared for the annual dinner will this year be made available in a virtual packet. Please enjoy this colorful reminder of a landmark in the history of science fiction.



Prepared for the Annual Dinner
of the Baker Street Irregulars
January 7, 2021

The Spermaceti Press
7103 Endicott Court
Bethesda, MD 20817-4401

Mrs Hudson's Christmas Punch:

The Cornish Horror



Ross



Many Cheers and a Happy Christmas

May your Radix pedis never be diaboli in 2022

with every Good Wish at Christmas

Reine & Jonathan





"IT ARRIVED UPON CHRISTMAS MORNING, IN COMPANY WITH A GOOD FAT GOOSE."

*The influence of Father Christmas on the
Cates of Sherlock Holmes has been
long neglected by scholars - I*

Dear Ross -

WISHING YOU

*The Compliments
of the Season*

AND

A HEALTHY AND HAPPY 2022

*Looking forward to seeing
you soon!*

Paul

Happy Boxing Day...



"IT WAS A STRAIGHT LEFT AGAINST A SLOGGING RUFFIAN"

The ACD Society

Membership Form

Please use this form to join the ACD Society

or

use PayPal by going to <http://acdsociety.com/> and scrolling to the bottom of the page, where you will find a payment button.

	Price per year		Number of calendar years		Total cost
ACD Society Membership:	\$10 U.S.	x	_____	=	\$ _____

Your check, payable to the *Green Bag*, should be for the "Total" amount.

Please use this email address to communicate with me about ACD Society business:

Email: _____

Please send my ACD Society membership card and newsletters to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Postal/zip code: _____ Country: _____

Please send this form, with your check payable to the *Green Bag*, to this address:

The ACD Society, 6600 Barnaby St. NW, Washington, DC 20015.

Thank you!

Questions? Comments? Please email us at acdsocy@gmail.com.

PLEASE SUBSCRIBE TO THE GREEN BAG!

A basic domestic (U.S.) *Green Bag* subscription (four issues of the journal, plus one *Almanac & Reader*) costs \$55/year. The international (outside the U.S.) rate is \$80/year. An “extravagant” domestic (U.S.) subscription (the basic, plus four surprise items/year) costs \$75/year. The international (outside the U.S.) rate is \$100/year. To learn more about our extravagance, see 19 *Green Bag* 2d 3 (2015).

Before you subscribe, please note: When you buy a *Green Bag* subscription, that is all you are buying – one copy of each issue of the journal and the *Almanac & Reader* (plus, for the “extravagant,” four extravagant surprises/year) for the duration of your paid order. Everything else we make is a gift (e.g., a bobblehead Justice) that may or may not be given to some subscribers and other people, or something sold separately (e.g., the *Baker Street Almanac*), or something else (e.g., a Lunchtime Law Quiz prize).

On our website, gift-givers will find a nice gift notice they may use.

Questions? Please email us at subscriptions@greenbag.org.

To subscribe online, please go to www.greenbag.org. (PayPal is the only form of electronic payment we accept.) Otherwise, please complete this form and send it, with your check payable to the *Green Bag*, to the address below.

Please send this *Green Bag* subscription (circle a dollar figure in the table) . . .

SUBSCRIPTION TYPE	1 year	2 years	3 years
Basic domestic	\$55	\$110	\$165
Basic international	\$80	\$160	\$240
Extravagant domestic	\$75	\$150	\$225
Extravagant international	\$100	\$200	\$300

. . . to (fill in the blanks):

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip/Country: _____

The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW, Washington, DC 20015

Thank you very much.

The Green Bag presents

REGULATION & IMAGINATION

LEGAL & LITERARY PERSPECTIVES ON
FOX-HUNTING

This is an unorthodox mode of legal scholarship: the coffee-table treatise. Handsome enough to merit display (many nice pictures). Scholarly enough to merit study (many eloquent experts).

The story at the center of the book — Arthur Conan Doyle's *The King of the Foxes* — is both an exciting tale and a provocative prompt for discussion of law and literature affecting, and affected by, fox-hunting.

Order this extraordinary book online at
www.greenbag.org

Or, if you would like to order by post, feel free.

Mail your check for \$65 to us at
**The Green Bag, 6600 Barnaby Street NW,
Washington, DC 20015**





REGULATION & IMAGINATION

LEGAL & LITERARY PERSPECTIVES ON FOX-HUNTING

featuring
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE'S
THE KING OF THE FOXES

edited by Ross E. Davies
commentary by Jennifer L. Behrens,
Catherine Cooke, Laura Donnellan,
Angela Fernandez, Douglas H. Ginsburg,
Mark Jones, Anastasiia Klimchynskaya,
Allyson N. May & Ashley D. Polasek

**Hardcover, with dust jacket • 8.5 x 11 inches • 138 pages
\$65, including shipping**



CF

MICHAEL F. WHELAN (1938-2021)

VINCENT SPAULDING (1974-2021) • WIGGINS (1997-2020)